

Monitoring Social Change in Europe since 2002

Protecting your personal information is important to us. This leaflet outlines what we do with the information we collect and store

Who is responsible?

The European Social Survey European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS ERIC) undertakes the survey and is the Data Controller. Its headquarters are in London, UK.

What organisations are involved?

In Ireland, Professor Philip O'Connell at the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy and the company Behaviour & Attitudes are responsible for carrying out the survey. See www.ucd.ie/geary for an overview of the key members of this team.

What gives us the right to collect your personal data?

The legal basis used in ESS is that it is undertaken as a task in the public interest and necessary for research and archiving purposes, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and national laws.

Full privacy notice at:

www.europeansocialsurvey.org/about/privacy.html

Contacts

Data Protection Officer,
ESS ERIC (Data Controller)
dpo.esseric@europeansocialsurvey.org

National Data Protection Authority:
Data Protection Commission
info@dataprotection.ie



European Social Survey

ESS in Ireland and data protection



What is the ESS?

The European Social Survey measures the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of diverse populations in more than 25 countries. Every two years, face-to-face interviews are conducted with newly selected, cross-sectional samples. The objective of the study is to offer researchers, policy makers and the public the highest quality survey data that is comparable across countries and time.

Ireland was a founding member and has participated in every round of the ESS to date. University College Dublin has played a central role in the development of the survey.

Why are we contacting you?

ESS has used the Geodirectory and Eircode to randomly select a representative list of addresses in Ireland.

If you are under 18 years of age at the time of the interview, a parent or guardian will be asked for permission for you to participate. As a parent/guardian you can request to see the questionnaire in advance.

Your participation in the ESS

During the ESS interview, you will be asked a number of questions about your attitudes, life events, as well as more factual questions. We will ask about, politics, religion, trade union membership and about your attitudes to social issues. Your answers from the interview will be recorded electronically. We also gather information about the area you live in.

Your participation in the survey is voluntary. You are free to choose which questions you want to answer, and you may stop the interview at any time without giving any explanation.

If you decide not to participate

If you decide not to take part in the ESS, for whatever reason, we will ask and record the reason(s) why, for example if this is due to a language barrier or illness/sickness. This information helps us to check that the people who participate in the survey are representative of the overall population in your country. For information about your privacy and rights, see below.

Your rights

As long as we can identify you in the ESS results (the survey responses), you have the right to object to the processing of your personal data, to access, rectify and erase any information about you, and to ask us what information we hold about you. Once details such as your name and address are removed, then it will no longer be possible to delete the information you provided. You also have the right to lodge a complaint to your national supervisory authority or with the UK Information Commission's Office.

What happens with the collected information?

- We will treat all the information about you with strict confidentiality and in accordance with EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and national data protection laws.
- Only Behaviour & Attitudes, that collects data, will have access to your contact (e.g. name and address) information.
- When the survey is finished, Behaviour & Attitudes will send the ESS-data, without your name or contact details to the ESS Archive (NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data, Bergen, Norway).
- Your name and contact information will be deleted when the data is published and no later than June 2020.
- The rest of the collected ESS-data will be securely stored for an indefinite period. They are made available for use in scientific studies by researchers, students and others interested in Europeans' social attitudes.
- There is a possibility but it is unlikely that some information (such as citizenship, age, country of birth, occupation, ancestry and region) may combine in a way that would identify you. This is a possibility only for the survey responses which are not published. Access to these data will only be given to researchers after approved applications and confidentiality agreements are in place.
- The results of the survey will be published on the ESS website during May 2020.
- We will make every effort to ensure that no participant is identifiable in the results of the survey or in any publications based on the study.