Open science practices incorporated into the European Social Survey programme.

Michał Kotnarowski, PhD
National Coordinator for Poland

European Social Survey

About the European Social Survey

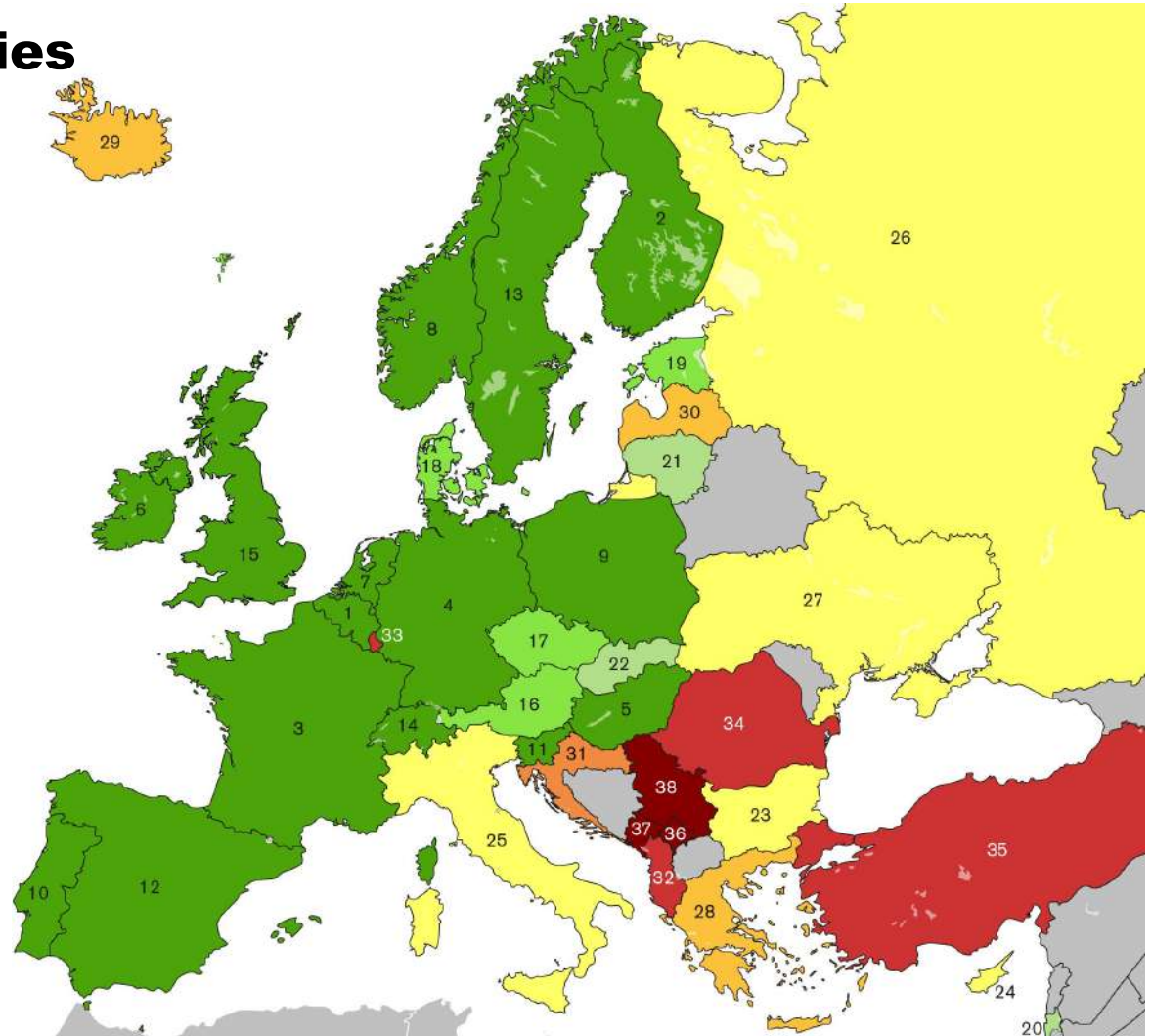# European Social Survey: Overview

- **Academic cross-national survey**
  Measuring attitudes and behaviour

- **10 rounds completed**
  Every two years since 2002/03 -
  in 38 participating countries

- **Face-to-face interviews until R10**
  The questionnaire lasts one-hour and
  has been translated into 50 languages

- **Over 440,000 interviews completed**
  Data collection by a range of providers

- **Round 10 data now available**
  Data for 10 countries was released in
  June 2022. A larger dataset will be
  published in November 2022

- **All data free for non-commercial use**
  Available to download from the ESS
  Data Portal in a range of file formats for
  use in statistical software programmes

- **Latest full dataset: Round 9 (2018/19)**
  Edition 3.1 published in February 2021 -
  includes data for 29 countries (and
  post-stratification weights)

- **Over 200,000 registered users**
  More than 65% of these are students

- **5,972 academic publications**
  Journal articles, books, working and
  conference papers that analysed our
  data have been published (2003-21)

European Social Survey: History

- **First funded in 2001**
  Funded by the European Commission, following preparatory work by Roger Jowell and Max Kaase at the European Science Foundation

- **Won Descartes Prize (2005)**
  The first social science project to win the research prize

- **ESFRI Roadmap > Landmark**
  Named on Roadmap (2006, 2008, 2010) and as Landmark (2016, 2018, 2021)

- **Became European Research Infrastructure Consortium (2013)**
  Currently the highest number of members (27) of any ERIC

- Project included in the **Polish Roadmap for Research Infrastructure 2014** and **Polish Research Infrastructure Map 2020**

"When considering new policies, governments in the past were often ignorant of their citizens' preferences and needs. Now European governments have a source for counteracting that ignorance."
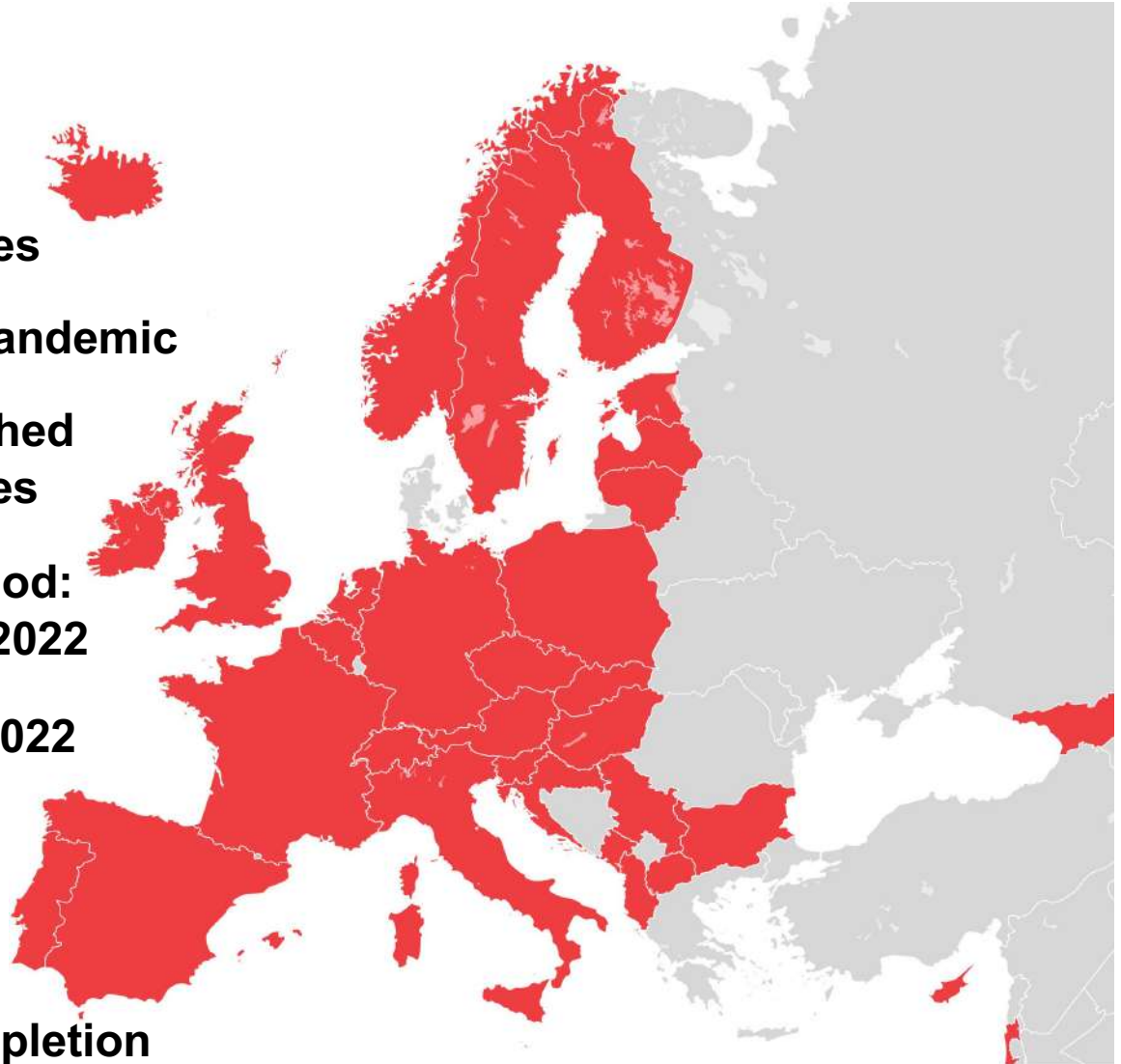
Professor Sir Roger Jowell CBE
Co-founder of the ESS

Participating countries

9 ROUNDS
1. Belgium
2. Finland
3. France
4. Germany
5. Hungary
6. Ireland
7. The Netherlands
8. Norway
9. Poland
10. Portugal
11. Slovenia
12. Spain
13. Sweden
14. Switzerland
15. United Kingdom

8 ROUNDS
16. Austria
17. Czech Republic
18. Denmark
19. Estonia

6 ROUNDS
20. Israel
21. Lithuania
22. Slovakia

5 ROUNDS
23. Bulgaria
24. Cyprus
25. Italy
26. Russia
27. Ukraine

4 ROUNDS
28. Greece
29. Iceland
30. Latvia

3 ROUNDS
31. Croatia

2 ROUNDS
32. Albania
33. Luxembourg
34. Romania
35. Turkey

1 ROUND
36. Kosovo
37. Montenegro
38. Serbia

Round 10

- **32 participating countries**

- **Complications due to pandemic**

- **Several countries switched to self-completion modes**

- **Extended fieldwork period: September 2020 – May 2022**

- **1st data release: June 2022**

- **2nd data release: November 2022**

- **Separate datasets: Face to face & Self-completion**

Open science practices within the ESS

The idea of open science within the ESS:

- **Making ESS study data available**

- **Making study documentation available**

- **Provision of tools that allow academics and non-academics to analyse the data**

- **The possibility of inserting questions into the ESS questionnaire**

1. Making ESS study data available

- **The datasets collected in the ESS study are made available on the ESS website as soon as they are cleaned, properly described, and anonymised.**

- **There is not even a data waiting period** - i.e. a period when the researchers responsible for the study are allowed exclusive access to the data for a certain period so they can carry out the first analyses themselves.

- **Example:** we finished ESS round 10 fieldwork in Poland June this year. The dataset containing the ESS Polish data will be published in November - next month.

2. Making study documentation available

- **A feature of the ESS survey is the high quality of the research carried out; it sets the standard for correctly conducted survey research. The particular stages of the study are conducted according to detailed procedures.**

- **These procedures result from many years of methodological research conducted within the ESS and outside the ESS.**

- **In practice, if we did something incompatible with the ESS standards as a Polish team, the Polish ESS dataset might not be accepted by ESS HQ.**

2. Making study documentation available

- **This detailed survey methodology is documented, described in a standardised way by the national ESS teams, and then made available together with the data.**

- **It means that any interested person has access to detailed information on the following:**
  - **Sampling,**
  - **The questionnaire translation process,**
  - **The preparation of the interviewers for the survey,**
  - **Survey conditions - when the interviews were conducted, how many attempts were made to contact each respondent, reasons for not completing an interview**

- **We provide the dataset with the sample and effects of each contact with each respondent.**

2. Making study documentation available

- In summary:

- we put our cards on the table, and there is nothing to hide. We show all our research steps

- it allows the ESS to determine the quality of the data, the methodology - the aim is also to set quality standards for conducting survey research

3. Provision of tools that allow academics and non-academics to analyse the data

- **To be able to use the data, a certain set of skills is needed:** knowledge of at least the basics of statistics and the ability to use statistical software.

- **The ESS is a study of interest to researchers in the social sciences, and even in this group, having such skills is not common.**

- **And we would also like to reach people outside the academy with the results of the study:**
  - authorities at different levels: from the UN, EU, and national authorities, to regional and local authorities,
  - NGOs,
  - opinion leaders, experts, journalists.

3. Provision of tools that allow academics and non-academics to analyse the data

- **To fulfil this purpose, we are taking steps to reduce the technological barrier to accessing data:**

    - a web portal on the ESS central website, an interface allowing simple analyses to be carried out independently on the ESS website,

    - similar application developed by the Polish ESS team for Polish audiences,

    - provision of training in analysing ESS data - for academic and non-academic users.

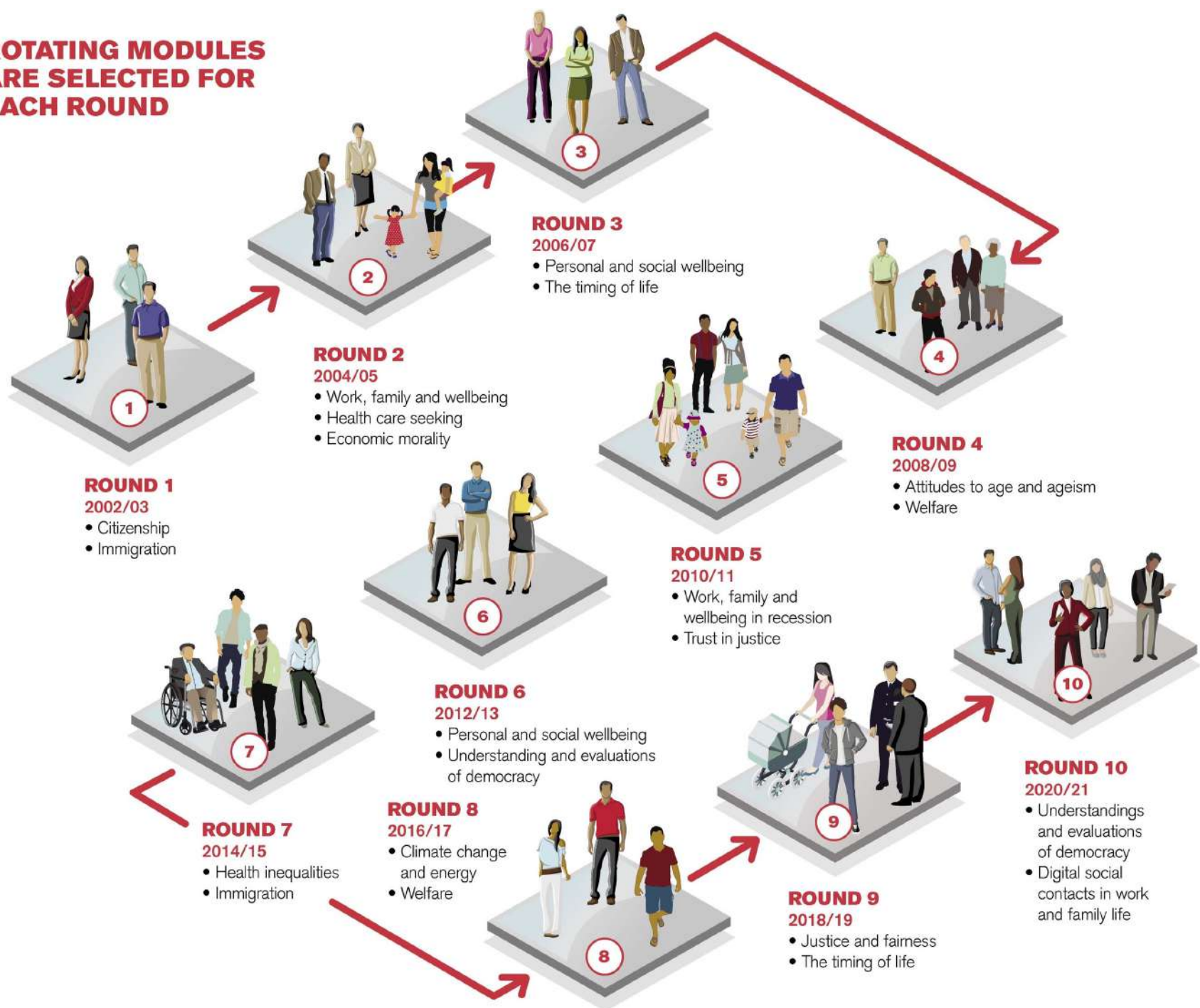# 4. The possibility of inserting questions into the ESS questionnaire

- **The structure of the ESS questionnaire consists of a core questionnaire (set of questions repeated in all rounds) + rotating modules.**

Core Questionnaire

- **Media use; Internet use; social trust**
  6 questions

- **Political interest, trust in others / institutions, electoral and other forms of participation, party allegiance, socio-political orientations, immigration**
  43 questions

- **Subjective wellbeing, social exclusion, crime, religion, perceived discrimination, national and ethnic identity, vote intention in EU referendum**
  35 questions

- **Socio-demographic profile: household composition, sex, age, marital status, type of area, education & occupation of respondent, partner, parents, union membership, income and ancestry**
  35 questions

- **Human Values Scale**
  21 questions

- **Rotating modules**
  Two sections of approx. 30 questions on a single academic and/or policy concern within Europe

ROTATING MODULES ARE SELECTED FOR EACH ROUND

ROUND 1
2002/03
- Citizenship
- Immigration

ROUND 2
2004/05
- Work, family and wellbeing
- Health care seeking
- Economic morality

ROUND 3
2006/07
- Personal and social wellbeing
- The timing of life

ROUND 4
2008/09
- Attitudes to age and ageism
- Welfare

ROUND 5
2010/11
- Work, family and wellbeing in recession
- Trust in justice

ROUND 6
2012/13
- Personal and social wellbeing
- Understanding and evaluations of democracy

ROUND 7
2014/15
- Health inequalities
- Immigration

ROUND 8
2016/17
- Climate change and energy
- Welfare

ROUND 9
2018/19
- Justice and fairness
- The timing of life

ROUND 10
2020/21
- Understandings and evaluations of democracy
- Digital social contacts in work and family life

Rotating modules (Round 9)

Timing of Life
35 questions

Repeated from Round 3 (2006/07)

- The life course and timing of key life events;

- Age: leave education, become adult, leave family home, live with partner, married, have children, retire, become grandparent;

- Attitudes towards the ideal age, young people, old people.

Justice and Fairness
32 questions

Brand new module

- Political procedural justice;

- Fairness of: income, educational and job opportunities, distribution of resources;

- Attitudes towards normative principles, social closure;

- Belief in a just and fair world.

Rotating modules (Round 10)

Understandings and Evaluations of Democracy
Approx. 30 questions

Repeated from Round 6 (2012/13)

- Fair elections/courts, justice system hold government to account;

- Attitudes towards political parties, minority groups, voting in referendums;

- Are political parties punished at elections?

- Government responsibility to protect against poverty/reduce income inequality.

Digital Social Contacts in Work and Family Life
Approx. 30 questions

Brand new module

- Internet access/skill and smartphone use;

- Intergenerational contact;

- Contact at work, remote working, expectations at work, job satisfaction, work-life conflict.

Coronavirus questions (Round 10)

ESS COVID-19 Module
20 questions

Brand new module

- Fielded instead of country-specific questions;

- 10 questions developed by national coordinators and the CST.

Government authority and legitimacy in the age of a pandemic

- Proposed by a team led by Marc Helbling (University of Bamberg);

- 5 questions measuring attitudes towards government responses to COVID-19.

COVID-19 conspiracy beliefs and government rule compliance

- 5 questions proposed by Kostas Gemenis (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies).

4. The possibility of inserting questions into the ESS questionnaire

- **Rotating modules are selected based on an open competition addressed to the research community.**

- **A team of scholars can submit questionnaire proposals.**

- **A committee appointed by ESS HQ selects the rotating module.**

4. The possibility of inserting questions into the ESS questionnaire

- **In the evaluation of proposals, consideration is given to the following:**
  - the theoretical justification of the proposal,
  - actuality of the proposal,
  - feasibility of investigating the issue using survey methodology,
  - the publication plan presented,

- **Here, then, we have the openness of the research to the scientific community - other scientists can realise their research ideas within the ESS infrastructure.**

Once again - ESS project and the idea of open science:

- **Making ESS study data available**

- **Making study documentation available**

- **Provision of tools that allow academics and non-academics to analyse the data**

- **The possibility of inserting questions into the ESS questionnaire**

Contact

✉ **kotnarowski@ifispan.edu.pl**

europeansocialsurvey.org

EuropeanSocialSurvey

European-Social-Survey

ESS_Survey

EuropeanSocialSurveyERIC

European
Social
Survey