



Mapping impact and impact pathways: the European Social Survey RI

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europeansocialsurvey.org

ESS is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS ERIC)

The European Social Survey ERIC

European Social Survey: Overview

- **Academic cross-national survey**
Measuring attitudes and behaviour
- **9 rounds completed**
Every two years since 2002/03 -
in 38 participating countries
- **Face-to-face interviews**
The questionnaire lasts one-hour and
has been translated into 50 languages
- **Over 425,000 interviews completed**
Data collection by a range of providers
- **Round 10 preparations have begun**
Fieldwork period extended due to
COVID-19 impact on face-to-face
interviews
- **All data free for non-commercial use**
The data is available to analyse on our
website or downloadable in a range of
file formats for use in statistical
software programmes
- **Latest dataset: Round 9 (2018/19)**
Edition 3.0 published in December
2020 - includes data for 29 countries
(and post-stratification weights)
- **Over 184,000 registered users**
More than 65% of these are students
- **5,429 academic publications**
Journal articles, books, working and
conference papers that analysed our
data have been published (2003-20)

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)
- **Became European Research Infrastructure Consortium (2013)**
Currently 1 of highest number of members (25) of any ERIC
- **Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba (LPV) Dataset Award 2020**
Awarded the LPV by the Comparative Politics Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA)

“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

ESS: Core Scientific Team (CST)

1. HQ: City, University of London (UK)



2. GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany)



3. NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data (Norway)



4. SCP - The Netherlands Institute for Social Research (Netherlands)



5. Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain)



6. University of Essex (UK)

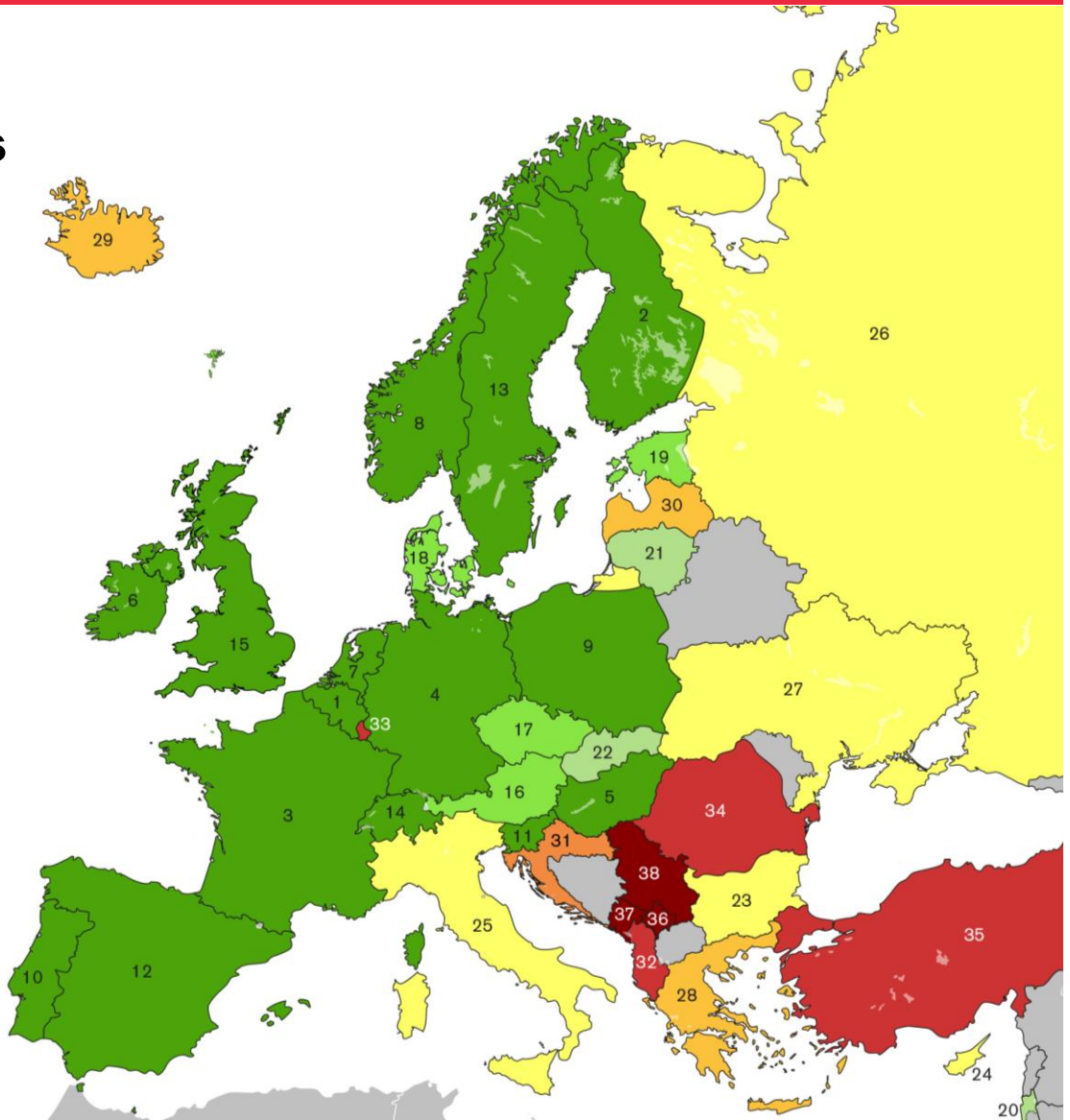


7. University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)



Participating countries

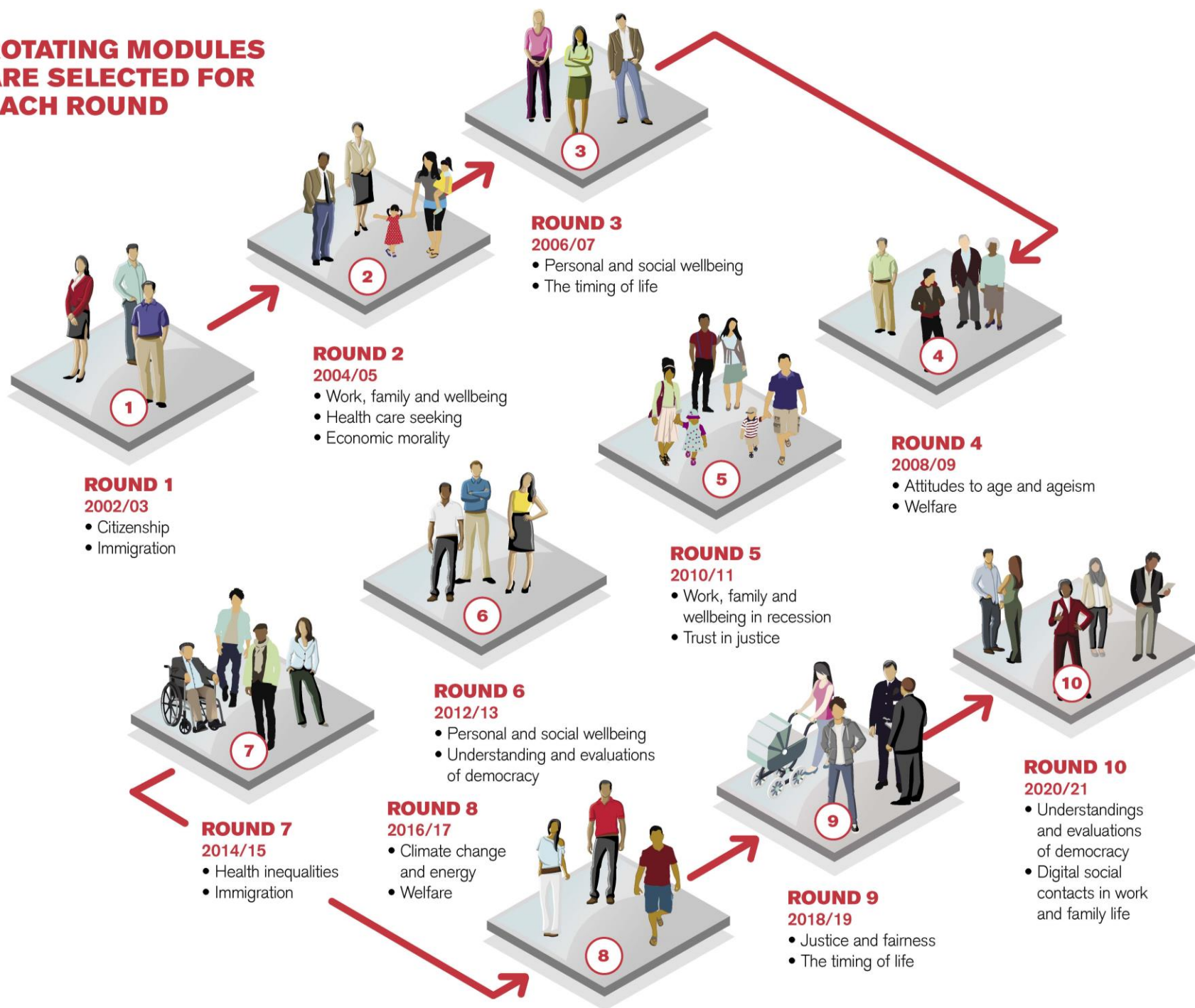
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|--------------------|-----------------|
| 9 ROUNDS | 5 ROUNDS |
| 1. Belgium | 23. Bulgaria |
| 2. Finland | 24. Cyprus |
| 3. France | 25. Italy |
| 4. Germany | 26. Russia |
| 5. Hungary | 27. Ukraine |
| 6. Ireland | |
| 7. The Netherlands | 4 ROUNDS |
| 8. Norway | 28. Greece |
| 9. Poland | 29. Iceland |
| 10. Portugal | 30. Latvia |
| 11. Slovenia | |
| 12. Spain | 3 ROUNDS |
| 13. Sweden | 31. Croatia |
| 14. Switzerland | |
| 15. United Kingdom | 2 ROUNDS |
| | 32. Albania |
| 8 ROUNDS | 33. Luxembourg |
| 16. Austria | 34. Romania |
| 17. Czech Republic | 35. Turkey |
| 18. Denmark | |
| 19. Estonia | 1 ROUND |
| | 36. Kosovo |
| 6 ROUNDS | 37. Montenegro |
| 20. Israel | 38. Serbia |
| 21. Lithuania | |
| 22. Slovakia | |



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, including: 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

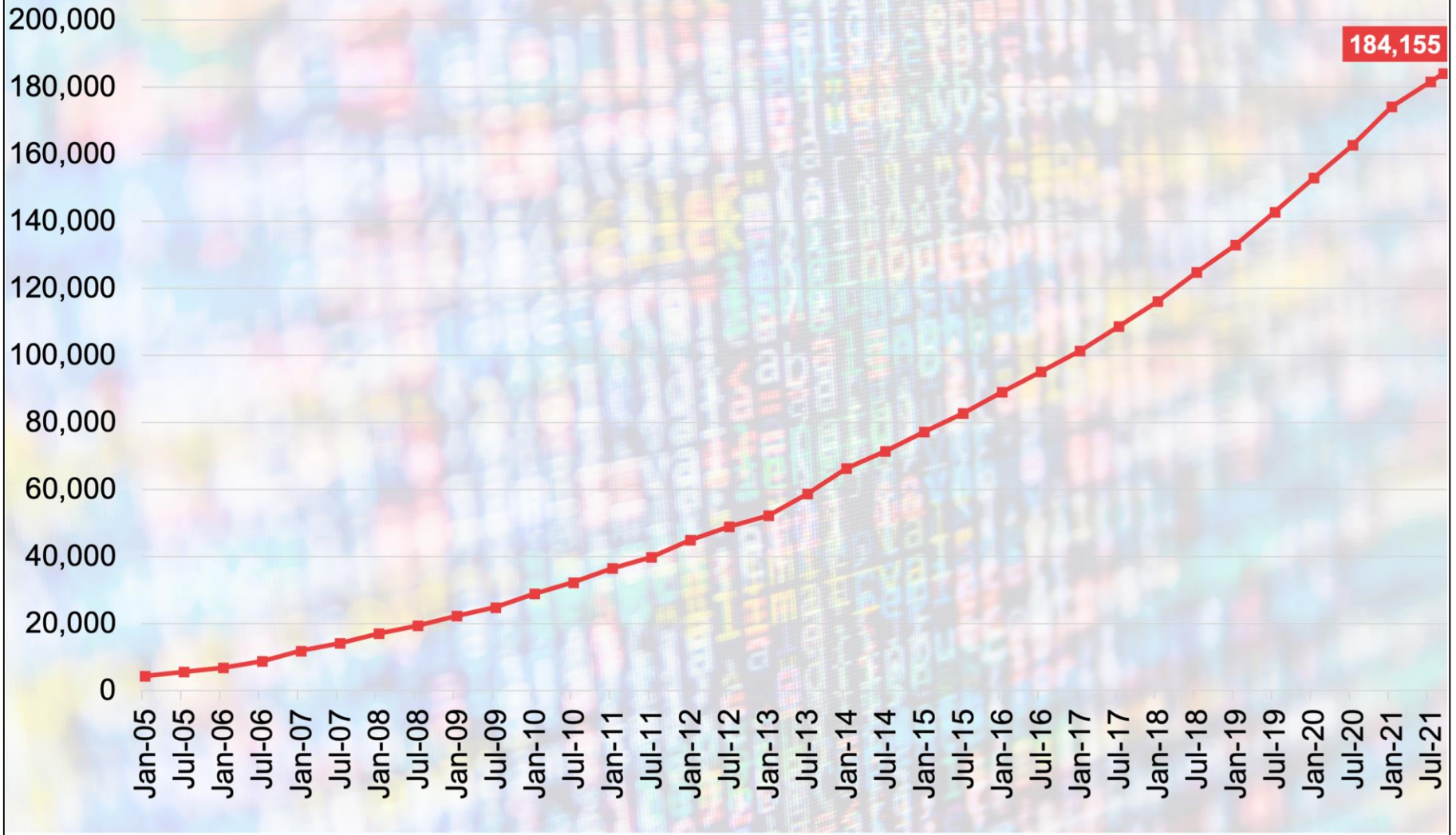


Measuring the impact of the European Social Survey

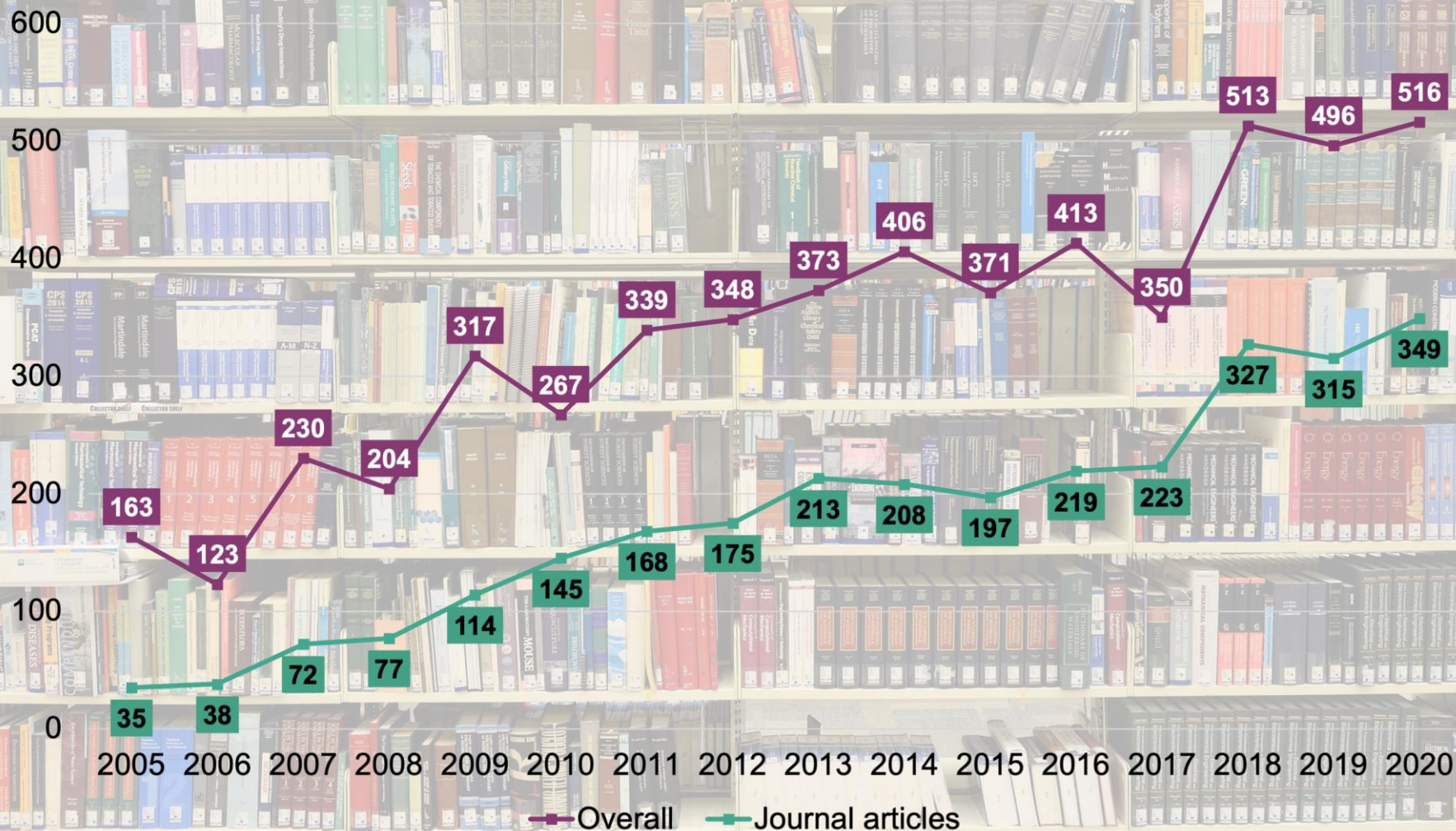
Impact in the ESS

- **Use of data (view / download)**
- **Academic data use**
- **Teaching use**
- **Impact on methods**
- **Impact at cutting edge of innovation in the field (eg web panel)**
- **Non academic impact (policy and practice)**
- **Exposure of findings to the public (media / social media)**
- **Capacity building (national teams / students)**
- **Science diplomacy (eg Western Balkans)**

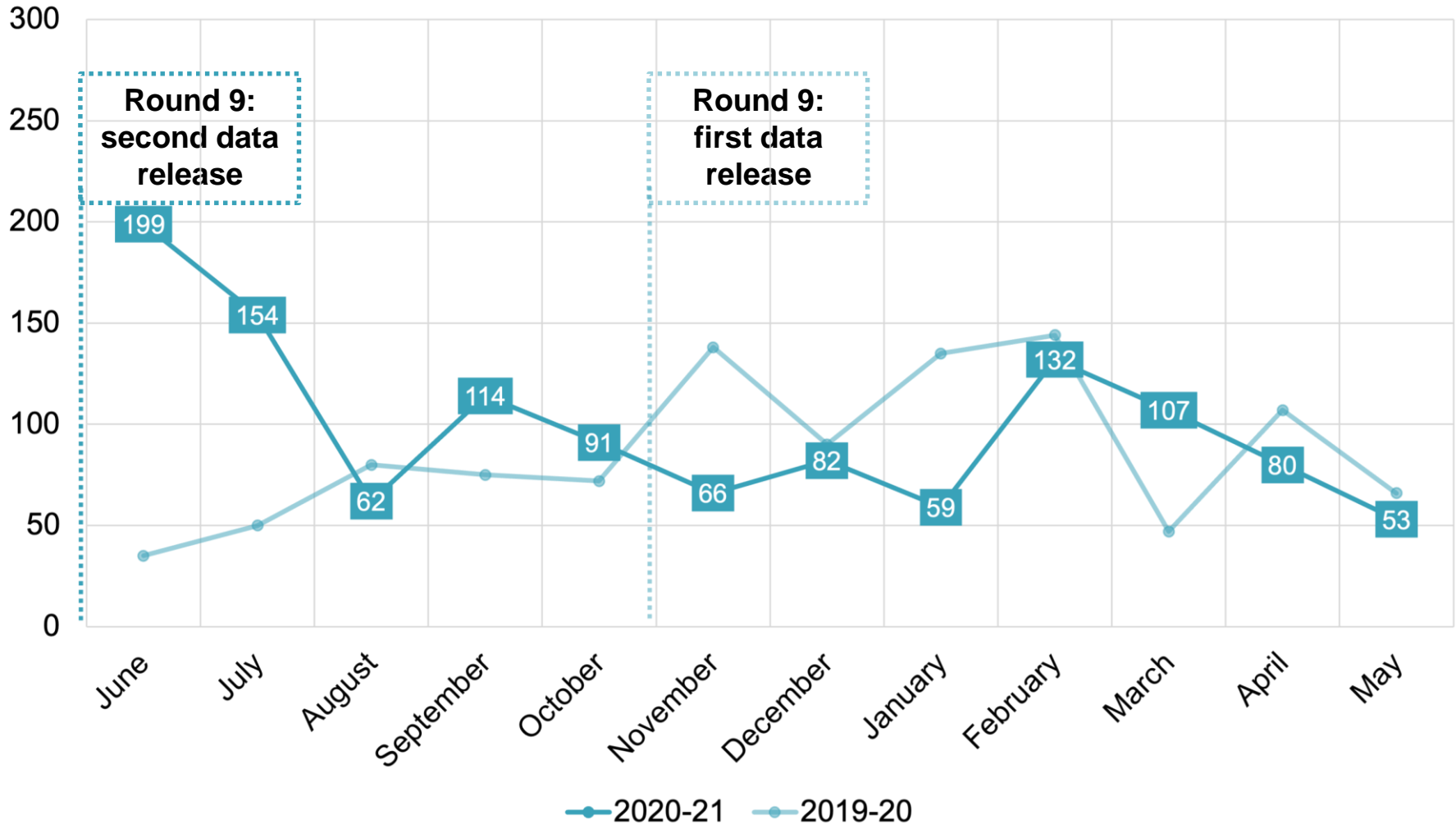
Registered users (2005-21)



ESS Academic Publications (2005-20)



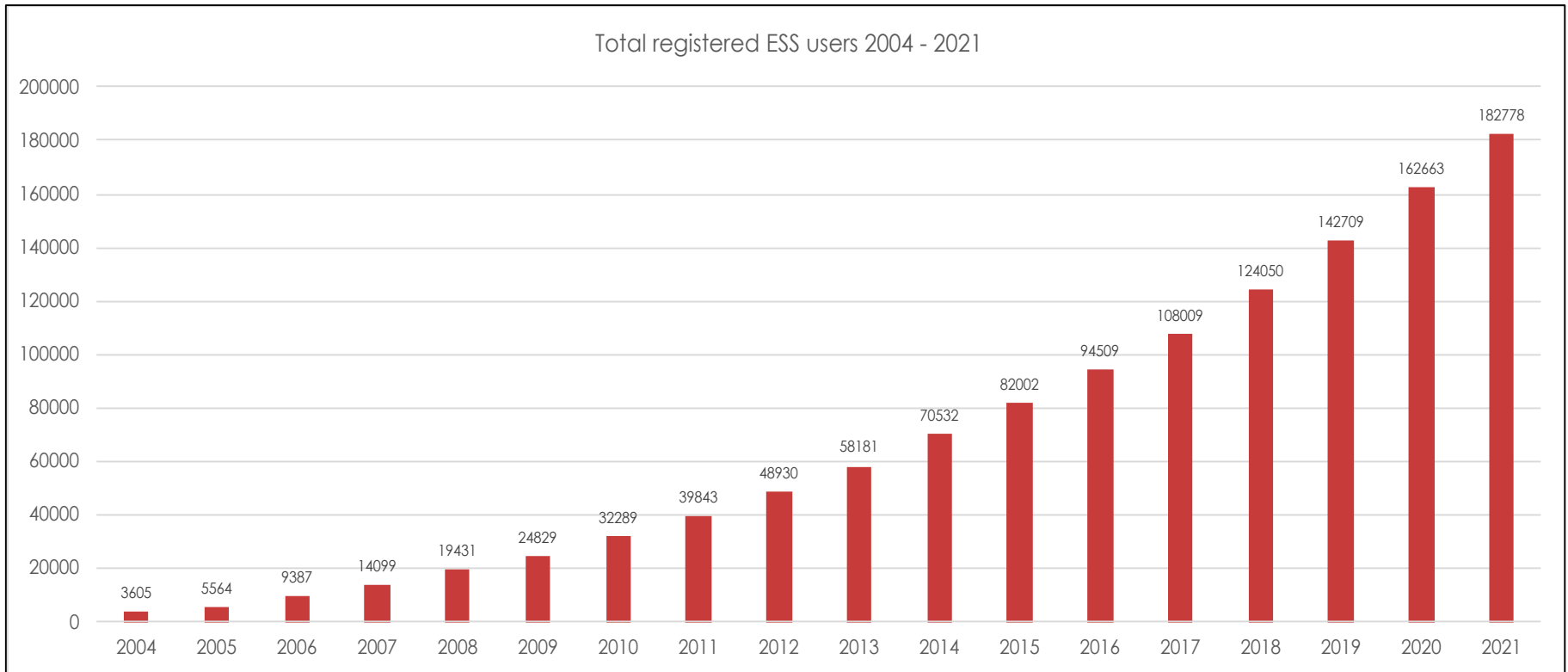
Media articles per month (2019-20 v 2020-21)



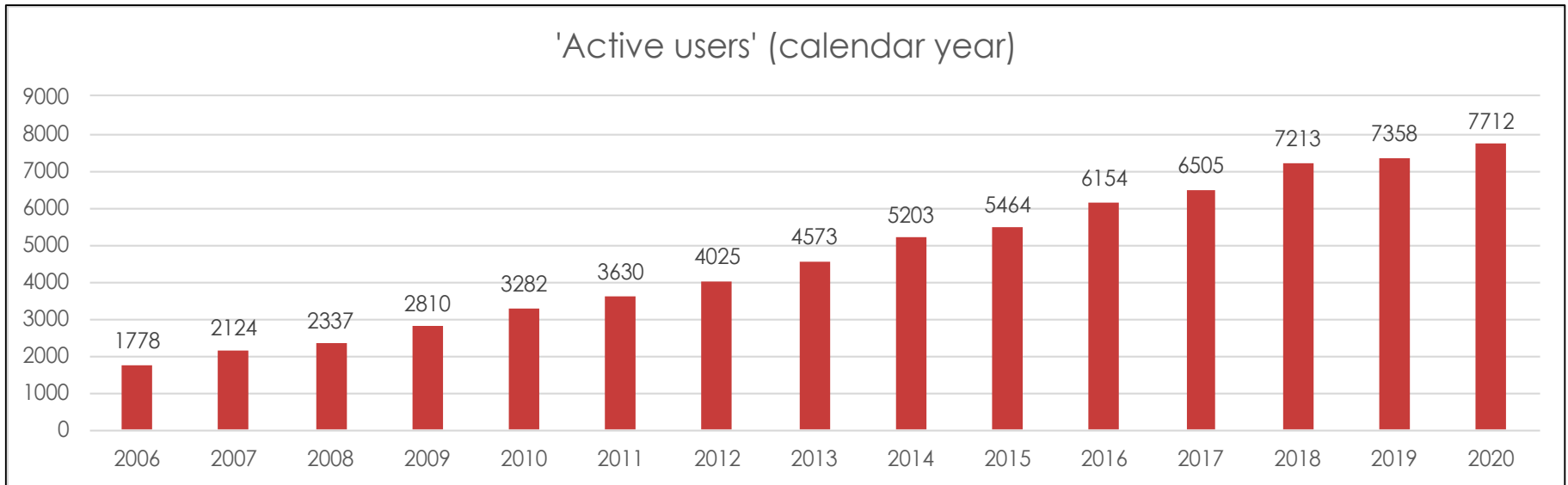
Technopolis Group ESS Impact Study: emerging findings

(funded by H2020 871063)

Growth of the ESS user base over time



'Active users'



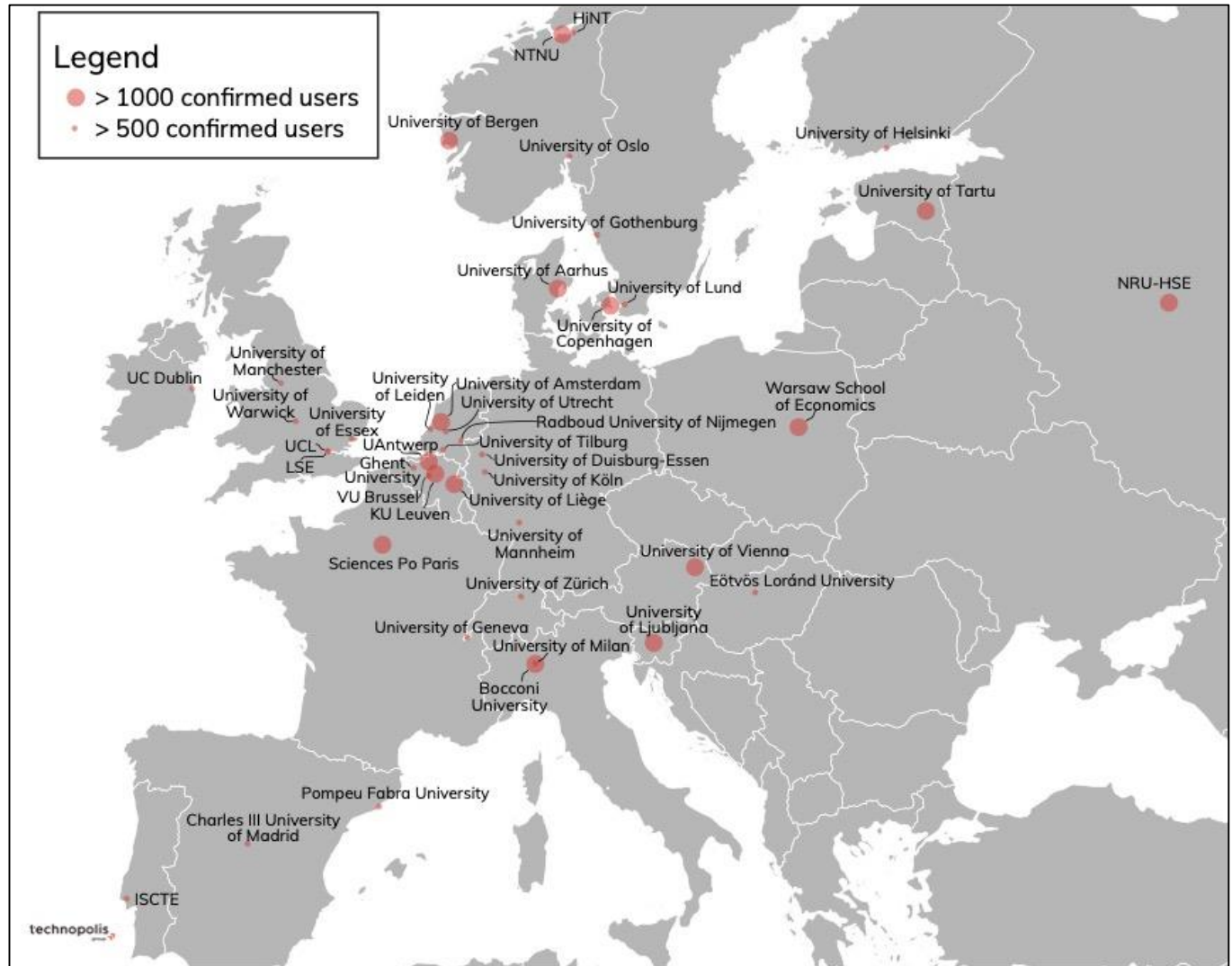
Definition of active users:

Number of non-student users who have logged in and downloaded data one time or more during the calendar year

Institutional hotspots

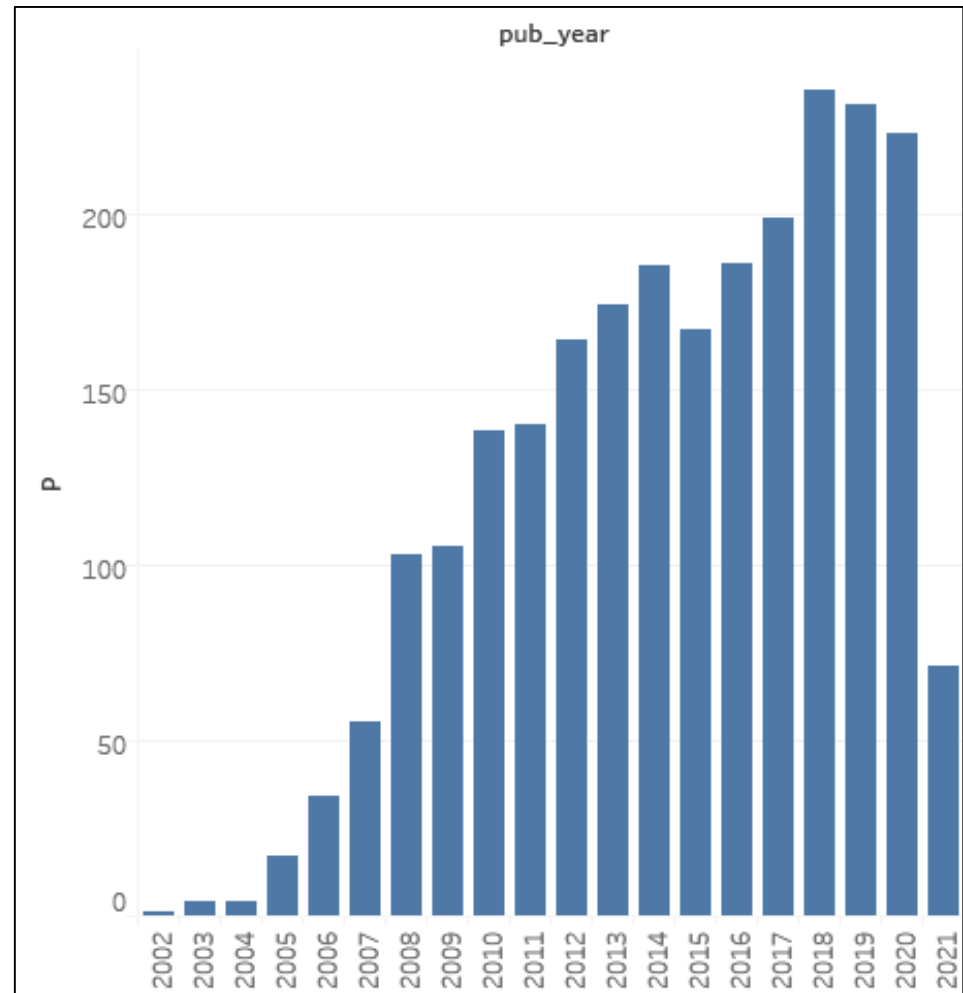
- 42 institutions with more than 500 confirmed users, including 15 with over 1,000

- Some have grown consistently since 2016, others have rapidly become new hotspots



Bibliometric analysis

- 2,436 ESS-based publications listed in Web of Science
- Substantial increase in publication numbers over the past four years
- ESS-based publications are more highly cited than average when adjusted both for field/year (MNCS=1.70) and journal (MNJS=1.42)
- 21% of ESS-based publications are in the top-10% most cited by field (10% would be expected)
- 41% of publications are open-access



Non-academic impact

- **Czechia:** The ESS data has served as a resource for drafting the National Report on Life Quality and Its Sustainability. It assesses developments in the priority areas with a link to strategic and specific objectives of the Czech Republic 2030 strategy. The progress report is submitted to the government every three years.
- **Finland:** The ESS survey design and data were used in evaluating the Universal Basic Income (UBI) trial in Finland, among the largest such trials in the world to date. The module on social trust from round 9 was filled by the sample and a control group to compare with the data collected among the ESS sample in 2018.
- **Hungary:** At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic there was limited information in Hungary concerning the make-up of the elderly population. The core study team used the ESS to examine the social relationships of people aged 65 and over and warned of the potential impact that quarantine rules would have on this group. This report was widely reported in the Hungarian press, with many calling for more societal support for people in situations of loneliness and isolation.

Non-academic impact

- **Ireland:** The Healthy and Positive Aging Initiative (HaPAI) has used the ESS as the basis for some of its own survey questions to improve policy and services for Irish citizens as they age. The HaPAI will then be used to form a clear indicator set that can be deployed by the Irish government to establish clear policy goals in the long-term.
- **Latvia:** The Latvian government has asked the National Coordinator of ESS in Latvia to carry out an in-depth analysis of social and political trust in Latvia. The project's title is 'Anatomy of Trust – What European Social Survey Data Tell About Trust in Latvia'. The research will feature into the National Development Plan for 2021-2027, which is drawn up by the Cross-Sectional Coordination Center of Latvia, which directly answers to the Prime Minister.

Non-academic impact

- **Lithuania:** The Lithuanian Strategy for Demography, Migration and Integration Policy 2018–2030 references the ESS Round results to support strengthening Lithuanian NGOs and community organisations in order to foster stronger communities. The Lithuanian NC is preparing an analysis of how ESS data could contribute towards existing Lithuanian strategies and their findings are planned to be presented in autumn-winter of 2021).
- **Slovenia:** The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, asked the ESS national coordination team to collaborate and provide data for the formation of “Resolution on Family Policy 2018 – 2028: A Family-Friendly Society, which was adopted in February 2018.
- **Switzerland:** The Military Academy uses ESS data for its annual report on safety, which sheds light on attitudes towards Swiss foreign, security and defence policy. In this report, it was found that Swiss citizens feel safe, exhibit high levels of trust in authorities and are in favour of continued economic sovereignty.

Conclusions

- **ESS is one of the most frequently used social science RI's in the world**
- **User figures are high and growing**
- **Publications are significant and growing**
- **ESS findings have impact beyond academia (policy, practice, media)**
- **Capacity building angle is not well mapped**
- **Teaching impact needs greater attention**
- **ESS impact on policy needs to be better promoted (especially in Brussels)**



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