

The **SERISS infrastructures** make the data they collect easily available to the public free of charge. They also provide training in data management and analysis to better equip policy makers to use social science data to make more informed decisions.

 **CESSDA Training** carries out regular workshops on data management and provides consultation and training on issues related to data protection, storage and training.

 The Slovenian Social Science Data Archive, a member of **CESSDA**, helped to develop the “National strategy of open access to scientific publications and research data in Slovenia 2015-2020” adopted by the Slovenian government in 2015.

 The **ESS** team in Poland provided ESS-based training for the National Bank of Poland in 2011.

 The **EVS** project ‘Atlas of European Values’ with its interactive website in seven languages ([www.atlasofeuropeanvalues.eu](http://www.atlasofeuropeanvalues.eu)) provides a valuable source of teaching material for secondary education.

 Statistical offices in Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands have used **GGP** data to enrich existing administrative data and increase the analytical capacity of government.

**Synergies for Europe’s Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS)** is a collaboration between six of Europe’s leading data research infrastructures. The project aims to harmonise and strengthen social science research across Europe and beyond and to equip policy makers with a solid base of the highest-quality evidence with which to tackle the grand societal challenges.



European Social Survey  
(ESS ERIC)



Survey of Health, Ageing  
and Retirement in Europe  
(SHARE ERIC)



Consortium of European Social  
Science Data Archives  
(CESSDA AS)



Generations and Gender  
Programme (GGP)



European Values  
Study (EVS)



WageIndicator Survey

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# Impact of social sciences on grand societal challenges in Europe

Examples from **SERISS** research infrastructures



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*“Whether it is an ageing society, climate change, fertility, migration or the future of democracy, the social sciences are critically important in illuminating those issues. By facilitating more effective harmonisation and innovation between social scientists, SERISS will help to ensure they can effectively play their part in debates on those issues”.*

Rory Fitzgerald, SERISS Coordinator

**The social sciences have a vital role to play in helping national and international policy makers to tackle major societal challenges.** A solid base of socio-economic evidence – including survey data on individuals’ wellbeing, attitudes and behaviour – is crucial for understanding how society works, to identify needs and to inform decisions on how to bring about change.

The European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), the Survey for Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE ERIC) and the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDAAS) – recognised by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) as ‘Landmark Research Infrastructures’ – have an established track record of engaging with policymakers.

Synergies for Europe’s Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS) brings together these three ‘Landmark Research Infrastructures’ with the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), the European Values Study (EVS) and the WageIndicator Survey. The aim is to further enhance the capacity of the social sciences to inform decision-making by exploiting synergies among Europe’s leading research infrastructures.

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-  Data from the **ESS** Trust in Justice module (2010/11) have been used by the European Commission’s Euro-justis project to provide EU institutions and member states with indicators for assessing public confidence in the justice system.
-  The OECD uses **SHARE** data for its compendium of pension policies (‘Pensions at a Glance’) and the World Health Organisation for computing healthy life expectancy.
-  **GGP** data are used by the German Federal Institute for Population Research to inform policy makers on such population issues as fertility, immigration and intergenerational care.
-  **SHARE** data have been used to inform national pension policy in France, Italy, Germany and Austria.
-  **ESS** findings published in 2010 were used in the development of legislation in Bulgaria, including the Investment Promotion Act (IPA) and the Law on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria.
-  **SHARE** data have been used by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs for long-term projections of pension and health care expenditures and by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion for the development of policy on active ageing.
-  The **ESS** has organised a series of policy seminars presenting findings from ESS thematic modules that have been held at the European Parliament (Democracy, 2015), Italian Parliament (Democracy, 2014), OECD (Wellbeing, 2014; Democracy, 2014; Family, work & wellbeing, 2013) and the European Policy Centre (Welfare attitudes, 2012).
-  **GGP** findings have been disseminated at presentations to the United Nations Population Division (2015), United Nations Population Fund (2014), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2014) and the European Commission (2013).
-  **EVS** findings are on display in the ‘United in Diversity’ exhibition in the Parlamentarium, the European Parliament’s Visitors’ Centre in Brussels.
-  The **WageIndicator** Foundation was a partner in the ‘The Decisions for Life International Young Women’s Conference’ held in Amsterdam (2011) that brought together young women workers, trade unionists and media representatives from around the globe to discuss gender inequalities and working conditions for female workers.
-  A 2014 **GGP** report on families, fertility and relationships in conjunction with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Family and Youth was intensively covered in the Austrian media.