

European Company Surveys

The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection – as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.

The European Company Survey (ECS) is organized by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Eurofound. Eurofound is a European Union body funded in 1975 to contribute to better living and working conditions. It cooperates with governments, employers, trade unions, and the European Union institutions. It is led by a director and a deputy director who are appointed by the European Commission from a list provided by [the Governing Board](#) – which is made up of representatives of the governments, employers and trade unions. Eurofound has a [staff](#) counting around 100 members. For more information on the organisation of the Eurofound, please [click here](#). Eurofound is funded by the European Commission.

A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey

The ECS was launched in 2004-2005 as the European Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance (ESWT), but changed its name to European Company Survey before its second round. The survey was launched to monitor trends, analyze relationships between company practices and their impacts, map information on company policies across Europe, and contribute to the European 2020 Strategy (the EU's growth strategy).

Internet links to the website of the responsible organization

[The website of Eurofound](#)

[The website of the ECS](#)

The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.

The ECS is completed every four years.

ECS 1: 2004-05

ECS 2: 2009

ECS 3: 2013

A description of the survey's content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey

The first wave of the survey covered issues around working time arrangements and work-life balance at company level. The second wave looked at different forms of flexibility, including working-time flexibility, contractual flexibility, variable pay and financial participation, as well as accompanying human resource measures, and the nature and quality of workplace social dialogue. The third survey looks at workplace organisation, workplace innovation, employee participation and social dialogue in European workplaces.

An outline of the type of sample and the main data collection methods used

Random probability samples were selected in each country. Note that the target population of the ECS consists of companies with 10 or more employees, whether public or private. Sample sizes vary, but there is a minimum limit of 1,000 per country. The frame population has to be representative of at least 95 % of the total target population of the country.

The interviews are carried out by telephone in the language of the country. The interviews take place with the manager responsible for human resources in the establishment and when possible with an employee representative.

An account of the availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.

The datasets are freely available to the public for non-commercial purposes and are made available no later than two years after fieldwork completion. Commercial use is dependent on a successful application to Eurofond. The datasets may be found [here](#).

Questionnaires, English version

[The ECS 2004 Questionnaire](#)

[The ECS 2009 Questionnaire](#)

The countries included in the different rounds

ECS 2004: EU15 + six new member states (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, and Slovenia) for a total of 21 countries.

ECS 2009: The EU27 + Croatia, Turkey, and FYR Macedonia for a total of 30 countries.

ECS 2013: The EU 27 + Croatia, Turkey, FYR Macedonia, Iceland, and Montenegro for a total of 32 countries.

Cumulative file of the various rounds

No cumulative file.

Publications based on the data

No list of publications, although a few are mentioned on [the 2004 site](#).

Analytical summary...

Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all information is extracted from the website of the ECS and Eurofound.