

European Working Conditions Survey

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 Working Conditions Survey (EWCS) 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 EWCS was launched in 1990. Both the substantial scope of the survey questionnaire and the geographical scope of the survey have been widened since the first round. The first survey was a reaction to the increasing awareness of the need for comparable and reliable information on working conditions across Europe.

Internet links to the website of the responsible organization

[The website of Eurofound](#)

[The website of the EWCS](#)

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

The EWCS is quinquennial.

EWCS 1: 1990/91

EWCS 2: 1995/96

EWCS 3: 2000

EWCS 4: 2005

EWCS 5: 2010

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

The main goal is to provide a comprehensive picture of people's life at work. Themes covered today include employment status, working time duration and organisation, work organisation, learning and training, physical and psychosocial risk factors, health and safety, work-life balance, worker participation, earnings and financial security, as well as work and health.

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

Multi-stage random route sampling procedure is used. Note that only workers (whether employees or self-employed) are in the sampling universe. Sample sizes vary by round and country.

The interviews are conducted face-to-face.

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

[EWCS 1990/91 Questionnaire](#)

[EWCS 1995/96 Questionnaire](#)

[EWCS 2000 Questionnaire](#)

[EWCS 2005 Questionnaire](#)

[EWCS 2010 Questionnaire](#)

The countries included in the different rounds

EWCS 1990-91: The EC12.

EWCS 1995-96: The EU15.

EWCS 2000: The EU15 + Norway. Later extended to cover 12 'new' member states in 2001 and Turkey in 2002.

EWCS 2005: EU27 + Norway, Croatia, Turkey, and Switzerland

EWCS 2010: EU27 + Norway, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, and Kosovo

Cumulative file of the various rounds

There does not appear to be any cumulative file.

Publications based on the data

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Analytical summary...

Sources

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