The process of globalization and European integration have increased interest in cross-national analysis, and the internationalization of public opinion research has brought unprecedented possibilities for social scientists. However, doing research in multiple countries where spoken languages, legal systems, and political-cultural traditions differ is a true challenge.

The European Social Survey (ESS) is one of the largest cross-national research projects in the social sciences. It was designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe’s changing institutions and attitudes, beliefs, and the behavioral patterns of its diverse populations, across its six rounds from 2002 to 2012.

Besides briefly summarizing the development of cross-national surveys in Europe and providing useful information and data sources, this workshop will give an overview of the ESS in general and a detailed demonstration of the accessibility and usage of its data. This two-hour workshop is designed for anyone who is interested in carrying out cross-national data analysis regarding European countries.