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## The ESS - a new social science infrastructure

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Nottingham December 2005

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## Aims of the ESS?

- To measure and explain long-term value change within and between European nations
- To improve the rigour of cross-national survey methodology
- To develop social indicators for Europe (including attitudinal indicators)

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## Main features

- Rigorous
- Multiply-funded
- Accessible to all
- Serves academia and governance
- High training potential
- Likely impact on policy and methods
- A time series

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## Funding regime to date

- Initiated and seed-funded by ESF
- Core-funded via EC – 4 biennial rounds to date
- Supplementary core funds from ESF
- National costs from national sources
- Up to 27 funders at each round!
- Now to get infrastructure support, but not for basic project costs

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## 'Planning' an infrastructure under present funding regimes

- Fragility - each round dependent on nearly 30 separate decisions
- Each decision contingent on others
- Enthusiasm without security
- A time series with no time horizon
- An infrastructure funded as a series of projects

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## What next?

- What future for multi-national investments of this sort?
- Will new EC funding instruments help?
- Will ESFRI solve the problem?
- Are rule changes or new instruments at a national level also likely?
- Necessity to measure social climate shifts, not just weather changes