

6. Timetable of ESS activities and overview of key documents

6.1 Overview of actions required before, during and after fieldwork

The timetable for ESS Round 13 is presented in Table 1, below.

Table 1: ESS Round 13 Project Timetable (January 2026-February 2029)¹⁰

Month/ Date	Action	Section
November 2025	ESS ERIC Round 13 Specification issued Template for Round 13 costing exercise sent to NCs	
March to October 2026	Appointment of NCs (final deadline is 1 October 2026)	5
End of February 2026	NC to share expected R13 costing with ESS HQ and Country Contact for review, before submitting it to GA representative	5
End of March 2026	NC to submit R13 costing to GA representative	5
April 2026 – October 2027	Signing Data Processing Agreements ¹¹	8
April – August 2026	Full R13 Pilot (2 countries) with Centerdata tools Advance Translation	6.1
June 2026 – June 2027	Appointment of Survey Agencies	5
July 2026	myESS Round 13 available for R13 preparations and discussions	5
July 2026 – July 2027	Sample design plans discussed between NCs and assigned sample expert & signed off by the Sampling and Weighting Expert Panel (SWEPE)	9
16 th September 2026	Deadline for NC to communicate any new or repeated country-specific items in the ESS13 questionnaire	7
15 th October 2026	Penultimate draft main questionnaire sent to NCs for comments; NCs asked to highlight possible translation problems	7

¹⁰ Timing of some preparatory tasks for ESS Round 13 will vary between countries based on planned fieldwork dates.

¹¹ As the Data Processing Agreement Template will be available before the myESS R13 launch, this will be made available via myESS R12 and it would be possible for NC to discuss this via email until the launch of the new portal.

Month/ Date	Action	Section
29 th October 2026	Deadline for NC feedback on draft main questionnaire	7
11 th November 2026	Deadline for GA representative and NC to confirm funding for R13 to ESS HQ	5
16 th November 2026	ESS Round 13 Source Questionnaire released to the NCs¹²	7, 10
	R13 Self-completion data collection materials released to the NCs (letters templates, testing guidelines, specification for landing page, Methodological Questionnaire)	10
November 2026 – July 2027	Questionnaire consultations with CST on ESS items requiring adaptation beyond standard translation	7
December 2026 – October 2027	Methodological Questionnaire (MQ) completed by NCs and signed off by Country Contact and ESS HQ	10
January 2027	ESS13 Data Protocol and Dictionaries released to the NCs	11
19 th January 2027	TranslationCTRL open to all countries to start translations¹³	10
From January 2027	Centerdata to hold briefings on self-completion tools for groups of NCs	10
January 2027 – August 2027	Translation, Team review and adjudication, External assessment (Verification), GESIS translation quality checks, Sanity checks, Self-completion platform staging ¹⁴ and National pre-tests.	7, 10
From April 2027	NCs to set up and test country-specific implementations of Centerdata tools	10
From May 2027	Pre-test for self-completion questionnaires and tools	10
August 2027	National Technical Summary (NTS) made available.	10
From August 2027	Fieldworker briefings for self-completion approach, where relevant	8, 10

¹² As all countries will be using Centerdata's TranslationCTRL tool for Round 13, it will not be possible to start translations at the point the source questionnaire is released. Centerdata will first need to programme the source questionnaires across modes before TranslationCTRL can be opened for TCs. As noted later in the timetable, it is expected that this will be ready by 19th January 2027 (around eight months in advance of the Round 13 data collection start date).

¹³ This is the point that national teams will be able to start to enter their translations in TranslationCTRL (for all modes).

¹⁴ Specific intervals between the different phases of testing and deployment of the tools need to be planned to allow central tasks by Centerdata.

Month/ Date	Action	Section
1 September 2027	ESS Round 13 data collection starts¹⁵	10
September 2027 – May 2028	Monitor data collection	10
December 2027 – February 2029	Data processing and Archiving ¹⁶ Preparation of Sample design data file (SDDF)	9, 11
20 January 2028	Final deadline for R13 data collection start	10
28 February 2028	Data delivery to the ESS Data Archive (deadline for 1st release countries)	11
15 May 2028	Final deadline for completion of ESS Round 13 data collection	10
30 June 2028	Final data delivery to the ESS Data Archive (deadline for 2nd release countries)	11
June 2028 / September 2028 ¹⁷	1st data release expected	11
October 2028 / February 2029 ¹⁸	2nd data release expected	11

¹⁵ This is the earliest start date for the full data collection launch. Countries are permitted to start their soft launches in August 2027 if all preparations are complete and subject to agreement with the CST.

¹⁶ The ESS Data Archive at Sikt will check and merge the national data files into a combined multi-nation data file that will be released publicly as soon as it is signed off by the CST. This release may, however, have to exclude any national data file that arrives after the deadlines of 28 February 2028 (first release) or 18 June 2028 (second release), or for which the data and/or technical documentation is late or incomplete. A final release may be made to include any remaining countries that have met the requirements in this specification.

¹⁷ To be confirmed depending on R12 data processing for self-completion data.

¹⁸ To be confirmed depending on R12 data processing for self-completion data.