

# Demonstrating the Value & Impact of ISSDA

**Jenny O'Neill, Data Manager**

## Overview

- ◎ Study motivation & design
- ◎ Survey respondents
- ◎ Benefits to researchers
- ◎ Societal impacts & public policy
- ◎ ISSDA services to users
- ◎ Conclusions & opportunities

## Study motivation

Impact on  
individual  
researchers

Impact on  
the research  
landscape

Compile a  
bibliography  
of research  
outputs



## Study design

### ◎ User survey

- Growing Up in Ireland
- European Social Survey

◎ All researchers who requested access to data in the previous 5 years

1.

# Survey respondents

# Respondent Breakdown

Academic	33%
PhD student	23%
Masters student	16%
Government/ Policy researcher	8%
Other	7%
Post Doc	5%
Independent researcher	4%
Undergraduate student	3%





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*Just under **30%** of respondents first become aware of ISSDA **as a student**, e.g. through a course / module / lecture that involved data available through ISSDA, while a further **25%** heard about ISSDA **from a colleague** or friend who has worked with data provided by ISSDA.*

## How have you used the data and information that you have obtained from ISSDA?

For your own analysis, using only data provided by ISSDA	61%
For your own analysis, combining data provided by ISSDA with other data	39%
For study	21%
For reference or validation	13%
For teaching	12%
To support decision making	8%





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*Over **70%** of respondents said the data provided by ISSDA was '**very important**' for their work.*

## 2.

# Benefits to researchers



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***57%** of respondents said that using data provided by ISSDA enabled them to **pursue new research questions**, ideas and/or projects.*

## Has using data provided by ISSDA led to any of the following methodological and capacity-related benefits for you personally?

Enabled you to pursue new research questions, ideas and/or projects	57%
Enabled you to make greater use of data in your work	52%
Enabled you to achieve a higher standard or quality in your work	43%
Enabled you to access and use relevant evidence more easily	43%
Improved your skills in survey design / data collection methods	40%
Improved your skills in cross-national comparative data analysis	29%
Enabled expansion of your research group, research centre or institute	13%



## Research

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*“This data had a large sample size of Irish children, it is the only nationally representative sample of Irish children and having it freely accessible is so important for research.”*



## Skills development

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*“I employed the GUI data for my M.Sc. [...], [Irish University] dissertation. The use of this data allowed me to develop skills in managing and analyzing national data a skill that was essential in obtaining my current position as a research analyst [...].”*



## Teaching

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*“It has been great to have GUI data for the [...] module at [Irish university]. It makes a difference having real data for analysis and gets students interested in large-scale data and what else ISSDA has.”*

3.

# **Societal impacts & public policy**





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***34%** of respondents said that their use of data provided by ISSDA has contributed to more **evidence based policy-making** and legislation.*

## How have you used the data and information that you have obtained from ISSDA?

Contributing to more evidence based policy-making and legislation	34%
Influencing practitioners and professional practice	31%
Improving skills among non-academics (e.g. practitioners)	27%
Enhancing public services or social welfare	14%
Enhancing quality of life, health and well-being	11%
Contribution to economic regeneration and economic development	8%



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*“ISSDA is advancing the provision of data in Ireland. By making data easily accessible to researchers, ISSDA ensures that policy-relevant research can be carried out that is relevant to Ireland and beyond.”*

4.

# ISSDA services to users



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*“The service provided by the ISSDA is excellent. Not only do they provide essential data for economic and social research, but they do so in an efficient and friendly manner. An excellent service!”*



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*“Being able to access the data through the ISSDA meant that I was able to easily conduct my validation study without having to seek permissions and access from TILDA directly through their hot desks in TCD [Trinity College Dublin]. This meant that I was able to perform the analyses in [Irish university] or in my own home at any time that suited me which made the study immeasurably easier to conduct. An excellent service.”*

5.

# Conclusion & Opportunities

## Conclusion & Opportunities

- ◎ Data can reach their full potential
- ◎ Moderated access to anonymised data
- ◎ Significant opportunity for broader access to comparative datasets through CESSDA





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*“Over time it is increasingly important to have reliable access points for high quality datasets. The ISSDA offers an excellent point of contact and access for valuable national data resources and will hopefully continue to expand.”*

# Thank you



## Any questions?



@ISSDA

[issda@ucd.ie](mailto:issda@ucd.ie)

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