

Erasmus Graduate School
of Social Sciences
and the Humanities

Annual report 2024

Erasmus Graduate School
of Social Sciences
and the Humanities



The Graduate School in 2024

Dear community,

We present you the 2024 annual report of the Erasmus Graduate School of Social Sciences and the Humanities.

We had a very succesful year with 63 courses and workshops on offer and over 700 course participants.

We also hosted several events, varying from onboarding sessions for new PhD candidates, to a conversation on the topic of academics and activism with Ruard Ganzevoort (rector of ISS), a designathon on AI in transdisciplinary research and of course our annual award ceremony.

Our Head of Studies, dr. Fadi Hirzalla, started an educational project on how to improve our course descriptions, curricular synergy and educational inclusiveness as part of his Senior Teaching Qualification (SKO). The implementation of the results will start as from the academic year 2025/2026.

Lastly, we said goodbye to our PhD handbook in 2024. The handbook was severely outdated. Although the hard copy version will be missed, we felt that a more sustainable solution would be appropriate and we created a FAQ page on our website.

Best regards,

The EGSB team

The EGSB team in 2024



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Rozendaal**
Dean



Dr. Fadi Hirzalla
Head of studies



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Contents

Multidisciplinary research culture	5
Solid services in training and supervision needs	7
Sound governance and administration	11
Collaboration	11

*Our school is built on **four pillars**:*

- 1. A multidisciplinary and excellent research culture*
- 2. Solid Services in training and supervision needs*
- 3. Collaboration*
- 4. Sound governance and administration*

The 2024 results for these four areas are presented in the following pages.

Multidisciplinary research culture

As was the case in previous years, in 2024 our aim to foster a multi-disciplinary research culture was realised through our teaching offers.

Our second instrument for enhancing multi-disciplinarity comes from our annual award selection of best PhD-thesis, article, paper, poster and impact, while not forgetting that all of this excellence only flourishes because of great supervision, collegiality and education. This year, again, the submissions for these categories were many and diverse, coming from all our participating communities.

An impression of our award ceremony for the 2024 EGSN Awards on March 27, 2025.



The following awards were granted:

Award for Best Poster 2024

Winner: Dyllis De Pessemier

Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM)

For her poster "Strengthening with separation: reduced frailty in older adults after their partner with dementia moves to a nursing home"

Award for Best Article 2024

Winner: Nada Akrouh

Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM)

For her article "Engaging citizens in experiments with computational analysis of patient stories: From unwarranted reductions to meaningful insights"

Award for Best PhD Thesis 2024

Winners:

Kayla Green

Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ESSB)

For her thesis "Becoming and Thriving in a Changing World: socioeconomic, social, and neural determinants of wellbeing across adolescence and young adulthood"

and

Ulrike Hahn

Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication (ESHCC)

For her thesis: "Imag(in)ing the Climate Crisis: The visual arts to the rescue?"

Award for PhD Colleague of the Year 2024

Winner: Talha Qureshi

Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM)

Award for PhD Supervisor of the Year 2024

Winner: dr. Igna Bonfrer

Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM)

Award for Graduate School Lecturer of the Year 2024

Winner: Job van Exel

For his course 'Q-methodology'

Award for Best Societal Impact 2024

Winner:

Beatrice Hati Gitundu

International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

Solid services in training and supervision needs

In 2024, 63 courses and workshops were offered (of which 42 unique courses, some had multiple editions).

Figure 1 indicates how many courses were offered from 2014 to 2024

Figure 1. **Number of courses** 2014 – 2024



Figure 2 shows how many students participated in our courses and events from 2014 to 2024.

Figure 2. **Number of course participants** 2014 – 2024

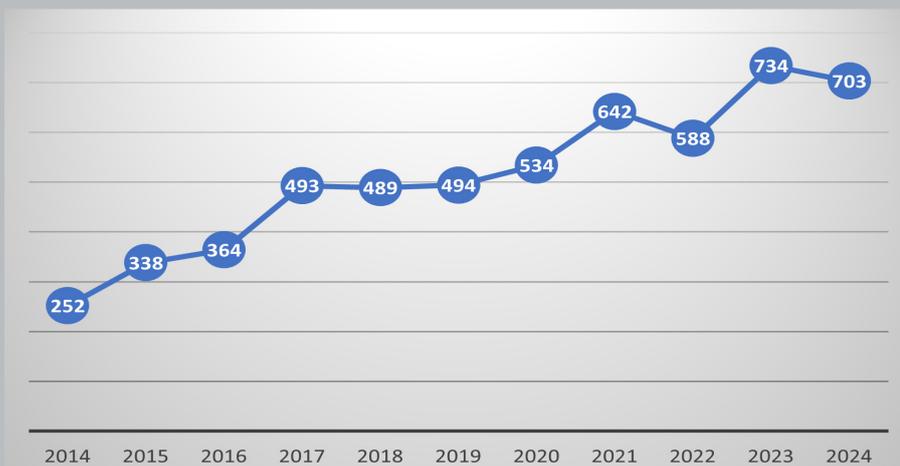


Table 1. **Course and event participation** per faculty/institute and department 2024

	TOTAL	%	Unique participants
Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ESSB)	264	36,0%	113
Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management (ESHPM)	185	25,2%	72
Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication (ESHCC)	109	14,9%	44
Erasmus School of Philosophy (ESPhil)	57	7,8%	32
International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)	19	2,6%	10
Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS)	16	2,2%	8
DRIFT	1	0,1%	1
Other (none-members of the joint venture partners)	52	7,1%	42
Grand total	703		322

Courses on mandatory topics

As the EUR's PhD policy on education on the topics of open science, data management and professionalism and integrity in research was not very well-known within our PhD community, as a graduate school we chose to communicate education on these subjects is mandatory.

This led to a wave of PhD candidates wanting to take our courses on these subjects. In 2024, we accommodated almost 100 PhD's for the integrity course. Unfortunately, we were not able to meet the high demand for the open science courses (45 seats only) due to capacity problems in the EUR's open science advisory team. Together with EUR's Academic Affairs and the open science advisory team we worked hard on finding a solution and we are sure together we will solve this problem.

Figure 3. **Course participation** by unique participants 2024

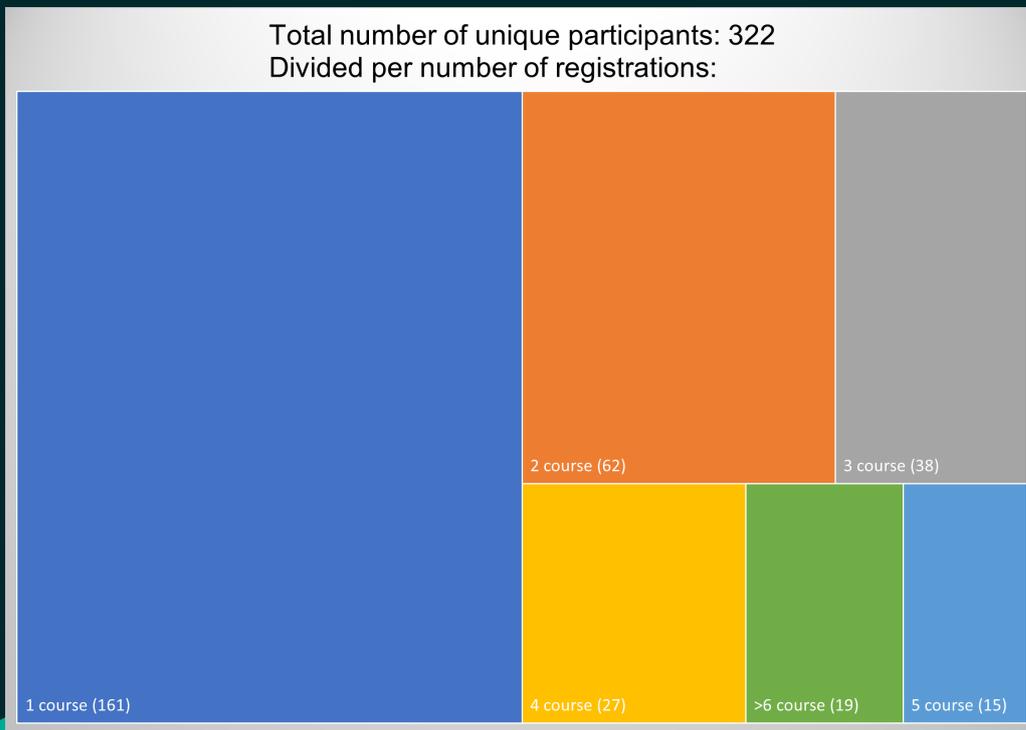


Figure 4. **Percentage of students that would recommend the course**

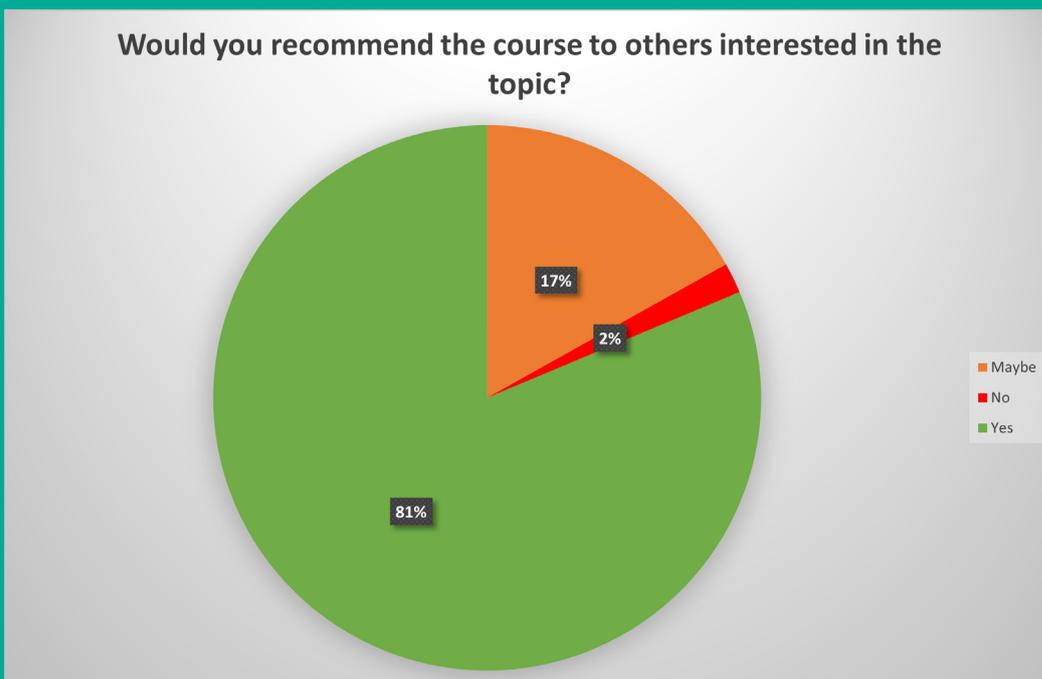
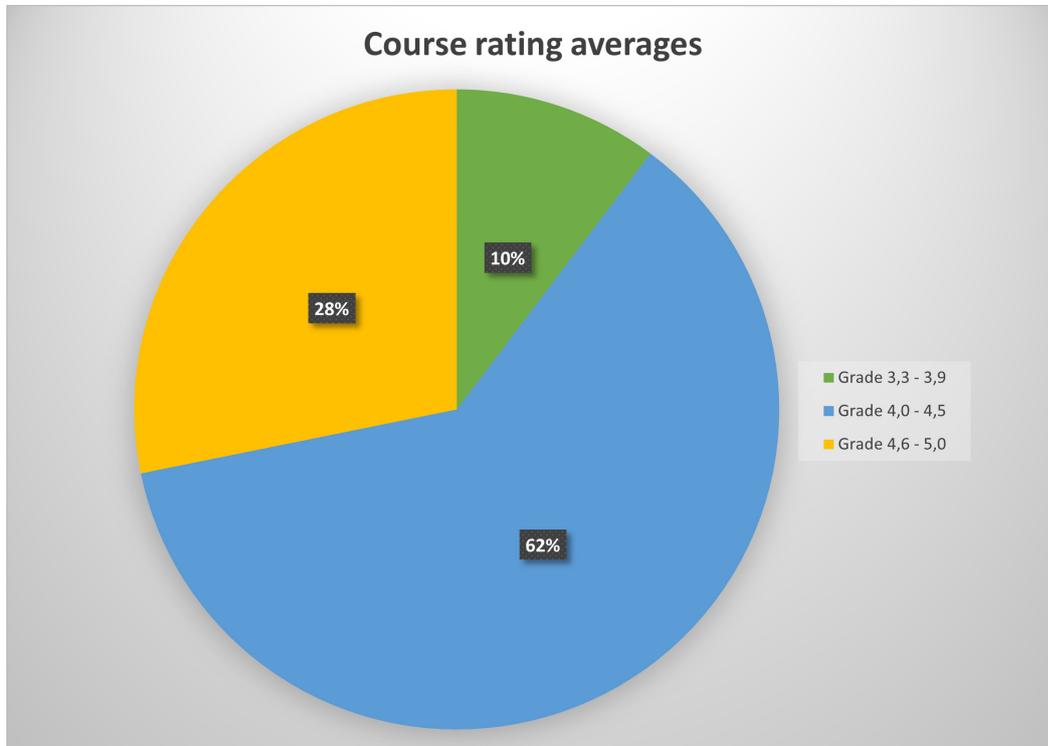


Figure 5. **Evaluations** 2024

Figure 5 indicates how our courses and teachers were rated on a scale from 1 to 5. The average rating was 4,3.



Methodology consultant dr. Fadi Hirzalla

Our methodology consultant, dr. Fadi Hirzalla, held 4 sessions in the year 2024 with individual candidates, helping them with fundamental reflection and concrete directions for method and research issues.

Sound governance and administration

In 2024 the management team has met twice with the Supervisory Board and also twice with the Programme Board.

Throughout the year, our team also had quarterly meetings with the PhD officers of our faculties and institutes and the EGSH PhD council.

Collaborations

UNIC

UNIC is a European alliance of eight universities based in post-industrial cities with a mission to boost mobility and inclusion for societal impact. UNIC was formed as a response to the European Commission's call to create bottom-up networks of universities throughout Europe that enable students to obtain degrees by combining studies in several EU countries.

Erasmus University Rotterdam has joined Koc University Istanbul, Ruhr University Bochum, University of Liege, University College Cork, University of Deusto, University of Oulu, and University of Zagreb to form the UNIC alliance. UNIC is an alliance today but strives to be a model for the European Universities of tomorrow by embodying common values and visions of our shared European future.

In 2024, the Erasmus Graduate School of Social Sciences and the Humanities continued to be involved in the collaboration, although there were no joint events or activities.

Convergence: the AI, data and digitalisation theme

In co-operation with the Convergence we organised a designathon for PhD candidates working at the intersection of AI and other disciplines.

The designathon, with the appealing topic of designing a personal experience for a game for cancer research took place at ECDA at the Erasmus campus. The designathon was experienced as very productive and fruitful and the outcomes were used by Changegamers in the design for the first release of the game.

Colophon

Publication: Erasmus Graduate School of Social Sciences and the Humanities (EGSH)

Design: Erasmus Graduate School of Social Sciences and the Humanities (EGSH)

Photography: Alexander Santos Lima (Cover, p.5)

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