

In the new evasys release 2025.1 we have placed a clear focus on a core area of our software: executing automated survey processes via scheduled tasks. A wide range of new features and extensions gives you the ability to establish new workflows for your surveys or extend your existing ones. In addition, email sending has been technically renewed and offers an optimized overall solution using established frameworks. Read on to see what you can look forward to in evasys 2025.1.

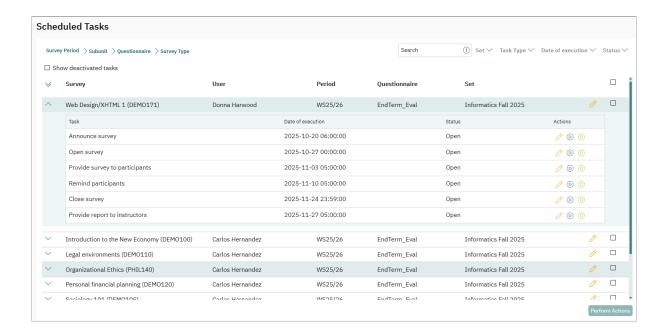
### **Table of Contents**

- » New overview menu "Scheduled Tasks"
- » New editing view for the scheduled tasks
- » New task types for more flexibility
- » Provision of surveys and reports without mail dispatch
- » Additional or alternative recipients for emails
- » Improved synchronization of participant data and multiple execution of tasks
- » Better transparency around email sending
- » More flexibility when providing reports
- » Single password online surveys & reminders
- » Single password online surveys & result access
- » PSWD based online surveys & result access
- » More flexible merging of surveys
- » Placeholders in merged emails
- » Pre-generating emails
- » New mailing service "evamail"
- » Scheduling for paper and hybrid surveys
- » Extended scheduling information in engagement surveys
- » Editing scheduled tasks and the survey method in engagement surveys
- » Extended scheduling information in engagement workflows
- » Extension of the import interfaces



#### New overview menu "Scheduled Tasks"

Flexible filter and search options, a compact tabular overview with expandable detailed information, improved user guidance and a completely new look and feel: the new overview menu for the scheduled tasks in your evasys system meets all requirements for greater transparency and clarity regarding the status of your time-controlled processes and allows you to quickly find the information you need - for a single survey or for all currently scheduled surveys.





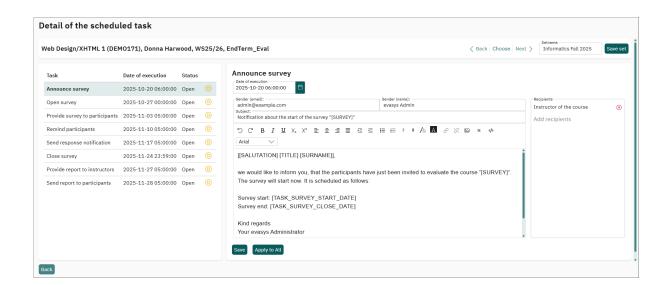
#### How does it work?

Open the menu "Subunits / Scheduled Tasks". Filter the table by the desired survey period, subunit, questionnaire, and survey type to narrow the results as needed. Use additional filters such as execution time, status, or task type to display the information you need. Do you want to display the scheduled tasks for a specific survey? A search field lets you filter the table specifically by the survey name or instructor name.



### New editing view for the scheduled tasks

A new page layout for better use of screen width, a pre-selection of task types for better overview, and enhanced switching between surveys when multiple processing of scheduled tasks: The modern, structured interface will make handling scheduled tasks more convenient. Improved navigation will also save time by allowing quicker access to desired surveys.





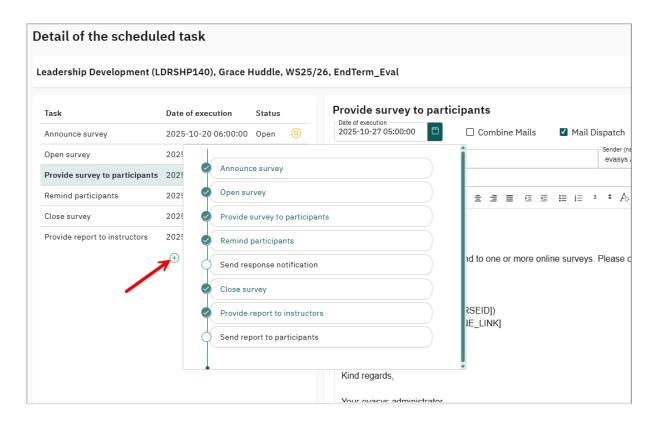
How does it work?

Use the plus icon in the left task overview to add the required tasks as needed. Disable and delete tasks if they are not needed for the survey or should not be executed at short notice. Edit your tasks individually via the input forms on the right and make the desired settings. Apply these to all other selected surveys as needed.



#### New task types for more flexibility

We have expanded the number of task types available in order to bring more flexibility and time independence to conducting your surveys: instead of the previously four, you can now control your time-controlled tasks more granularly using eight different scheduled tasks. Previously coupled functions - such as announcing the survey, opening it, and inviting participants - can now be configured independently. This not only gives you more scheduling options but also enables new workflows.





#### How does it work?

After creating a survey, select which tasks you need and want to use for your survey. The following tasks are available:

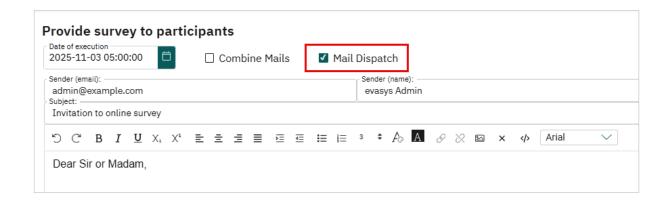
- Announce survey
- Open survey
- Provide survey to participant
- Remind participants
- Send response information
- Close survey
- Provide report to instructors
- Send report to participants

For example, if you conduct single password online surveys in class, only add the "Announce survey" task to send the link and QR code to the instructors or other selected people a few days before the survey is conducted. Additionally, add the "Open survey" and "Close survey" tasks to limit the time period. You can now configure the "Provide report to instructors" task with a flexible time interval before closing the survey so that open comments can be reviewed in the meantime or the assessment of the exams can be awaited.



#### Provision of surveys and reports without mail dispatch

Would you like to largely dispense with emails, as your students and instructors primarily use the Learning Management System anyway, or do you conduct your surveys via QR code in class? What previously was only possible with workarounds is now very easy with a click.



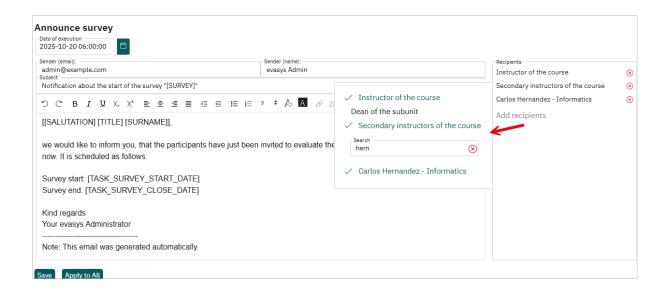


Disable mail dispatch when making surveys available to participants and/or when making the report available to instructors. The execution time is then used exclusively for display via LTI or in the engagement Student Portal. For integrations via the SOAP API, mail dispatch can also be suppressed optionally.



### Additional or alternative recipients for emails

Should the survey announcement be sent to secondary instructors or a specific person in the department because they will conduct the survey? Should the response rate information go to the department's quality management, while the report for the survey is sent only to the lead instructor - and additionally to the dean of the subunit? Flexible recipient configuration now makes all of this possible. As the corresponding emails are sent individually even when there are multiple recipients, a correct personal salutation is ensured.



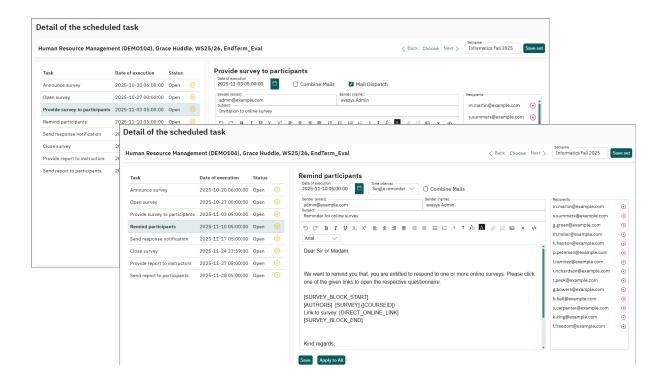


In the tasks "Announce survey", "Send response rate information", and "Provide report to instructors", click "Add recipient". Select a preconfigured role or use the search field to add a specific person from the organization. Remove individual recipients or roles from the recipient list by clicking the red cross icon.



# Improved synchronization of participant data and multiple execution of tasks

The list of participants is not always final when preparing surveys. Some participants cancel at short notice, others are added later - ideally before the survey runs, but sometimes only while it is already in progress. To enable more flexibility here, participant data of a course is now continuously synchronized into the surveys of the current and future periods. This means additional participants can still be added after the initial survey invitation. Non-anonymous participants can also be added later - something that was previously not possible.





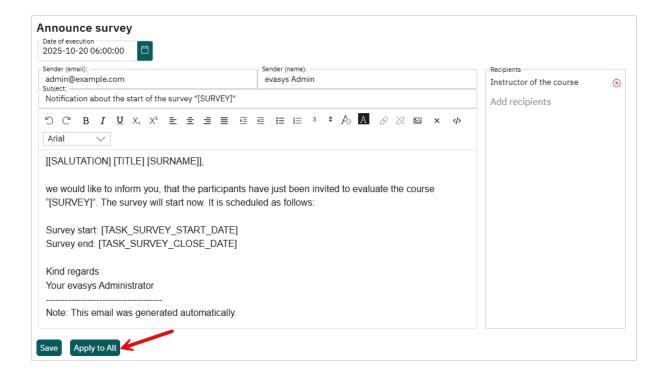
How does it work?

If you import or manually add participant data for the course after creating a survey, they are automatically added as recipients of the survey as well. If the surveys have already been made available to participants, the task can be re-scheduled and triggered again. In this case, the invitation email is sent only to the newly added participants.



### Better transparency around email sending

We've all been there: sending automated bulk emails often raises uncertainties and doubts during preparation. Is the text really well-phrased? Does it contain the right placeholders? And has a typo perhaps crept in at the last minute? To address these concerns, the email texts are now visible in all scheduled tasks, so you can take a final look before sending. If something still is not right, late changes can be done conveniently and, thanks to bulk editing, applied to many surveys at once.



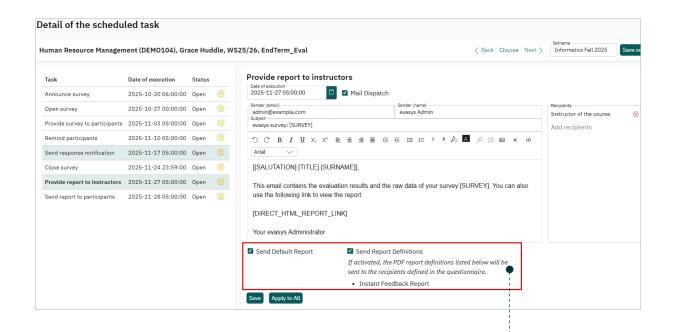


As usual, the email texts are taken from the text templates into the scheduled tasks. Use the email field to check and, if necessary, adjust the sender information, subject, or body. By clicking [Save & apply to all], the changes can be quickly transferred to all other surveys selected.



### More flexibility when providing reports

Sometimes you are unsure: does the questionnaire contain PDF report definitions or not? Will these be sent automatically to recipients, or is it the standard report after all? In the scheduled tasks you can not only see this information - you can also control the options: provide only the standard report, only the PDF report definitions, or both. Email dispatch is optional, the date can be set individually, and recipients can be configured independently - the flexibility in providing reports has reached a new level.





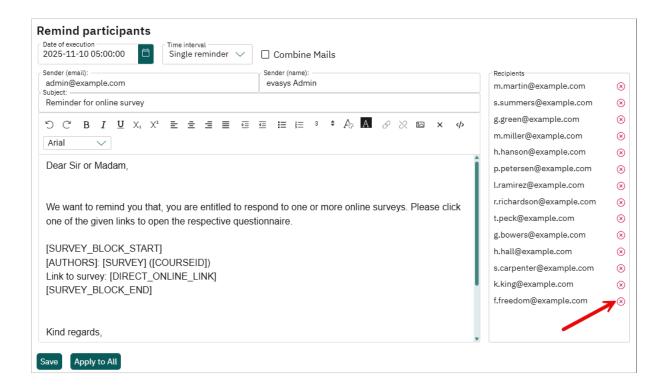
#### How does it work?

Open the task "Provide report to instructor" and choose which type of report you want to provide. If provisioning should occur only via the Learning Management System, engagement, or SOAP, disable email dispatch.



### Single password online surveys & reminders

If you conduct single password online surveys and invite and remind your participants by email, you previously could not exclude individual participants from reminders. To meet data-protection requirements for an opt-out function for participants in single password based surveys, this is now possible.



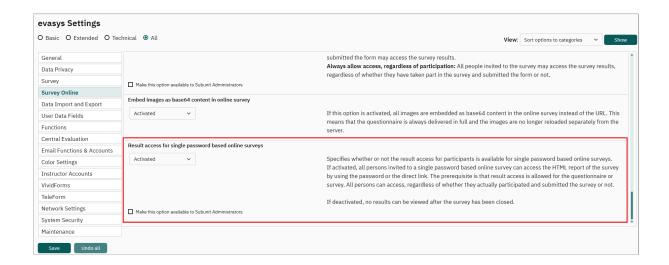


Open the "Remind participants" task of a single password based online survey. You can now remove participants from the recipient list who have requested to receive no further survey emails. Recipients removed by mistake can, of course, be added again later.



### Single password online surveys & result access

Do you conduct single password based online surveys and want participants to be able to access the results themselves afterwards? You can now enable result access for single password based surveys in the evasys configuration. This puts single password based online surveys on par with PSWD based online surveys and enables full automation - even when sharing survey results.



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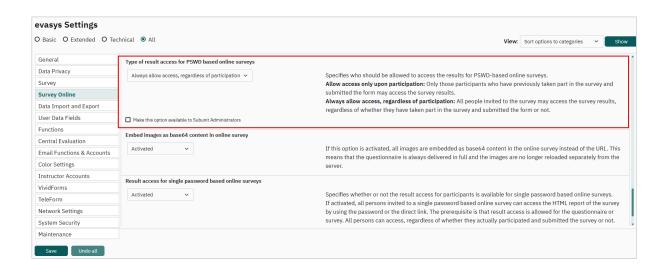
#### How does it work?

Open the menu "System Settings / evasys Settings / Survey Online" and scroll to the bottom of the list. There you will find the new setting "Results access for single password based online surveys". When activated, you can also use the "Send report to participants" task for single password based surveys. Please note that in the case of single password based surveys, evasys cannot verify whether a person actually participated. All stored participants are invited to acess the results.



#### PSWD based online surveys & result access

From now on you have a choice: should all participants in a course be able to access the results after the survey, or only those who actually completed and submitted the questionnaire? Expanding access rights increases the reach of results distribution. You also reach people who are interested in the results even if they did not participate - and perhaps motivate them to provide feedback in the future.





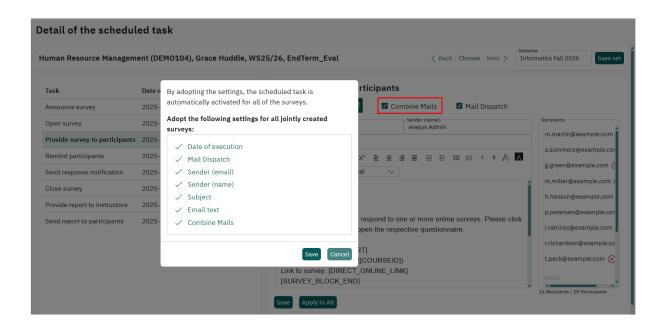
#### How does it work?

Open the menu "System Settings / evasys Settings / Survey Online". Here you will find the new setting "Type of result access for PSWD based online surveys". After the update, the default value is set to the previous behavior: "Allow access only when participation occurred." If desired, you can switch to the new behavior. The setting can be made available for subunit administrators so different values can be configured where needed.



#### More flexible merging of surveys

Merging emails is a very good way to reduce the number of emails sent to participants in online surveys and thus minimize potential email overload. Previously, email merging could only be set system-wide or at questionnaire level. We have lifted this limitation and made the function as flexible as possible. From now on, you decide individually at which level you want to merge emails - at subunit level, at questionnaire level, or simply by freely selecting surveys.





#### How does it work?

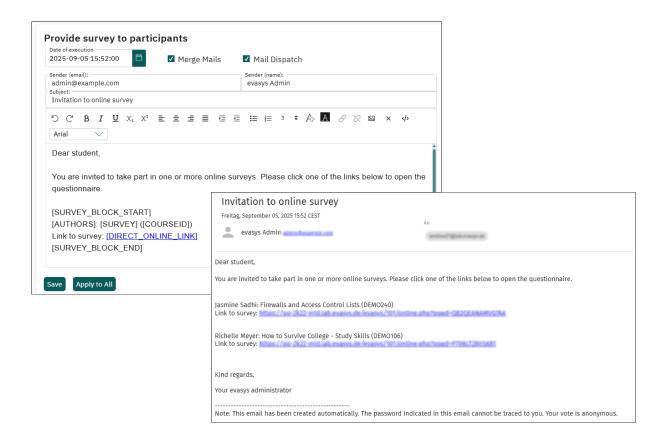
Using the configuration option "Allow merging of emails for scheduled tasks" in "System Settings / evasys Settings / Email functions & accounts", you can enable or disable email merging for invitations or reminders for PSWD and single password based online surveys. The setting is now also available to subunit administrators, allowing them to define their own default values.

When creating and editing scheduled tasks, you can now decide individually - by activating the checkbox "Merge emails" - whether the survey should be included in a merged email or sent separately. Bulk editing of scheduled tasks gives you the flexibility to merge any selection of surveys - provided the email settings (date and time for the scheduled dispatch, email text, subject, etc.) match.



#### Placeholders in merged emails

Would you like to send invitations and reminders to participants as merged emails but do not want to give up individually designed email text with survey-specific information such as the course name, course code, period, or other relevant data? You can now include a new place-holder block with survey-specific information for each survey. This increases the information content of your emails without abandoning the benefits of merging.





#### How does it work?

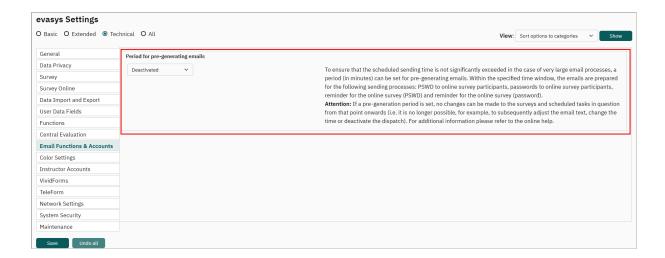
The text templates for participant invitations and reminders are now extended by a new survey-specific block that can contain both static text and placeholders. Framed by the two placeholders [SURVEY\_BLOCK\_START] and [SURVEY\_BLOCK\_END], you can flexibly design the block and include the text and placeholders you need. The block is displayed in the email once for each survey available to the respective participants.



#### **Pre-generating emails**

For large bulk email dispatch - such as invitations or reminders to participants for course evaluations - the dispatch itself can take some time. Placeholders in texts have to be resolved, emails may need to be consolidated and generated per participant, and then sent. All of that takes time.

With version 2025.1, the technical procedure for preparing emails has been renewed, which significantly improves speed in this area. If, beyond that, you place particular value on emails being sent exactly at the defined time even for very large bulk dispatch, and appearing promptly in participants' inboxes, you can now define a time frame for pre-generating emails. Your evasys system will begin preparing emails a few minutes before the actual dispatch time so that at the scheduled time of the task only the dispatch itself remains.





#### How does it work?

To configure email pre-generation, open "System Settings / evasys Settings / Email functions & accounts". Under "Technical" you will see a new configuration option "Period for pre-generating emails". Select the desired period in minutes (e.g., 5 minutes). Please note that from that time onward no changes to the scheduled tasks are possible. They will be in the new status "In preparation", which does not allow any changes. Therefore, do not enable this setting permanently, but only when you really need it. By default, the setting is disabled.



### New mailing service "evamail"

Together with the renewal of scheduled tasks, email sending has also been put on a new technological footing. Whereas previously two separate solutions were used for sending time-controlled and non-time-controlled emails, the email dispatch will now be handled by our new mailing service "evamail". It is based on a modern architecture and uses the widely used MailKit library, which is recommended, among others, by Microsoft for sending emails. Better maintainability and serviceability, fewer sources of error, extensive logging for analysis and meaningful error messages, more performance and stability, as well as better compatibility with the various mail servers used by our customers - these are just some of the advantages of the new solution.



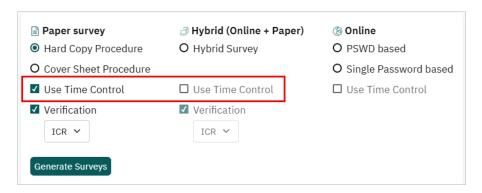


When you update to the new version, the new mailing service is installed automatically on the evasys server and replaces the two previous solutions. You don't need to do anything - we ensure a smooth transition.



### Scheduling for paper and hybrid surveys

More automation for paper and hybrid surveys is now also possible by using the time control option. With time scheduling, these survey types can now be opened and closed automatically. In addition, the report can be sent on a schedule to the desired recipients. The latter, in particular, leads to better planning and time savings when conducting paper and hybrid surveys.



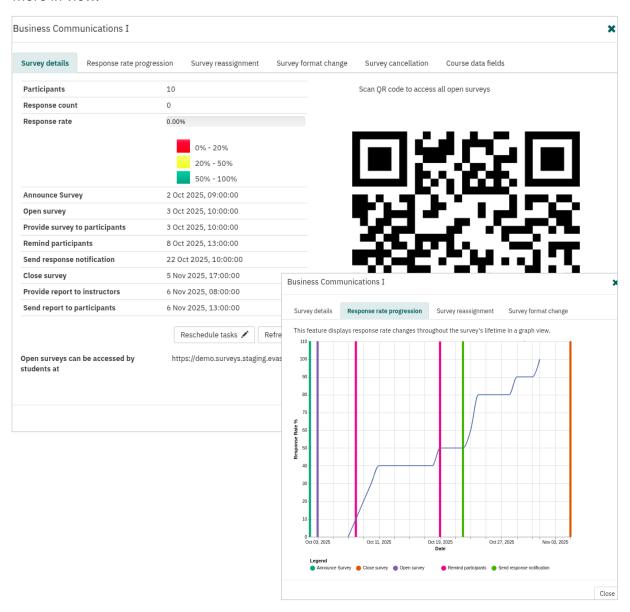


Create your paper and hybrid surveys as usual and enable the checkbox "Time Control". Alternatively, enable and edit scheduling later from the survey details using the menu entry "Scheduled Tasks". You can now add the three tasks mentioned above to the survey.



### Extended scheduling information in engagement surveys

After the update, instructors will also see and benefit directly from the new scheduled tasks format in *engagement surveys*: they receive detailed information on the scheduling of individual survey steps and, in the response analysis chart, can see the additional tasks and their impact on the response rate over time. This helps keep participants' response behavior even more in view.





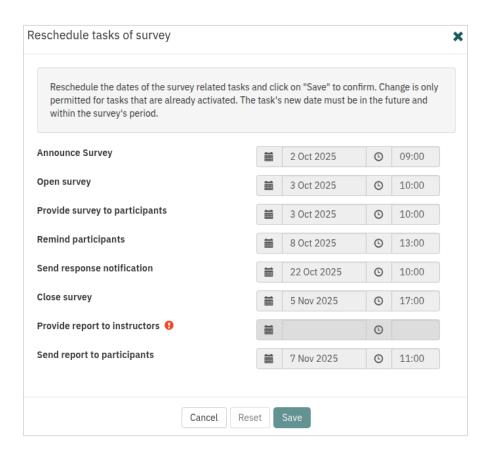
How does it work?

If the viewing and editing functions for survey details in the *engagement surveys* component are enabled for instructors, clicking the magnifying glass icon in the "Details" column now provides extended information on the scheduled tasks. The overall response overview has been extended with the new scheduling tasks, as has the response analysis chart.



# Editing scheduled tasks and the survey method in engagement surveys

When editing scheduled tasks for centrally created surveys in *engagement surveys*, instructors now have all new task types available - both for PSWD and single password based surveys and for the now supported paper and hybrid surveys. Administrators can configure which tasks may be edited by instructors via a new configuration area, further fine-tuning collaboration workflows. When changing the survey method, the new task types are displayed and can be configured as well.





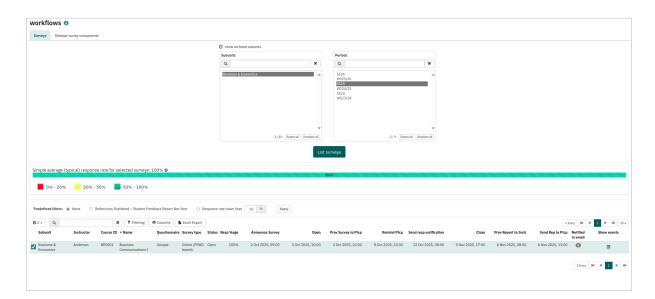
How does it work?

As an administrator you can use a separate configuration area in "System settings / surveys / Scheduled Tasks" to allow or forbid editing of scheduled tasks per task - depending on how much control you want to give instructors. Instructors can then click the [Scheduled Tasks] button in the survey details to edit those task types that have been released for editing. The same applies when changing the survey method - the new tasks are shown for editing there as well.



# Extended scheduling information in engagement workflows

As a user of the *workflows* component, you will notice after the update that the survey list also displays all new task types for information purposes. This gives you a convenient overview of the complete scheduling of your surveys and allows you to use this information to steer further actions.



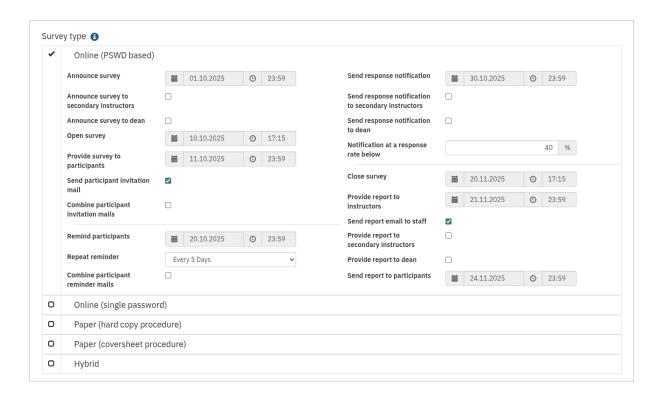


Open the workflows menu in engagement as an administrator or subunit administrator. After selecting subunits and periods, you will see the survey list, which now contains information on the respective scheduled tasks of the survey in individual columns



#### **Extension of the import interfaces**

Do you use the Survey Creator or the Data Bridge to import your survey data - including scheduled tasks - into evasys? You will now be able to set all configurations for the functions listed above flexibly in our import solutions as well. The same applies to users of the XML import or our SOAP API. All import interfaces have been extended so that they fully support the new scheduled tasks.





#### How does it work?

To use the new functions when importing or creating surveys automatically via an interface, you need to extend your Survey Creator datasets, Data Bridge templates, XML schema, or API requests to reflect the new options. You will find detailed information in our documentation as well as suitable example files.

If you do not have time to make the necessary adjustments when updating to the new version 2025.1, you can continue using your existing import formats for now. We guarantee compatibility of the previous formats for one year, giving you ample time to switch to the new formats. If you continue to use the old formats, evasys automatically transforms them in the background to the new scheduled tasks.