European Social Survey

SHARE
SURVEY OF HEALTH, AGEING AND RETIREMENT IN EUROPE

GGP
Generations and Gender Programme

Joint User Meeting Vienna, Austria

Collection of Abstracts

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Bundesministerium Frauen, Wissenschaft und Forschung

Bundeskanzleramt

Bundesministerium Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz

Opening and keynote speeches

09:05–09:15

The European Social Survey

Peter Grand / *IHS Vienna*

The European Social Survey (ESS) is a cross-national survey conducted across Europe every two years since 2001. It measures the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviour patterns of populations in more than 30 countries, making it one of the most rigorous and widely used social science data sources in the world. The ESS covers a broad range of topics, including political participation and trust, immigration, religion, well-being, gender roles, and social values. Each round includes a rotating module focusing on a specific theme, alongside a consistent core questionnaire that enables longitudinal comparisons.

Austria has participated since the first round in 2002. The Austrian implementation is coordinated by the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna, which oversees data collection and national coordination. Austrian ESS data have informed research on political attitudes, immigration, and well-being, contributing to evidence-based policy discussions both nationally and within a broader European comparative framework.

09:15–09:35

Linking SHARE data with AMDC

Michael Radhuber / *JKU Linz*

SHARE (the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe) is Europe's largest longitudinal study on ageing, and Austria has been part of it from the very beginning. Since 2004, SHARE has followed people aged 50 and over through repeated interviews, documenting how their health, financial circumstances, family relationships, and working lives change over time.

SHARE is now taking an important next step: linking its rich survey data with administrative records from the Austrian Micro Data Centre (AMDC). This makes it possible to connect self-reported information with high-quality registry data on employment, income, and social security, substantially expanding the analytical potential of the study.

At the heart of this linkage is the bPK (bereichsspezifisches Personenkennzeichen), a sector-specific personal identifier designed to enable secure and privacy-preserving record linkage. But what exactly is a bPK, how is it generated and embedded in a survey infrastructure like SHARE, and what new research possibilities does it unlock? This presentation offers a first look behind the scenes of the implementation process and discusses why this technical step matters for the future of ageing research in Austria.

09:35–09:55

The Gender and Generations Programme

Sonja Dörfler-Bolt, Norbert Neuwirth */ University of Vienna*

The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) is a cross-national research infrastructure that studies how people's lives unfold across generations and within family and partnership contexts. Through its flagship survey instrument, the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS), the GGP collects longitudinal data on individuals aged 18 to 59, tracking changes in fertility intentions, partnership formation and dissolution, living arrangements, caregiving, and gender relations over time. Operating across more than 20 countries in Europe and beyond, the GGP enables rigorous cross-national comparisons and captures the dynamic interplay between individual life decisions and broader social, economic, and policy contexts. All data are freely available to researchers, making the GGP an essential resource for understanding demographic change. The Austrian part of the GGP is coordinated at the University of Vienna.

Block I · Gender, work & social inequalities

10:00–10:20

Beyond the binary: gradational gender identification across European regions

Pia Schober / *University of Tübingen*

Most quantitative research uses binary sex or gender measures, underestimating diversity in gender self-concepts even among cisgender individuals. Drawing on ESS Round 11 data for 37,587 people across 26 countries, this study introduces gradational masculinity and femininity self-ratings and examines their content validity and regional variation.

Respondents in Eastern and Southern Europe report more conforming gender identities; Northern Europe shows the least conformity and the highest share of non-binary identifications. Multilevel models reveal that conformity is strongly associated with bodily characteristics, personality traits, sexual orientation, parental education, and regional gender equality — but not with parenthood or labour market variables.

Co-authors: *Marie-Fleur Philipp and Silke Büchau*
Keywords: *Gender identity, gender diversity, masculinity, femininity, gender regimes, ESS*

10:20–10:40

Rethinking the gender gap: multidimensional measures of gender and climate change concern

Marie-Fleur Philipp / *University of Tübingen*

Women consistently report greater environmental concern than men, but the mechanisms behind this gap are poorly understood. Using ESS Round 11 multilevel data for 29,577 individuals in 22 countries, this paper goes beyond binary gender to explore how gender category, conformity with gender norms, gendered values, and equality attitudes jointly shape climate change concern. Gender category predicts worry and perceived responsibility, but climate attribution depends more on gender norm conformity. Conforming men show the lowest concern; less conforming men resemble non-binary individuals. Feminine personality traits and pro-equality attitudes partially mediate the gender gap, especially in more egalitarian regions.

Co-authors: *Pia Schober*
Keywords: *Environmental concern, gender, climate change, ESS, multilevel regression*

10:40–11:00

Who bears the growing burden? Gender and work-life conflict across Europe

Vladimir Mentus / *Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade*

Work-life conflict (WLC) increased significantly across 19 European countries between 2004 and 2020, with a steeper rise in the most recent decade. Women experienced a faster increase than men, gradually eroding the initial gender gap. Total working hours are the strongest individual predictor of WLC, and controlling for hours renders the gender effect non-significant, suggesting working hours mediate the gender–WLC association. Countries with higher gender pay gaps show relatively greater WLC among men, consistent with breadwinner norms. Countries with higher female part-time rates saw steeper WLC growth over time, suggesting part-time arrangements lose their buffering effect under sustained pressure.

Co-authors: *Jovana Zafirović*
Keywords: *Work-life conflict, gender, multilevel modelling, ESS, labour market inequalities*

Block II · Ageing, health & long-term care

11:20–11:40

Are Austrians ageing healthily? Trends in functional limitations across Europe

Nicole Halmdienst / *JKU Linz*

Using SHARE panel data (2011–2022), this paper examines trends in functional ability — measured through limitations in activities of daily living — among older adults in Austria and ten other European countries. While Austrian data from national health surveys had suggested strong rising disability rates, SHARE data show stagnation or modest decline in functional limitations in Austria and a clear downward trend elsewhere in Europe. The authors conclude that Europeans are increasingly ageing in better health, and that rising longevity does not necessarily extend the period lived with disability. Apparent discrepancies with national surveys may reflect survey mode effects rather than genuine health deterioration.

Co-authors: *Michael Radhuber, Theresa Weitzhofer-Yurtisik, Rudolf Winter-Ebmer*
Keywords: *Chronic limitation of activity, ageing, long-term care, SHARE, survey mode effects*

11:40–12:00

Frailty and long-term care systems in Europe: aligning care demand and supply through care needs assessments

Beatrice Fabiani de Leva / *University of Trieste*

This paper investigates how national care needs assessment (CNA) rules translate similar levels of frailty into very different public long-term care entitlements across eight European countries. Applying a harmonised Frailty Index from SHARE Wave 9 to CNA rules drawn from the Gateway Policy Explorer, the authors find large cross-country variation in eligibility rates — from 6.5% in Slovakia to 22.8% in Germany — and in the frailty thresholds at which support begins. Historical simulations show how major reforms shift eligibility, illustrating that institutional design, not just health need, determines care access.

Co-authors: *David Knapp, Heber Dávila Rivera, Yeeun Lee, Ludovico Carrino, Giacomo Pasini*
Keywords: *Frailty, long-term care, care needs assessment, aging population*

12:00–12:20

The socioeconomic status gradient in chronic pain: a cross-country analysis

Enrica Croda / *Ca' Foscari University of Venice*

Chronic pain affects around two in five mid-life Europeans, yet is poorly understood outside the US opioid crisis context. Drawing on SHARE and the US Health and Retirement Study, this paper documents sex disparities and strong socioeconomic gradients in pain prevalence across fourteen European countries and the US.

Women consistently report more pain than men in every country, and less educated and lower-income individuals report substantially higher pain rates. Crucially, country-specific characteristics matter most for people at the bottom of the income distribution, echoing findings on life expectancy gradients. Switzerland has the lowest pain prevalence (23%) and France the highest (53%).

Keywords: *SHARE, HRS, pain, health inequalities, socioeconomic status gradient*

12:20–12:40

Social cognition, social connectedness, and well-being in later life: Evidence from Swiss SHARE data

Robert Reinecke / *University of Lausanne*

This study examines how four dimensions of social cognition — Theory of Mind, emotional empathy, cognitive empathy, and perceived social skills — relate to social connectedness and well-being among 1,203 Swiss adults aged 60 and older.

Using structural equation models, the authors find that Theory of Mind and emotional empathy are positively linked to social connectedness (network size, closeness, contact frequency, diversity), while social connectedness itself predicts greater self-realisation and social activity. Social skills show direct associations with lower loneliness and higher well-being, operating independently of network quality. The findings suggest distinct pathways through which social cognition supports ageing well.

Co-authors: *L. Fournier, J. Maurer, M. Fossard*
Keywords: *Social cognition, social connectedness, well-being, older adults, SHARE*

Block III · Family, fertility & reproductive autonomy

13:40–14:00

Chronic illnesses and short-term fertility intentions in Europe: Examining partnership as a mediating factor

Lukas Gutmorgeth / *University of Vienna*

Despite the high prevalence of chronic illness, fertility research rarely accounts for physical or mental health. Using pooled GGS-II data from eleven European countries, this study examines whether mental and physical chronic illnesses are associated with intentions to have a child within three years, and to what extent this association is mediated by partnership status. Preliminary results show that severe mental and physical illnesses are linked to lower positive fertility intentions and greater uncertainty, while minor or treatable conditions show negligible effects. A mediation analysis tests whether health conditions reduce fertility intentions partly by reducing the probability of being in a partnership.

Co-author: *Eva Beaujouan*
Keywords: *Fertility intentions, chronic illness, mental health, partnership status, GGS-II*

14:00–14:20

Informed decision-making regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care: Methodological aspects and recent insights on SDG 5.6.1 using the Generations and Gender Survey

Isabella Buber-Ennser / *Austrian Academy of Sciences*

The second round of the Generations and Gender Survey allows up-to-date measurement of SDG 5.6.1 — the share of women aged 15–49 making autonomous decisions about sexual relations, contraception, and health care. Analysing roughly 20,000 partnered individuals aged 18–49 across ten countries, the paper finds wide variation: the Netherlands leads (98%), while Moldova stands out for high rates of no sexual autonomy. Tertiary-educated women and those in financially comfortable partnerships report higher autonomy. Notably, among men defined as lacking autonomous decision-making, insufficient contraceptive autonomy — rather than sexual autonomy — is the primary driver.

Co-author: *Daria Shapoval*
Keywords: *Reproductive autonomy, SDG 5.6.1, gender equality, GGS-II, informed decision-making*

14:20–14:40

Who do minors live with? Cohabitation with minor children and their father‘s partnership context

Claudia Herbst / *Austrian Academy of Sciences*

Parental separation has lasting consequences for children's living arrangements, yet empirical evidence on post-separation care in Austria is limited. Using the Austrian GGS 2022/23, this study uses chi-square analyses to show that children's residential arrangements are far more variable when they live with their father than their mother. Fathers' partnership status and household composition are strongly associated with how frequently children stay with the non-residential parent, while mothers' partnership context shows weaker effects. The findings point to persistent gendered caregiving patterns after separation and highlight fathers' integration into daily family routines as central to stable post-separation arrangements.

Co-authors: *Isabella Buber-Ennser*
Keywords: *Parental separation, co-parenting, father involvement, family structure, GGS Austria*

14:40–15:00

Impacts of Global Crises on Families

Norbert Neuwirth, Sonja Dörfler-Bolt / *University of Vienna*

Using the Austrian GGS 2022/23 — which includes a dedicated national module on the impacts of recent global crises — this study examines how crisis-induced reductions in personal living standards affect both fertility intentions and the expected timing of intended births. Multivariate models are estimated in sequence: first modelling the determinants of expected living standard changes, then the influence of these expectations on crisis-related changes to fertility intentions, and finally shifts in the timing of intended births among those who still plan to have children.

Co-author: *Markus Kaindl*
Keywords: *Fertility intentions, living standards, global crises, timing of births, GGS Austria*

Block IV · Intergenerational relations & survey methodology

15:20–15:40

Older parent–adult child contact and proximity across Europe: new evidence, digital communication, and measurement issues

Valeria Bordone / *University of Vienna*

Using the most recent waves of SHARE and ESS across 23 European countries, this paper provides updated estimates of how frequently older parents (60+) are in contact with their adult children and how close they live. A clear South–North gradient persists: Southern Europeans have the highest rates of frequent contact and residential proximity; Nordic and Continental countries the lowest. Digital communication (text and video calls) is an emerging supplement — not substitute — for face-to-face and phone contact. Crucially, the paper shows that measurement choices (random vs. most-contacted child; kilometres vs. travel time) affect prevalence levels substantially but barely change country rankings, supporting the robustness of cross-national comparisons.

Co-authors: *Bruno Arpino, Marco Tosi*
Keywords: *Intergenerational solidarity, parent-child contact, digital communication, SHARE, ESS*

15:40–16:00

Two surveys, one generation? Comparing SHARE and GGS respondents born 1950–1965

Yuri Pettinicchi / *University of Groningen*

Both SHARE and GGP are widely used to study life-course trajectories and intergenerational dynamics, but it is unclear how comparable their samples are. Focusing on respondents born 1950–1965 across selected European countries, this study first compares demographic and socio-economic profiles — gender composition, education, partnership status, fertility histories, and key life transitions such as age at first birth and first marriage. It then examines whether patterns of intergenerational financial transfers are consistent across the two surveys. The paper aims to provide methodological guidance for researchers who combine or compare findings from SHARE and GGP.

Co-author: *Claudius Garten*
Keywords: *Survey comparability, SHARE, GGP, intergenerational transfers, life course*

16:00–16:20

Measuring response effort and satisficing with paradata: a process-based approach in Czech GGS-II

Daniel Dvorak / *Masaryk University, Brno*

Traditional survey quality indicators capture consequences of poor responding rather than the underlying behaviour. Using detailed Blaise 5 event-log paradata from the Czech GGS-II CAWI component, this paper develops four standardised 0–100 indices: a Satisficing Index (effort-minimising shortcuts such as midpoint preference and speeding), an Effort Index (response latencies and answer revisions), an Inattentiveness Index (concentrated extremely short latencies), and a Behavioural Process Validation Index (navigation coherence and interaction density). Analyses examine distributional properties, demographic and device-related gradients, and construct coherence. The framework is designed to be replicable across GGP countries and survey waves.

Keywords: *Survey paradata; response quality; satisficing; behavioural engagement; GGS II*