

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2025

SHARE-ERIC ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2025



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TWELVE MORE YEARS OF LIFE. TWO MORE MONTHS OF WORK.

SHARE Austria at Johannes Kepler University Linz — the data behind the country's demographic and economic decisions

Two problems that are one problem

Austria's productivity problem and its demographic problem are, at their core, the same problem.

Today about three people of working age support each person over 65. By 2040 it is 2.2; by 2060, two. The federal subsidy to the pension system stood at 30 billion euro in 2024 and is projected to reach 38.3 billion by 2029, on a consolidation path that has to find 5.1 billion across the 2027/28 budgets.

Arithmetically there are two ways out: more people working longer, or more output per worker. Every serious Austrian proposal is a version of one or the other.

Both depend on the same missing knowledge: Who can actually work longer, under what conditions, and at what cost to their health? What keeps people productive after 50, and what drives them out early? That is the one problem behind the two.

These are not questions of principle. They are measurement problems, and the measurements have to exist before the decisions do.

SHARE is Austria's evidence base for managing demographic change.

A lever the data can see

Comparing nine European countries, researchers found that where job quality is high and further training widespread, fewer than 30 per cent of older employees want to stop work as soon as they can. Where working conditions are worse, it is over 60 per cent — a difference that tracks workplace quality, not pension generosity.

In Austria, older employees who receive further training earn around 19 per cent more — the largest such gap in Europe.

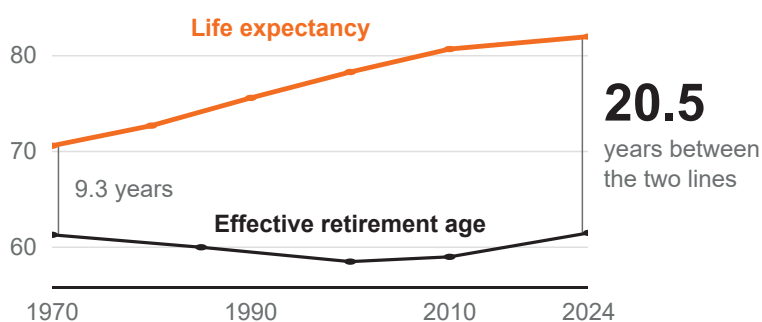
Why the sample size is a policy question

The SHARE-ERIC statutes set a target sample of 6,000 respondents aged 50 and over per country, expressly so the data can support analyses within a country and not only comparisons between them. The Austrian panel counts around 3,000, and the last refreshment sample was drawn in Wave 8.

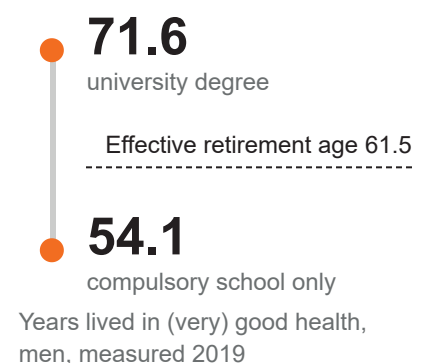
2025 in Austria

- Wave 10 completed: 3,019 interviews, response rates above the European average in a network of 28 countries including Israel
- Every interviewed person asked to confirm their participation in writing — five to ten times the usual back-check
- 3,012 of 3,019 respondents linked to Austria's administrative registers
- 844 registered SHARE users in Austria, across 81 institutions
- Two federal ministry reports built on SHARE Austria data
- Wave 11 funded, December 2025 to June 2028, providing for around 1,800 interviews. Wave 10: 3,019

Twelve years of life gained. Two months of work added.



And those healthy years of life are not shared out evenly.



The years Austria has gained have landed almost entirely after retirement — and one man reaches the shared retirement age with seven healthy years behind him while another has ten ahead. The data can now separate that difference by education and occupation. Source: Statistics Austria, Sterbetafel, and Lebenserwartung in (sehr) guter Gesundheit (Gesundheitsbefragung 2019 / Sterbetafel 2018); BMASGPK, Monitoring der Pensionsantritte 2019–2024 (Wien 2025). Chart: SHARE Austria, JKU Linz.

THE MOST CLOSELY CHECKED FIELDWORK IN AUSTRIA

Wave 10, and what serious data collection takes

Twenty-one years, and the work has moved to Linz

Austria has taken part in SHARE since the first wave in 2004 and was a founding member of SHARE-ERIC in 2011, the first European Research Infrastructure Consortium.

What began as a commissioned survey is now run largely from Linz: SHARE Austria draws its own register-based probability sample, tests the instruments, monitors and verifies the fieldwork, cares for the panel between waves and links the data to administrative records.

What face-to-face reaches

Limitations in instrumental activities of daily living, age 65+, Austria — the same indicator, asked by telephone and asked face-to-face in the home.

By telephone **18.9 % men · 38.2 % women**

Face-to-face, in **35.1 % men · 50.8 % women**
the home

How SHARE **face-to-face, every wave**
interviews

Telephone and web reach whoever is easiest to reach: healthier, better educated, more trusting. The people the data exist to describe — frail, isolated, cognitively impaired — do not pick up. An interviewer in the room adapts to hearing, sight and memory, and measures what no self-report delivers: grip strength, gait and recall.

Source: Halmdienst, Radhuber, Weitzhofer-Yurtisik and Winter-Ebmer, 'Are Austrians ageing healthily?', Empirica (2026), doi 10.1007/s10663-026-09675-5.

No other survey of the Austrian population combines all of it: a register-based probability sample drawn in-house, physical measurement in the respondent's home, and an instrument fielded identically in 28 countries.

The team is small: Michael Radhuber (Country Team Leader), Nicole Halmdienst (scientific lead), Theresa Weitzhofer-Yurtisik (operations and field management) and Rudolf Winter-Ebmer, who brought SHARE to Austria.



Michael Radhuber,
Country Team Leader.



Nicole Halmdienst,
scientific lead.

Above the European average, again

Wave 10 ran from the end of September 2024 to the end of May 2025 and produced 3,019 interviews. Austria closed above the SHARE average on every headline indicator: a contact rate of 98.3 per cent, a household response rate of 73.4 per cent against a network average of 72.4, and an individual response rate of 69.2 against 68.8.

Respondents also answered more fully than in Wave 9: 1.45 unanswered items per interview against 1.72, with two thirds of interviews complete.

100 %

of face-to-face interviews in Wave 10 were checked. The required share is twenty.

In the home

Every interview face-to-face. Grip strength, walking speed and memory measured, not asked.

Every interview checked, not a sample

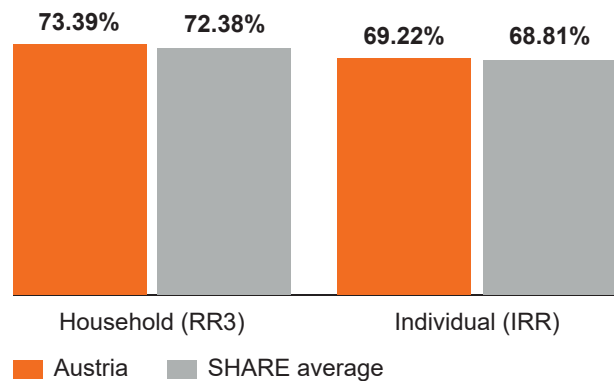
SHARE Central sets the verification standard for all country teams: a random share of completed interviews re-contacted and checked. In Wave 10, SHARE Austria replaced that sample with a census.

Every respondent interviewed in person received a control questionnaire by post — 2,697 of the 3,019 interviews, each household member separately. 71 per cent replied; 1,905 confirmed the interview.

Monitoring while the field is still open

Keystroke data give the exact length of every interview by interviewer. A reading-time protocol shows whether questions were read out in full. Grip-strength readings are screened for rounding.

Monitoring interviewer by interviewer while fieldwork is open means problems get corrected in the field, rather than discovered in the data two years later when nothing can be done about them.



Response rates in the Wave 10 panel. Austria's contact rate (CON2) was 98.3 per cent. Source: SHARE Wave 10 Fieldwork Monitoring Report.

Incentives are the lever

In the closing weeks of Wave 10 the team re-contacted panel members who had not yet taken part, offering a voucher of 60 euro in place of the usual 15. The result was 123 additional interviews averaging 46.6 minutes against 47.7 for the wave. Asked afterwards what had made the difference, 83 per cent of interviewers named the voucher, not the extra weeks.



LINKED TO THE REGISTERS. ALL BUT SEVEN.

Direct connections to the federal registers, and what they make answerable

A pipeline no other Austrian research institution has built

Since Wave 8, SHARE Austria has drawn its own probability sample directly from the Central Register of Residents. The team writes and validates the stratified two-stage selection query; the Interior Ministry executes it against the register; the sample stays in the team’s hands throughout fieldwork.

The interface is the team’s own: two registers queried through one credential, from an application SHARE Austria wrote. The sampling procedure is documented and openly licensed.

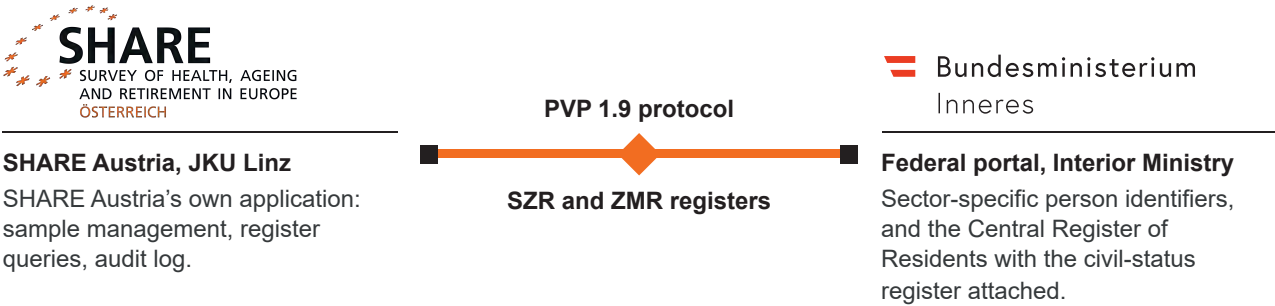
In Wave 10 the team connected the panel to the registers themselves. Linkage lives or dies on the precision of names and dates of birth, so the whole panel’s identity data were standardised and de-duplicated first.

3,012

of 3,019 respondents carry a unique register key

An unusually high match rate, and a consequence of doing fieldwork properly: a register key is only found for someone whose identity was recorded accurately at the door.

A direct register connection to the Interior Ministry



Drawn from the register itself

SHARE Austria writes and validates the sampling query, the ministry runs it against the register. Everyone aged 50 and over has a known chance of selection.

The person sampled is the person interviewed

Interviewers come to the door and check identity, which no telephone or web survey can do. That is why 3,012 of 3,019 matched their register record.

Health is measured, not only reported

Being in the room makes physical measurement possible — grip strength, walking speed, and further biomarkers as the modules extend. Other modes can only ask.

The method is written down and open

SHARE Austria documented the procedure and released the code, so other research institutions outside official statistics can repeat it.

Written and run in-house: the interface sits inside SHARE Austria’s own sample management, with the register keys as fields on the respondent record. Source: SHARE Austria register-access application, in service since November 2025.

1 Sample drawn from the Central Register of Residents

ZMR — query written and validated by SHARE Austria, executed by the Interior Ministry

2 Identity data standardised, de-duplicated and completed

names and dates of birth, for the whole panel

3 Sector-specific key generated at the Interior Ministry

bPK, via the Stammzahlenregister

4 Key encrypted for transit

vbPK — travels with the SHARE release

5 Decrypted at Statistics Austria / the Austrian Micro Data Center

only Statistics Austria can decrypt the key

6 Linked analysis in the secure remote workspace

no personal data leave the zone

How the register key reaches the Austrian Micro Data Center. Source: SHARE Austria; AMDC record-linkage procedure.

Consent that the law does not require

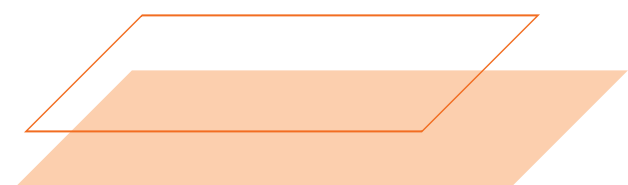
Under the Research Organisation Act, accredited research institutions may link their data to administrative registers through the pseudonymised sector-specific identifier without asking permission.

SHARE Austria asks anyway: every respondent is informed and can object at any time. In Wave 10, 5.7 per cent did — evidence that transparency costs a panel very little.

What becomes answerable

What the registers add is precision that no survey can reach: employment spells at daily resolution, employer-reported wages and pension claims.

- What did the tightening of early-retirement eligibility mean for the health of the people it affected, and for health-system spending?
- Austrian women retire on pensions around a third lower than men's. Parental-leave spells and wage penalties recorded at the time can now be traced to markers measured decades later.
- Does the job someone holds at 45 predict cognitive decline at 70?



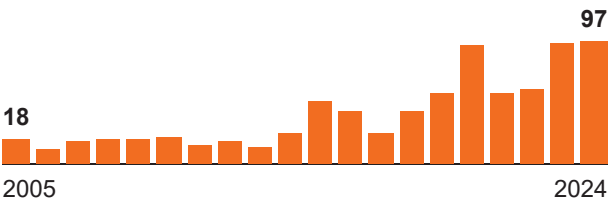
FROM AUSTRIAN DATA TO AUSTRIAN DECISIONS

Who uses it, where it lands, and what comes next

A user community well above Austria’s weight

At the end of 2025, 844 registered SHARE users held an Austrian affiliation, at 81 institutions, led by WU Vienna, the University of Vienna and JKU. That is 3.6 per cent of 23,360 users worldwide, from 1.7 per cent of the SHARE countries’ population.

Per head of population that is 92 users per million against 37 across the SHARE countries, and 51 in Germany: fourth highest of the 22 member countries above five million, behind the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium.



Austrian SHARE data-use registrations per year, 2005 to 2024. Source: SHARE-ERIC user register, Austrian affiliations, export of 10 January 2025 (781 registrations).

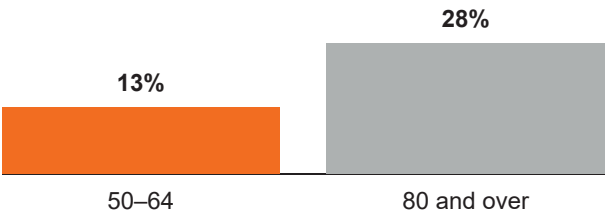
SHARE in teaching

Two in three of those users are students: 484 of the 781 registrations to January 2025. Austrian degree programmes teach on SHARE data, which is how the next generation of researchers learns to work with it.

Two ministry reports

In December the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection published *Einsamkeit in Österreich* (Loneliness in Austria), whose chapter on later life rests entirely on SHARE data for Austria.

The ministry’s health report *Gesundheit älterer Menschen in Österreich* (The Health of Older People in Austria) draws on SHARE for digital participation, medication and mental health. Both use SHARE because no other Austrian source combines health, social and economic information for this group.



Share who feel lonely often or sometimes, by age. Source: BMASGPK, *Einsamkeit in Österreich* (2025), SHARE data for Austria.

Better measurement, better answers

The country team’s own study *Are Austrians ageing healthily?* (*Empirica*, 2026) followed limitations in daily living across four waves. Longer lives do not automatically mean more years with disability, and education runs straight through the results.

It also showed how much the instrument decides the answer: change how a survey reaches people and measured disability moves.



Country teams from across the network at the SHARE Wave 10 midterm fieldwork meeting, Mutters, Tyrol, December 2024.

Hosting the network

In December 2024 Austria hosted the Wave 10 midterm fieldwork meeting at Mutters near Innsbruck, with around 90 participants from every country team. In May 2026 SHARE Austria organised the joint user meeting of the European Social Survey, SHARE and the Generations and Gender Programme at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna.

SARA: the AI comes to the data

SHARE Austria is building an AI node for the research infrastructure, on its own GPU hardware in Linz with access to Austria's national supercomputing capacity. At its centre is SARA, the SHARE Assisted Research Agent.

The design reverses the usual arrangement. Researchers do not send data out to an AI; the AI works inside a secure analysis zone where the released SHARE data sit, and nothing leaves it unreviewed.

Wave 11

Wave 11 is funded from December 2025 to June 2028, at a level providing for around 1,800 interviews. Wave 10 completed 3,019. The statutory target sample is 6,000.

More of the work moves in-house with every wave. The pretest is run in Linz and interviewer training is done together with IFES, which fields the survey; sample drawing, panel care, verification and register linkage all stay with the team.

At 1,800 interviews, occupational and educational differences approach the edge of statistical reach.

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SHARE'S MISSION & VISION

Our Mission

SHARE, the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, is a research infrastructure for studying the effects of health, social, economic, and environmental policies over the life-course of European citizens and beyond. Since 2004, SHARE has been collecting socio-economic and biomedical data from about 160,000 respondents aged 50 and older in 28 countries in Europe and beyond. During this time period 616,000 in-depth interviews have been conducted.

SHARE is the largest pan-European social science panel study, providing internationally comparable longitudinal micro-data. This unique dataset offers invaluable insights into public health and socio-economic

living conditions of individuals, making it a vital resource for researchers and policymakers.

As a harmonized, cross-national survey, SHARE creates a “natural laboratory” to explore the effects of diverse policy environments on ageing populations. Its life-course perspective and multidisciplinary approach – combining health, economics, and social sciences – make it a cornerstone in evidence-based policy development.

SHARE's impact is also growing globally. In addition to its comprehensive coverage of European countries, it is embedded in a worldwide network of sister studies, including countries in Asia, Africa and the Americas.

SHARE

empowers decision-makers to make data-driven decisions by providing world-class research and data to researchers on how people respond to a changing world.

Our Vision

How do people respond to a changing world?

Life expectancy is increasing – a positive development that brings new challenges. How can national social systems adapt to rising demands on pensions, health care, and social services? How can individuals enjoy longer lives that are healthy, economically secure, and fulfilling? And how can older adults navigate evolving health risks and social transformations?

By providing cross-nationally comparable high-quality longitudinal data with a life-course perspective, SHARE supports the evidence base needed to understand and shape responses to demographic change. In the coming years, SHARE will expand collaboration and research projects in key areas, such as:

- Baby Boomer Retirement, Silver Economy and Digitalization
- Health Prevention and Maintenance in an Ageing World
- Flexible Elderly Care
- Growing Inequalities in Income, Health, and Wealth



SHARE aspires to remain a global leader in harmonizing international surveys. Through continuous methodological innovations – such as multi-mode interviews, integration of objective health measures, and linkage with administrative data – SHARE strengthens the quality and relevance of its research.

The SHARE BERLIN Institute will continue to advance SHARE's scientific evolution by strengthening existing partnerships, building new ones, and fostering new research concepts while preserving the study's core strengths: its panel structure, multidisciplinary design, and international comparability.

SHARE's vision is to improve people's lives by enabling excellent research and policymaking that helps societies adapt to complex process of population ageing and social change.



FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 14th SHARE-ERIC Annual Activity Report which provides detailed insights into the scientific achievements, operational developments, and financial aspects of SHARE-ERIC in 2025.

Although the most significant transitions are now behind us, 2025 remained an eventful year for the SHARE-ERIC Council and once again required a high level of commitment. I am deeply grateful to everyone involved, especially the SHARE-ERIC member states and all countries participating in the survey.

At the beginning of the year, the new SHARE-ERIC Managing Director, Prof. Dr. David Richter, took office, as did the new Management Board. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to welcome the Lithuanian delegate, Gintare Januševskaitė, as a member of the SHARE-ERIC Council at the first Council Meeting in 2025. In addition, a major achievement from the previous year - a new version of the SHARE-ERIC Statutes – has come into effect on 1st January 2025.

I also would like to express my appreciation to Pedro Mira who left the Management Board in 2025 and warmly welcome the newly elected board member Jürgen Maurer.

Last year, I had the opportunity in this foreword to announce the project on Social Aspects of the Green Transition (SoGreen) which is funded by the European Commission under grant number 101188188. In the present report, a more detailed chapter now elaborates on this initiative. Much was accomplished in the project's first year in joint collaboration of SHARE-ERIC, ESS ERIC, GUIDE and GGP. Data collection began in October 2025, and SHARE successfully completed it in March 2026. In addition, the project has established its own public profile through a dedicated website (<https://sogreen-project.eu/>). The project stands as a strong example of SHARE's commitment to contribute meaningfully to European research collaboration and policy.

I would like to conclude my remarks by thanking the whole SHARE staff for their ongoing dedication to the project, the Country Teams for their contribution, our scientific partner institutions for all their work and our funders for their support. My special thanks also go to all of our respondents. Their trust and commitment form the foundation of this entire project.

Last but not least, I would also like to thank the entire SHARE community for their outstanding scientific contributions. In times when social protection systems are under pressure due to demographic change, rising inequalities, fiscal constraints, and profound societal transformations, the importance of high-quality scientific data for evidence-based policymaking is beyond question. Longitudinal and internationally comparable datasets such as SHARE provide policymakers and researchers with indispensable insights into the living conditions, health trajectories, labour market participation, and social security needs of ageing populations. Especially in periods of far-reaching reform debates, reliable empirical evidence is essential.

Thank you for your continued engagement with SHARE.



Dr. Dieta Lohmann
Chair of SHARE-ERIC

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dieta Lohmann" with a long horizontal flourish at the end.



FOREWORD FROM

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Our societies continue to face far-reaching structural changes, increasingly shaped by political instability, economic pressures, and a changing global order. These developments and all the experiences which come with them are shaping the ways in which we live and age. In light of these challenges, I am particularly proud that SHARE has continued to make an important contribution by supporting evidence-based research that helps us better understand and respond to the critical issues of our time. In my view, what really makes a difference is that SHARE is not only a leading provider of high-quality data but also developed to be an active partner in addressing these major societal challenges.

2025 represented an important phase of growth and consolidation for SHARE. The successful establishment of the SHARE BERLIN Institute (SBI) and the completion of the Wave 10 data collection provided an important foundation for further development. We started new international projects, expanded our research networks, and intensified our dialogue with European and global policy actors. Building on our efforts to strengthen research networks, I would like to highlight an important development from the past year related to our international SHARE partner studies: the introduction of the Gateway Harmonized SHARE datasets, which facilitate improved international comparisons as this will help users to analyse SHARE data together with data of our partner studies. This development extends the geographical scope of comparative research beyond SHARE's broad European coverage to additional regions, including countries in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

In terms of operational achievements, we were also pleased to announce Release 1.0.0 of SHARE-HCAP (Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol) and an update of the Dried Blood Spots data in the first half of 2025.

The strong and constructive collaboration within the SHARE-ERIC Council and the SHARE-ERIC Management Board should also be mentioned at this point. Over the past year, Pedro Miro finished his term on the Management Board. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Pedro Miro for his work and service to SHARE. He has been succeeded by Jürgen Maurer, who was unanimously elected by the Council as a new member, and I look forward to a successful collaboration with him.

Unfortunately, last year also brought a loss that was felt deeply across SHARE. The entire SHARE family was saddened to learn of the passing of Alberto Holly, former SHARE Country Team Leader for Switzerland, in December 2025. He was also both a distinguished theoretical econometrician as well as an applied health economist. Even after his retirement, he remained closely connected to SHARE, continuing to attend our meetings regularly.

It is also important for me to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our supporters, shareholder institutes and to everyone involved whose daily commitment makes SHARE possible. I am grateful to the EU Commission and the German Ministry of Research, Technology and Space for their support. Furthermore, my thanks go to the entire SHARE team, including the staff at SBI in Berlin responsible for the central coordination of SHARE, as well as all Country Teams. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the teams in Greece and Belgium, who hosted the SHARE meetings in Athens and Antwerp. Both meetings provided valuable opportunities to discuss important matters related to SHARE and its future. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to all SHARE respondents: without their participation, this study would not exist.

Looking ahead to the coming year and beyond, I am confident that we will continue on a successful path, growing further and expanding our thematic capacity while preserving survey and data excellence and our core strength: a harmonised, cross-national, multidisciplinary, and longitudinal design covering 28 countries and embedded in a global network of ageing studies.



Prof. Dr. David Richter
Managing Director of SHARE-ERIC

WHAT IS SHARE?

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

With the growing ageing population in Europe, well-founded evaluation of the effects of health, social, economic, and environmental policies on the lives of European citizens becomes ever more important. To meet this challenge, excellent scientific research based on excellent data is needed. SHARE, the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, was created to deliver the data to conduct this research. In 2004, SHARE started interviewing people of the generation 50+. Since then, the same people have been interviewed every two years. As of Wave 9, the latest wave of data collection, SHARE has conducted around 616,000 in-depth interviews with 160,000 respondents. In general, specially trained interviewers collect the data on the participants' economic, social and health situation in computer-assisted personal interviews. This data is complemented by large-scale objective physical measures, such as grip strength, lung function and chair stand as well as blood-based biomarkers and an extensive measurement of cognition. Additionally, in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, SHARE has conducted two Corona Surveys with telephone interviews. Thus, SHARE is the largest pan-European social science panel study providing internationally comparable longitudinal micro data, which allows insights in the fields of public health and socio-economic living conditions of European individuals, both for scientists and policy makers.

Research on a Global Scale

SHARE operates in all Member States of the European Union as well as in Switzerland and Israel. Strictly

harmonised questionnaires guarantee cross-national comparability. SHARE is also embedded in a global network of sister studies, enabling comparative research on a truly global scale.

Exploiting Europe's "Natural Observatory"

With the help of SHARE data, researchers can provide a better understanding of how individuals and families are affected by various policy decisions. The survey exploits Europe's institutional, economic, social, and cultural diversity as a "natural observatory" to investigate the impact of policy decisions. In particular, it analyses the second half of the life cycle and brings together many scientific disciplines, including demography, economics, epidemiology, psychology, sociology, medicine, biology and statistics. SHARE's special datasets include retrospective data on the respondents' entire life course, the linkage of survey data with institutional pension information, objective health measures like biomarkers and accelerometer data, or a simplified dataset for training and teaching purposes. The data are available to all qualifying researchers around the globe free of charge.

Deep Understanding of Crisis Effects and Challenges

Be it the financial crisis of 2008 or the global pandemic of 2020: SHARE is an excellent tool to research and understand the effects of crises and societal challenges in Europe and beyond. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, SHARE has become even more important as a tool for evidence-based policy

making. During periods of crisis SHARE has proven to be particularly valuable as it provides reliable and internationally comparable data that supports informed decision-making.

SHARE-ERIC

SHARE has become a major pillar of the European Research Area, culminating in SHARE's elevation to ESFRI-landmark status in 2016, ten years after its selection as one of the projects to be implemented by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) in 2006. In March 2011, SHARE was given a new legal status as the first ever European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). SHARE-ERIC is a legal body under European law, which is a great advantage for funding and procuring SHARE's survey activities.

Central Coordination

The SHARE BERLIN Institute (SBI) in Berlin, Germany, is home to the international coordination of SHARE. The Institute is managed by Prof. Dr. David Richter, Director SHARE Infrastructure, and Sylvia Becker, Commercial Manager. Prof. Dr. Richter also serves as Managing Director of SHARE-ERIC and Principal Investigator of SHARE. Since 2025, Berlin has been the official seat of SHARE-ERIC.

Area Coordination

SHARE's multidisciplinary nature is reflected in the coordination of the questionnaire's various research fields, including income and wealth, health and health care, work and retirement, and social networks. Currently,

the Area Coordinators are Assoc. Prof. Šime Smolić, Ph.D., Prof. Dr. Martina Brandt, Prof. Dr. Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak, Prof. Florence Jusot, Ph.D., Prof. Dr. Jürgen Maurer, Prof. Giacomo Pasini, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bella Struminskaya and Prof. Guglielmo Weber, Ph.D.

Software Infrastructure

The software tools used by SHARE are provided by Centerdata, a research institute located on the Tilburg University campus. Centerdata not only programs the questionnaires, but also provides the software infrastructure for SHARE as well as the online data access for users.

Country Teams

In each participating country, a country team manages the national or regional data collection. Scientists from local research institutions lead a team of one to five members and ensure the same methodological standards in all SHARE countries. To conduct the survey, carefully selected survey agencies assist these teams with their professional knowhow and their highly trained interviewers.

SoGreen

The green transition is one of the defining social and economic challenges of our time, yet the data and tools to measure its consequences for people's lives have been insufficient. The Social Aspects of the Green Transition (SoGreen) project is a three-year Horizon Europe project that unites four of Europe's leading social research infrastructures (SHARE-ERIC, ESS-ERIC, GGP, and GUIDE) to close this gap. In 2025, the project's first year, the consortium completed the development of a harmonised 30-item survey module on green transition topics, launched data collection across eleven ESS countries and six SHARE countries, established the project website and data management standards, and built the foundation for linking survey responses to environmental context data. The following chapter describes the project's rationale, its methodological approach, the key milestones achieved in 2025, the datasets being created, and the plans for the second phase of the project in 2026–2027.

SoGreen

Social Aspects of the Green Transition

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Full title: Social Aspects of the Green Transition (SoGreen)

Grant Agreement: No. 101188188
Horizon Europe INFRATECH call

Duration: 36 months (2025–2027)

Coordinator: SHARE-ERIC

Budget: 4.999.075

Partners: 31 institutions across 16 countries

Data collected in 2025: 11 CRONOS countries + 6 SHARE SCQ countries

Website: sogreen-project.eu

Why SoGreen? Closing a Critical Evidence Gap

The green transition is not only a technological or environmental challenge¹, but also a social one: it depends on changes in household and workplace behaviour and has unequal impacts across income, health, work, place, and life stage. Within the European context, policies that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce their carbon and material footprint can have large distributional effects, influence job security and skills needs, and shape public acceptability, willingness to cooperate, and hence policy implementability. For policy makers, this means that the feasibility and legitimacy of climate action depend on understanding who benefits, who bears costs, and which groups are most exposed to environmental risks and transition pressures.²

Existing European surveys have touched on environmental attitudes, but they have done so in isolation from one another, using incompatible questions at different points in time, and rarely with the depth needed to understand the differential impact on, for example, older workers in coal regions, young families facing energy poverty, or children growing up in areas with poor air quality.³ An important gap remains, as there is still no coordinated, comparable, cross-national evidence base on the social consequences of the green transition in Europe.

SoGreen responds to this need by improving Europe's capacity to measure social outcomes, perceptions,



and behaviours related to climate change and the green transition in a way that is comparable across countries and across generations by combining the strengths of the four leading European social science research infrastructures, namely, Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe ERIC (SHARE-ERIC), European Social Survey ERIC (ESS ERIC), Growing up in Digital Europe (GUIDE), and Generations and Gender Programme (GGP).⁴ The project combines survey-based information on circumstances, resources, behaviour, and attitudes with contextual environmental information, such as air pollution, green space-access, public transport, to enable more policy-relevant analysis at regional and national levels.

Gaps SoGreen is designed to fill

1. **Fragmented measurement:** existing green transition questions are scattered across surveys and often differ in wording and response scales, limiting comparability.
2. **Limited life-course coverage:** impacts and perceptions differ across children, working-age adults, and older people, but harmonised measurement across these groups has not previously been available.
3. **Weak linkage between people and place:** without contextual indicators, it is harder to connect outcomes to local environmental exposures and infrastructure contexts.
4. **Barriers to reuse:** even when data exist, inconsistent documentation and dissemination can hinder secondary analysis and evidence uptake.



How SoGreen Works: Four Infrastructures, One Module

The central innovation of SoGreen is methodological. It involves developing a single, harmonised questionnaire module, called the SoGreen Module, that is adapted and deployed across all four research infrastructures simultaneously. This approach, unprecedented in European social science landscape, makes it possible for the first time to compare how the green transition affects people at different stages of life, living in different countries, using a consistent measurement framework.⁵

The SoGreen Module

In the first half of 2025, a team led by the GGP systematically reviewed existing survey questions on green transition topics from ESS CROss-National Online Survey (ESS-CRONOS), the SHARE Self-Completion Questionnaire (SCQ), the GGP Generations

and Gender Survey (GGS), the European Values Study (EVS), and other major surveys. From this inventory, 30 items were selected and, where necessary, adapted to form the SoGreen Module. The module covers six thematic domains:

- Attitudes towards climate change and the green transition
- Experience of energy and transport poverty
- Employment impacts: green jobs, skills, and job transitions
- Health and well-being in the context of environmental change
- Social equity: perceived fairness of green transition policies
- Behavioural responses: pro-environmental actions and their constraints

Two additional, age-adapted versions of the module are under development: the 'Baby' SoGreen module for use with children and teenagers (for deployment via GUIDE), and the 'Future' SoGreen module incorporating a life-course perspective on the long-term consequences of the transition. Guidance on ensuring the future sustainability and uptake of the items beyond the SoGreen project was also completed in 2025 and published on the project website.

world have integrated HCAP as part of their core study. SHARE-HCAP is part of this initiative and will provide the research community with a rich, ex-ante harmonised set of cognitive measures to stimulate further research in this area.

What SoGreen does: approach and components

SoGreen follows an integrated approach with five components:

1. **Item inventory, selection, and development:** identifying and reviewing existing survey items and developing a harmonised Green Transition Questionnaire Module.

2. **Coordinated data collections:** fielding items in the ESS-CRONOS web panel, SHARE SCQ, GGP In-Between Waves Survey (IBWS), and GUIDE Children Innovative Panel Study (CIPS), aligning measurement across life stages.
3. **Contextual data preparation and linkage:** preparing local climate, air quality, and infrastructure indicators and linking them to survey data using privacy-preserving methods compliant with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
4. **Dissemination platform and standards:** applying common data management and documentation standards aligned with [the FAIR principles](#) and improving accessibility via a shared dissemination platform.
5. **Knowledge Mobilisation Lab:** engaging research, policy, civil society, and private sector actors to support uptake and co-develop dissemination outputs.

What we achieved in 2025

- **Project start (January 2025).** SoGreen formally began on 1 January 2025 as a Horizon Europe project combining the capabilities of SHARE, ESS, GGP, and GUIDE under grant agreement number 101188188.
- **SoGreen Questionnaire Module developed and released (2025).** The consortium produced and published a harmonised 30-item module, grounded in existing survey efforts and refined through expert feedback and cognitive testing, and made the documentation available for citation and reuse.
- **Data collection initiated.** The first wave of the ESS-CRONOS Panel entered fieldwork at the end of 2025 across eleven countries. The SHARE SCQ was also fielded in autumn 2025 in six SHARE countries (Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands). Together, these

data collections represent the first coordinated, cross-national, cross-infrastructure evidence base on the social aspects of the green transition, covering populations from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and covering a significant part of the European adult life course.

- **Project infrastructure established and data management standards set.** The project website (sogreen-project.eu) went live, ahead of schedule, providing an accessible gateway to project information, the item inventory, and project updates. The Data Management Plan (DMP) was completed in accordance with FAIR principles. Coding and processing guidelines for all survey datasets were prepared by Sikt (the Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research) in preparation for data cleaning and publication.
- **Knowledge Mobilisation Lab established:** The Knowledge Mobilisation Lab was set up in 2025 under the leadership of Manchester Metropolitan University. The network spans four major sectors: international and non-profit organisations working on green transition, the research community, policy professionals, and

private sector actors in the green economy.

Horizon scanning activities were carried out to sense-check the academic literature on green transition measurement against real-world stakeholder priorities, informing the final selection of items in the Green Module. A cross-study data guide summarising the item inventory was prepared and promoted through the network's communication channels.

- **Environmental Data Preparation begun.** The methodological groundwork for linking survey data to environmental context was initiated in 2025. The SHARE Central team at SHARE Berlin Institute (SBI) developed a GDPR-compliant concept for making survey data with geo-referenced contextual information available to researchers. Meanwhile, the Warsaw School of Economics began extracting and structuring urban infrastructure data from OpenStreetMap for European cities. Sikt initiated the evaluation and preparation of air quality and climate indicator variables, building on earlier work in the European Open Science Cloud Future project on 'Climate Neutral and Smart Cities'.

Area	2025 milestone
Project set-up	Project kick-off meeting in Brussels in February 2025
Measurement	Harmonised 30-item SoGreen module documented for citation and reuse; expert feedback and cognitive testing reported.
Fieldwork preparation	ESS-CRONOS deployment (11 countries, 30 items) and SHARE SCQ deployment (6 countries; 23 items).
Data management	DMP completed; common coding and processing guidelines under development
Engagement	SoGreen website live; Cross-study data guide published, Knowledge Mobilization Lab established

The Resulting Datasets: What Researchers Will Be Able to Access

SoGreen will produce a set of reusable research datasets combining survey microdata, contextual indicators, and documentation. Access routes and anonymisation levels follow the established policies of each infrastructure and applicable data protection requirements.

Survey microdata collections

Individual-level survey data from each of the four data collections (ESS-CRONOS, SHARE SCQ, GGP IBWS, and GUIDE CIPS) will be released through the respective data portals of each research infrastructure after cleaning and verification. For ESS-CRONOS and GGP, longitudinal data linking responses across waves will be available, enabling analysis of how attitudes and behaviours change over time. For SHARE, the SCQ data will be linkable to the full SHARE panel dataset, allowing researchers to combine green transition responses with decades of information on respondents' health, economic circumstances, and life histories among people aged 50 and over. In the later project phase, the GGP IBWS will be fielded in Croatia and Poland, and GUIDE CIPS will implement an adapted child and youth module in Ireland.

Contextual environmental and geospatial data linkage

Linked datasets combining survey microdata with regional climate and air quality indicators will be released through the ESS, SHARE, and GGP data portals. These datasets will allow researchers to examine the relationship between environmental conditions and individual attitudes, behaviours, and well-being, a form of analysis not previously possible at this scale, scope, and comparability. Full methodological documentation, including provenance information explaining exactly how the linkage was performed, will accompany the data.

Urban infrastructure data extracted from OpenStreetMap, which covers transport networks, green spaces, and service accessibility in European cities, will be released as open datasets under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL). Climate and air quality indicator variables for European regions will also be made available for use by other research projects.

Aggregate and Dashboard Data

SoGreen will provide interactive dashboards on the project website displaying aggregate statistics on key green transition topics broken down by country, region, age, gender, and income group. Dashboard development is planned to start during 2026, in time to showcase the first results from the CRONOS and SHARE data collections.

Documentation, standards, and dissemination

SoGreen applies common documentation and data management practices to maximise reuse. Planned outputs include codebooks and processing guidelines, dissemination of microdata through existing infrastructure portals, and public-facing summaries via the project website.

Outlook for 2026/2027

For SoGreen, the coming year will focus on completing data collection, releasing datasets, and making results accessible. Expected next steps include:

The second and third wave of the ESS-CRONOS panel will be completed by the end of 2026, resulting in a three-wave longitudinal dataset for analysing change over time across Europe. The GGP IBWS in Croatia and Poland, and the GUIDE CIPS in Ireland, will start fieldwork for the cross-infrastructure, cross-generational data collection. The "Baby" and "Future" SoGreen Modules, the age-adapted versions for children and for life-course analysis, will be finalised in 2026 and 2027 respectively.

The linkage of survey data to environmental context variables will be completed and released, making SoGreen's linked datasets available to the broader research community. Interactive dashboards on the project website will present aggregate findings in a form accessible to policymakers and the public. A first results book summarising analytical findings across all datasets will be prepared for publication following the project's conclusion. Policy notes, at least four targeted at European and national policymakers, will present evidence-based conclusions drawn from the SoGreen data.

The Knowledge Mobilisation Lab will continue to grow its network and deepen its engagement with stakeholders in the second phase, organising a

project overview and an implementation-focused webinars, a life-course framework webinar, and a three-episode podcast. A peer-reviewed journal article on a high-priority green transition topic using the CRONOS Wave 1 data is also planned for 2027.

Looking beyond the coming year, the items and modules developed in SoGreen are designed to be reusable by other surveys and research programmes beyond the project's lifespan. By making the Green Module openly available, with full methodological documentation, SoGreen aims to create a lasting contribution to the European social science infrastructure for studying the human dimensions of the green transition for years to come.



- 1 IPCC. (2022). Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009325844>
- 2 Drews, S., & van den Bergh, J. C. J. M. (2016). What explains public support for climate policies? A review of empirical and experimental studies. *Climate Policy*, 16(7), 855–876. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2015.1058240>
- 3 Urban, J., & Kaiser, F. G. (2022). Environmental Attitudes in 28 European Countries Derived From Atheoretically Compiled Opinions and Self-Reports of Behavior. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 875419. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.875419>
- 4 SHARE-ERIC (2025). Press release: EU Commission Grant: four leading social science infrastructures in Europe SHARE ERIC, ESS ERIC, GGP and GUIDE cooperate in the SoGreen project. January 2025. https://share-eric.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Other_Publications/Press_Releases_and_Media_information
- 5 SHARE-ERIC News. (2025). 'SoGreen Questionnaire Module'. <https://share-eric.eu/news-events/news-details/sogreen-questionnaire-module>

SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS

SHARE'S COMMITMENT

The SHARE infrastructure is based on the trust of its respondents during and beyond the survey waves. The protection of the personal data of the survey participants is a matter of the utmost priority for SHARE and non-negotiable. SHARE promises to the participants that the data will not be used for anything but scientific purposes. Any other uses, such as a commercial use of the data, are therefore excluded as matter of principle.

AT A GLANCE

Overview of Our Scientific Achievements in the Past Year

3.1.1 SHARE Data Releases in 2025

In 2025 SHARE published two additional data sets that come as valuable extensions to the regular SHARE panel study: (1) the highly anticipated first release of SHARE-HCAP (Release 1.0.0) and (2) a small update of the SHARE Dried Blood Spots project (Release 1.1.0). SHARE-HCAP data can and is intended to be linked with data of the regular SHARE study. Similar to HCAP, DBS data also can and is intended to be linked with data of the regular SHARE study, allowing for a wide range of multidisciplinary research. (pp. 26–27)

3.1.2 Fieldwork in Wave 10

Fieldwork for SHARE Wave 10 was conducted in 28 countries, between October 2024 and November 2025 and included both panel and refreshment samples. Overall, survey agency continuity remained high compared to Wave 9. As in previous waves, two complementary monitoring strategies were implemented in 2025 to supervise fieldwork and ensure data quality throughout the process. Furthermore, this chapter provides details on the relatively low level of response rates that most surveys face today. (pp. 28–29)

3.1.3 Evaluating the Multi-Mode Future in SHARE

The SHARE study is updating its methodology to incorporate more flexible and web-based data collection approaches in response to recent global developments. As part of this effort, the Self-Completion Questionnaire (SCQ) was introduced between Waves 10 and 11 to assess the feasibility of online surveys among older adults in Europe. The results will help guide the future development of longitudinal,

cross-national, multi-mode survey designs and inform the use of digital data collection in ageing populations. (pp. 30–31)

3.1.4 Software and Questionnaire Innovations for SHARE Wave 11

In 2025, the focus of SHARE's software development was to make its digital fieldwork components more sustainable by improving their flexibility for multimode data collection in response to changing survey conditions. At the same time, the software components were further developed to continue meeting increasingly high security standards. (pp. 32–34)

3.1.5 Teaching with SHARE at Universities

This chapter presents an overview of easySHARE and its potential uses. easySHARE is stored as a long format panel dataset and hence is very suitable for teaching longitudinal as well as country-comparative analyses. Therefore, easySHARE is used as a training data set for teaching students in the analysis of longitudinal survey data in numerous universities all over the world. (pp. 35)

3.1.6 Understanding the Digital Divide in Later Life

In 2025, SHARE expanded its measurement of digital participation among older Europeans by introducing a revised module on internet use and digital activities in Wave 10. This update was designed to better capture digital participation in later life. First results from Wave 10 reveal substantial cross-national differences in internet use among older adults. Understanding both digital readiness and

potential barriers within the target population is crucial for developing an inclusive multi-mode data collection strategy. (pp. 36–37)

3.1.7 Record Linkage in SHARE

SHARE promotes record linkage projects in its member countries, where survey data are linked with administrative records to enhance research quality. Combining survey data as a more subjective perspective on respondents' lives and administrative data optimally exploits the advantages of both data sources. Currently there are ongoing linkage projects in eight SHARE countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Italy and the Netherlands. SHARE continues to see strong interest from Country Teams in launching national linkage projects and will continue to expand this opportunity. (pp. 38–39)

3.1.8 SHARE-CoRaL

SHARE-CoRaL examines the individuals' willingness to consent to linking their survey responses with administrative data. This project is increasingly relevant as the social survey research community is becoming increasingly interested in using administrative data alongside survey data, while comparable cross-national data on consent behaviour remains limited. Across SHARE countries, a substantial variation in consent rates has been observed. (pp. 40–42)

3.2.1 SHARE Users

In 2025, SHARE saw the largest increase in user registrations to date, further emphasising the importance of SHARE and its data for studying the effects of health, social, economic, and environmental policies over the life course. (pp. 46)

3.2.2 National Scientific Dissemination

SHARE conducted numerous national outreach activities to promote its data and research applications within the scientific community in 2025. Events were held in Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Israel and Latvia, among others. These initiatives strengthened knowledge dissemination, enhanced data literacy, and supported the interdisciplinary use of SHARE data. (pp. 47)

3.2.3 User Support

The SHARE Central team at SBI supports users with updated documentation, an email helpdesk, and workshops to ensure effective use of SHARE data. In 2025, the team at SHARE Central managed around 244 inquiries, contributed to national workshops organized by the SHARE Country Teams and regularly updated the FAQ section of SHARE website. (pp. 50)

3.2.4 SHARE Publications

As of December 2025, SHARE Central's publication database contained 4,858 publications based on SHARE data, of which 715 were added in 2025. (pp. 51–65)

SHARE DATA RELEASES

Providing Harmonised and Innovative Data

After the major SHARE Release updates in 2024 including the first release of Wave 9, there was no new wave of SHARE to be released in 2025. Instead, SHARE published two additional data sets that come as valuable extensions to the regular SHARE panel study:

- the highly anticipated first release of **SHARE-HCAP (Release 1.0.0)**
- a small update of the **SHARE Dried Blood Spots project (Release 1.1.0)**

SHARE-HCAP Release 1.0.0: In-Depth Measurement of Cognition and Cognitive Decline

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are major contributors to disease burden among individuals aged 75 and over, and rising prevalence in ageing populations presents substantial health and economic challenges. Since no cure currently exists, early identification of modifiable risk factors and protective factors for cognitive impairment are of major interest as they may help to reduce incidence and to slow disease progression. SHARE-HCAP delivers an in-depth measurement of cognition and cognitive decline. The project aims at exploiting cross-national variation in social systems, health and life circumstances across Europe to identify how biomedical and socio-economic factors interact over the life course to influence cognition in old age and consequently to identify early preventive strategies.

The SHARE-HCAP study was implemented in five SHARE countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy) using a stratified sample of SHARE panel respondents aged 65+ at fieldwork onset who had participated in at least one of the three most recent SHARE waves. Respondents in care settings were included if able to consent or if a consultee indicated they would have wished to participate. Participants were sampled from one of three groups based on cognition results and self-reported medical diagnoses from previous interviews:

- severe cognitive impairment and/or Alzheimer's disease/dementia diagnosis
- mild cognitive impairment without diagnosis
- normal cognition.

Field work yielded a total of more than 2,500 respondent interviews accomplishing the target of 500 HCAP interviews per country. Additional interviews with a nominated relative or knowledgeable friend collected information on the respondent's health, changes in cognition, and ability to perform daily activities. Following the standardised Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol, respondents completed an in-depth assessment of their cognitive abilities, specifically:

- memory function
- executive function
- language and fluency
- visuospatial ability
- temporal orientation
- spatial orientation

The standardised tests were administered face-to-face via computer-assisted personal interviewing. Some tests required the respondent completing tasks on paper, which were subsequently rated according to standardised rating procedures. Published in February 2025, the resulting data was enhanced by user friendly generated variables and weights for a straightforward start into analysis. SHARE-HCAP data can and is intended to be linked with data of the regular SHARE study. This enables researchers to investigate a wide range of multidisciplinary research questions on cognition and cognitive decline. Furthermore, SHARE-HCAP forms part of the HCAP Network, an international collaboration funded by the U.S. National Institute on Aging to improve measurement and understanding of Alzheimer's disease and dementia risk within longitudinal ageing studies around the globe.

SHARE Dried Blood Spots Release 1.1.0: Predictors of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Inflammation

In May 2025, SHARE published a small update of the Dried Blood Spots (DBS) study. The SHARE DBS study was conducted during the wave 6 in twelve countries and is the largest standardised collection of blood samples across Europe to date, offering measurements of seven blood biomarkers (HbA1c, three blood lipids, total hemoglobin, CRP, and Cystatin C). These biomarkers can be used as predictors for common age-related conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and inflammation. Similar to HCAP, DBS data can and is intended to be linked with data of the regular SHARE study, allowing for a wide range of multidisciplinary research.



FIELDWORK IN WAVE 10

Main Data Collection in 28 Countries

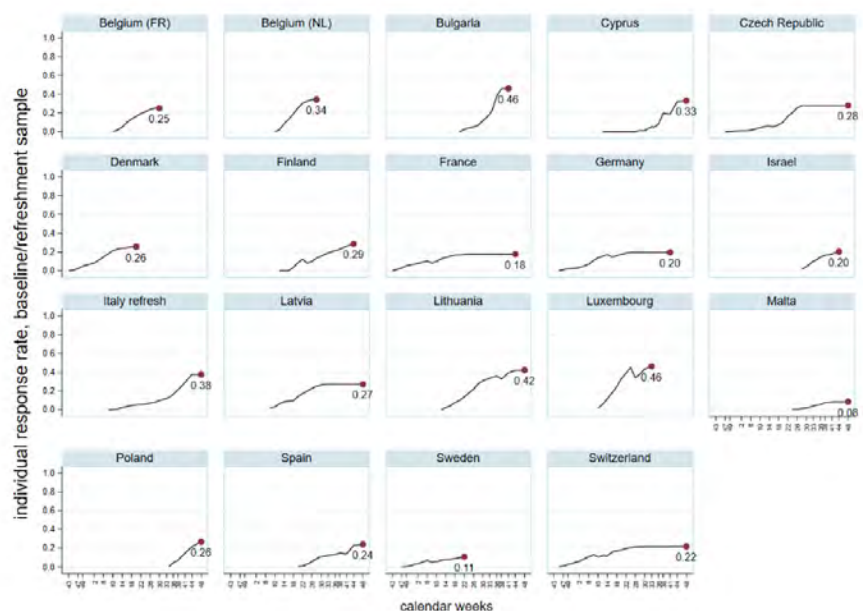
Fieldwork for SHARE Wave 10 was conducted in 28 countries, between October 2024 and November 2025. This chapter provides an overview of the fieldwork process, outlines the main challenges encountered, and summarizes outcomes across participating countries.

The implementation of Wave 10 varied across countries, particularly regarding the planned fieldwork schedule. Sixteen countries launched fieldwork as originally scheduled, at the end of 2024. In other countries, data collection began later and was gradually implemented throughout 2025. These delays were primarily due to funding constraints, which impacted the scheduling of fieldwork preparation and implementation.

Following the SHARE methodological approach, Wave 10 fieldwork included both panel and refreshment samples. Panel samples consist of respondents who had already taken part in a previous SHARE wave. In addition, 18 countries drew a refreshment sample: Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. Refreshment samples include respondents participating in SHARE for the first time.

Overall, survey agency continuity remained high compared to Wave 9, with only five countries changing their survey agency. Italy was the only country working with two survey agencies: one responsible for the panel sample and another for the refreshment sample.

Figure 1: Individual Response Rates in Refreshment Samples by Country over Time



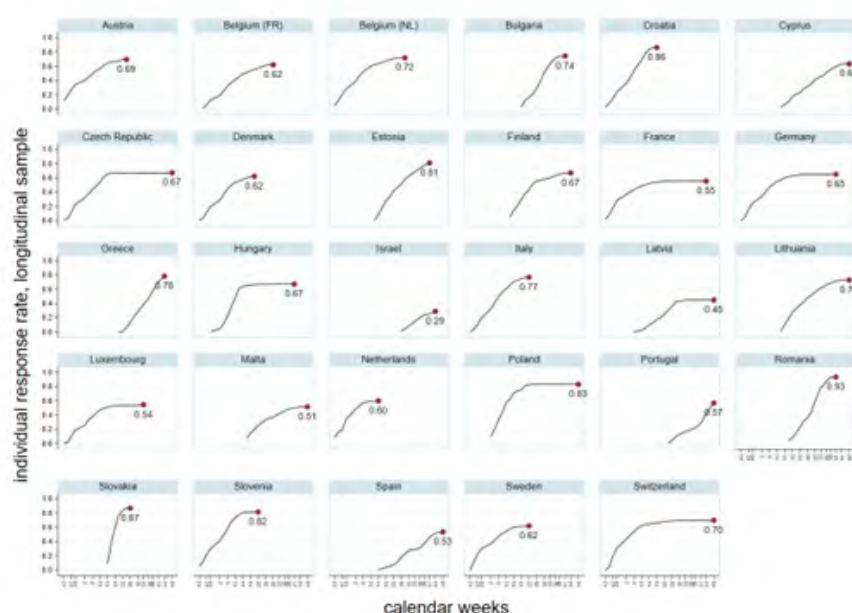
Monitoring Strategies in SHARE to Ensure Data Quality

As in previous waves, two complementary monitoring strategies were implemented in 2025 to supervise fieldwork and ensure data quality throughout the process: The first strategy consisted of biweekly monitoring reports designed to track key performance indicators, including contact attempts, completed interviews, refusal rates, and interviewer productivity. These reports were shared bi-weekly with all participating countries and provided a common basis for discussion and decision making. This systematic monitoring enabled the SHARE central team, survey agencies, and country teams to identify issues at an early stage, make timely adjustments, and support the progression of fieldwork within the planned timeframe.

The second strategy involved back-checking procedures carried out by the SHARE central team. Completed interviews were selected both randomly (10% of all completed interviews) and based on anomalies to identify potential interviewer errors or inconsistencies. In addition to serving as a quality control measure, back-checking also contributed to improving interviewing practices.

One of the main challenges that most surveys face these days is their relatively low level of response rates. From a longitudinal perspective, SHARE faces attrition risks resulting from panel fatigue, residential mobility, and mortality. From a cross-sectional perspective, recruiting new respondents has become increasingly difficult, as willingness to participate in surveys continues to decline. Figure 1 presents the response rates at individual level, in the refreshment samples over the course of the fieldwork. Rates vary across countries, reflecting differences in sample frames and composition, fieldwork practices, and cultural context. Individual response rates remained below 40 percent in nearly all countries, with Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Luxembourg exceeding this threshold. Figure 2 presents the response rates at individual level for the longitudinal sample. In approximately half of the participating countries, response rates ranged between 70 and 90 percent at the end of fieldwork. Eleven countries completed fieldwork with retention rates between 60 and 70 percent, while Spain, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Latvia, Israel, and France recorded retention rates below 60 percent.

Figure 2: Individual Response Rates in Panel Samples by Country over Time



EVALUATING THE MULTI-MODE FUTURE IN SHARE

The Self-Completion Questionnaire (SCQ)

Transitioning Towards a Multi-Mode Future

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is actively adapting its methodology to address the growing shift towards online data collection and the need for flexible survey approaches, as highlighted by recent global events. To explore these new avenues, SHARE launched the Self-Completion Questionnaire (SCQ) as a sub-study between Wave 10 and Wave 11. The SCQ's primary goal was to evaluate the feasibility of web-based data collection for older populations, assessing participation rates, data quality, and implementation costs. Its findings are crucial for shaping SHARE's future methodological strategy, particularly in developing standards for longitudinal cross-national multi-mode survey designs. The study also provides broader evidence on the viability of online data collection for older adults across Europe.

Study Design and Implementation Across Six Countries

The SCQ was implemented in six European countries (Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, and Sweden) chosen to represent diverse internet penetration levels. A subset of Wave 10 respondents was invited to complete a 15-minute questionnaire. To allow for direct comparison, respondents were randomly assigned to either a paper-based or web-based version, both containing identical questions. This randomization occurred at the household level. The fieldwork, following SHARE Wave 10 in 2025, involved three phases:

1. Internal Pretest (March–April 2025): Technical and functional testing of the questionnaires
2. Field Rehearsal (June–July 2025): Evaluation of communication materials and coordination
3. Main Data Collection (November 2025–February 2026): Primary evaluation of participation, mode effects, and data quality

Eligibility for the SCQ required self-reported internet use during the SHARE Wave 10 interview. Eligible participants received an initial postal invitation, with those assigned to the web mode also receiving an email invitation if an address was provided. The invitation included detailed study information and the SHARE Data Protection Statement (DPS). Reminders (postal for paper, email for web, with postal fallback) were sent to non-respondents, including additional questionnaires (paper-and-pencil group) or survey links (web group).

Training sessions were held before each fieldwork phase to ensure that country teams and survey agencies were adequately informed. These sessions explained concrete steps on how to prepare for, conduct and conclude fieldwork, including software training. The software was capable of the following:

- Import of relevant sample information
- Generation of links and respondent-specific access codes for the web survey
- Documentation and monitoring of fieldwork progress for paper-and-pencil and web questionnaires

After the training all relevant information could be accessed via online Wikis (one for country team members and one also including survey agencies). Each Wiki included a forum where central announcements could be shared and where country teams and agencies could post questions, receive answers, and view posts from others. The Wiki was also used to share the generic fieldwork materials mentioned above, which were then translated by the country teams.

Questionnaire Content and Ethical Considerations

The SCQ content was carefully designed to compare different modes and collect new relevant data. Questions were selected for their stability over time and their potential to reveal mode-related measurement differences between CAPI and self-completion formats. New items, such as the SoGreen module (pp. 14-21), were also included. The translation process was centrally coordinated and verified across countries, ensuring linguistic accuracy and consistency. Centerdata programmed and centrally hosted the web version, managing the process with a secure, encrypted system.

The SCQ comprised four main question categories:

- A. CAPI vs. Self-Completion: Comparing responses between different survey modes
- B. Paper vs. Web: Assessing data quality between the two self-completion modes
- C. Societal Relevance: New questions on current topics (e.g. SoGreen)
- D. Respondent Experience: Gathering feedback on the self-completion process

Ethical and data protection principles were paramount. Informed consent was obtained, with clear statements on confidentiality and voluntary participation provided at the start of both questionnaire versions. Consent was confirmed by returning the paper questionnaire or ticking a box online. Recognizing potential digital literacy differences among older adults, all eligible respondents received postal advance letters. The questionnaire was kept short (approx. 15 minutes), and the web version featured large fonts and simple navigation. A helpline was available. All personal data was stored separately and securely, maintaining the high standards of confidentiality established for regular SHARE surveys.

Conclusion

The SCQ sub-study successfully demonstrated the feasibility of integrating self-completion modes within SHARE. Its findings on participation, response patterns, and operational challenges are instrumental for understanding multi-mode data collection among older populations and will significantly inform SHARE's future methodological developments. Results based on the main data collection will be presented in the next Annual Activity Report.

SOFTWARE AND QUESTIONNAIRE INNOVATIONS FOR SHARE WAVE 11

Software Innovations

In 2025 the focus of software development was to make SHARE's digital fieldwork software components more sustainable in two key aspects. First, the system needed to support more flexible multimode data collection in response to a changing survey environment, including declining interviewer availability and increasing panel attrition. Second, the SHARE software components should continue to meet the evolving high security standards. The following major software innovations laid the groundwork.

The questionnaire software was migrated stepwise from BLAISE to Quest. After the End-of-Life interview served as a pilot in Wave 10, substantial programming efforts in 2025 enabled the migration of the entire SHARE Main questionnaire to Quest for Wave 11. This transition represents an important step towards a more sustainable and flexible fieldwork infrastructure. Quest enables device-independent deployment and supports future multimode data collection. As a licence-free system with an open architecture, it also reduces long-term maintenance efforts and increases flexibility for further development.

For Wave 11 all interviews and the Interviewer software itself are designed following a tablet-first approach. This responds to a key demand from survey agencies, as tablets reduce hardware costs compared to laptops. At the same time, the software was developed and tested for both devices to

ensure compatibility with national fieldwork setups. The migration to Quest also enabled selected questionnaire components to be redesigned, for example the Children module, which was adapted to support efficient navigation on mobile devices, reducing interview burden and length, while maintaining its longitudinal structure.

To get centralized access to the sample and thereby increase efficiency, a Preload tool was developed and will serve to manage respondent data during fieldwork, allowing for flexible surveying where needed. Development began in 2025 with an initial prototype, which was subsequently expanded into a functional version with core features for Wave 11. As a first step it allows preloading respondents, correction of existing variables and centralized data deletion all directly by SHARE Central. Also, the Agency software was expanded to allow for a direct data deletion from Wave 11 onwards.

To improve panel stability, respondent contact data was restructured in a stepwise process – with a focus on data collection and preparatory restructuring in Wave 10, followed by continued data collection and full implementation in Wave 11. Instead of storing contact data at the household level, the database was redesigned in 2025 to save contact information at the individual level. This change ensures that a household member's data is retained even if their partner refuses participation.

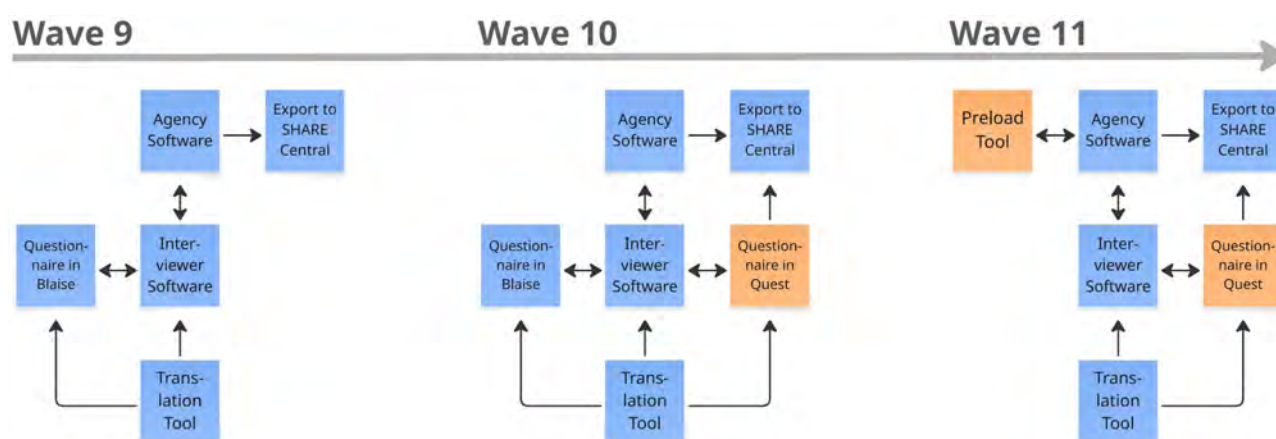
The primary goal is to keep as many willing respondents as possible in the SHARE sample. However, this database adjustment also required a comprehensive revision of all tools and data procedures at SHARE Central to ensure a seamless collaboration.

At the same time, the process for respondent-requested data deletion was centralized. As of Wave 11, deletions initiated through PreloadCTRL can now be enforced across almost all systems, making the process more reliable and efficient from a central coordination perspective.

The hosting of the Agency software is being migrated from national servers to a cloud infrastructure operated by Centerdata. This stepwise transition (19

countries in Wave 10; aiming for full coverage in Wave 11) ensures more reliable synchronization between components during fieldwork and improves central control on server security. The programming framework of both Agency and Interviewer software was switched already in summer 2024 for the same reasons. This required a major rebuild of both software tools that lasted into 2025.

Since this rebuild of the software was necessary anyway, the decision was made to also migrate the household questionnaire to Quest. The underlying functionality is highly complex: it documents household composition including movements and the generation of new household. It also determines which household member to interview and much



more. Given that these processes had become increasingly cumbersome to maintain in previous waves, transferring them to the Quest environment offered a more sustainable solution – one that is easier to manage and accessible to a broader range of developers.

Questionnaire content innovations

In addition, several questionnaire innovations were implemented in 2025. As with other SHARE instruments, the modules build on internationally validated scales and were harmonized across 39 languages, providing a basis for comparable analyses of ageing perceptions and social conditions across Europe.

The previous social networks module was replaced by a new Social Integration module, which reduces interview burden and data complexity while preserving the longitudinal measurement of the Social Integration Index available since Wave 6. The module captures both the quantity and quality of respondents' social connections and interactions, allowing SHARE to monitor social participation and isolation among older adults across Europe.

A new Ageing Awareness module was also designed to measure how individuals perceive and experience their own ageing process. The module captures key dimensions of ageing, including subjective age, self-evaluations of ageing, awareness of age-related change, and experiences of age-based discrimination. Together, these measures provide a multidimensional view of how individuals evaluate their ageing trajectory. The module allows researchers to examine how perceptions of ageing relate to health, wellbeing, and participation in later life, and how ageism and social context influence these processes across Europe.

In summary, all software developments carried out in Waves 10 and 11 follow a clear overarching goal: to make SHARE's digital fieldwork environment more flexible, secure, and sustainable. By stepwise modernizing questionnaire software, centralizing sample and contact data management, enabling multimode and device-independent interviewing, and strengthening the technical infrastructure, SHARE has laid the foundation for a future-proof fieldwork system. Together with targeted questionnaire innovations, these developments ensure that SHARE can continue to provide high-quality longitudinal data while adapting to a changing survey landscape.

TEACHING WITH SHARE AT UNIVERSITIES

easySHARE – the SHARE training data set

The easySHARE-file is a simplified data set for researchers who are less experienced in the quantitative analysis of complex panel data. Its main purpose is student training and teaching. easySHARE includes the same number of observations as the main release of SHARE but is restricted to a subset of variables. This allows storing easySHARE as one single file without the need for complex merging of waves and modules. To facilitate analysing the data, we transferred the information that was collected on couple- and household-level to the individual level. Several generated variables, such as indexes and recoded health, demographic, social and economic measures allow direct analyses without the need for extensive data preparations. Furthermore, we added a series of additional missing value codes. These can help understanding how missing information evolved. E.g. we added extra missing value codes to tag observations that are missing due to questionnaire filtering.

easySHARE is stored as a long format panel dataset and hence is very suitable for teaching longitudinal

as well as country-comparative analyses. Of course, it is also possible to use just one data collection wave. In addition to the dataset, the download zip files include the Stata program that was used to extract easySHARE from the regular SHARE release. This allows users to retrace how each variable was extracted and modified and facilitates adding or changing information. It can also be used as an example of how to create an analysis dataset yourself. The Release Guide to easySHARE documents the data format and all variables included. It gives basic instructions on how to work with the data set using the most common statistical software packages Stata, SPSS and R.

easySHARE is used as a training data set for teaching students in the analysis of longitudinal survey data in numerous universities all over the world. In the past year, the data set was downloaded approximately 2.000 times from the SHARE Research Data Centre. The next update of easySHARE is scheduled for the end of 2026 together with the release of SHARE Wave 10.



UNDERSTANDING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN LATER LIFE

New SHARE Data on Internet Use Among Europeans Aged 50+

In 2025, SHARE expanded the measurement of digital participation among older Europeans by introducing a revised module on internet use and digital activities in Wave 10. The module was fielded during the Wave 10 data collection, and the first results are becoming available.

Digital technologies increasingly shape how people access services, information, and communication in Europe. Yet new SHARE data reveal that levels of digital participation among older adults differ substantially across countries. SHARE is particularly well suited to study these differences because it combines comparable data across countries with

detailed information on health, employment, socio-economic conditions, and social networks. As a longitudinal survey covering 28 European countries and Israel, SHARE makes it possible to examine how digital participation develops over time and how it relates to broader processes of ageing.

To better capture digital participation in later life, Wave 10 introduced a revised module on internet use and digital activities. Compared to earlier waves, the module provides a more detailed picture of how older adults engage with digital technologies in everyday life. It records access to digital devices, frequency of internet use, and a range of online ac-

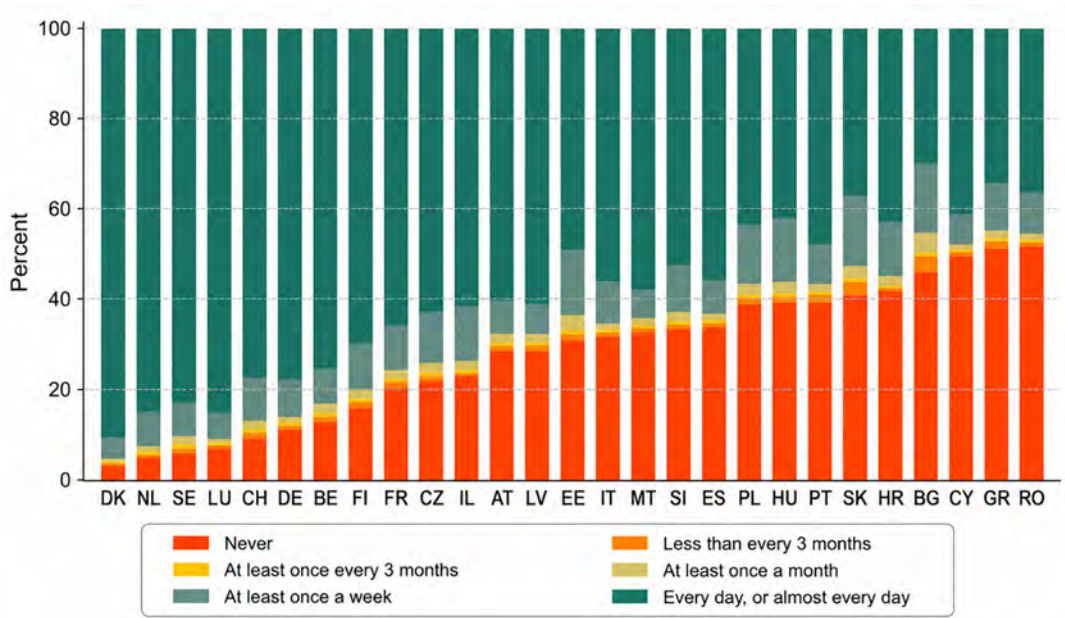


Figure 3: Frequency of internet use by country. Data source: SHARE Wave 10, Release 0.

tivities such as communication, information seeking, financial transactions, and interactions with public and health services. In addition, respondents report reasons for non-use or limited use, including limited digital skills, lack of interest, privacy concerns, health limitations, or insufficient access to devices or internet connections.

First results from Wave 10 show substantial cross-national differences in internet use among older adults (see Figure 3). The share of respondents who report never using the internet ranges from around 4 percent in Denmark to more than 50 percent in Romania and Greece. Detailed analyses of cross-country differences and age gradients are presented in the SHARE Wave 10 methodology volume.

With the introduction of these measures, SHARE provides new opportunities to study digital participation and barriers to inclusion among Europeans aged 50+ in a comparative perspective. The data help identify groups that may face difficulties accessing digital services such as e-government and

digital health services. In combination with SHARE's rich panel information on social engagement and life history data on health and employment, the new indicators also allow researchers to examine how digital engagement relates to broader processes of ageing. Together, these results provide evidence that will inform policies aimed at reducing digital barriers and tailoring digital services to the needs of older populations.

Implications for Future Data Collection

Beyond their substantive value, the new measures also provide important methodological insights for SHARE itself. Information on digital access, device environments, and internet-use intensity helps assess the feasibility of introducing additional web-based survey components in future waves. Understanding both digital readiness and potential barriers among the target population is crucial for developing an inclusive multi-mode data collection strategy that avoids systematic exclusion of certain respondent groups.

Literature:

SHARE Wave 10 Methodology Volume. (in the making)

RECORD LINKAGE IN SHARE

Linking survey data to administrative data in different countries

SHARE strives for implementation of record linkage projects to enhance its survey data with available national administrative data wherever possible. Combining survey data as a more subjective perspective on respondents' lives and administrative data optimally exploits the advantages of both data sources. Currently there are ongoing linkage projects in eight SHARE countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Italy and the Netherlands.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork for Wave 10 main was conducted from October 2024 to October 2025. Consent for record linkage was collected in seven countries in the LI module integrated in the main questionnaire. The LI module is designed to have individualised routing and question design for each country. This allows for a maximum in flexibility within the harmonised study design of SHARE.

The innovation in the w10 LI module was the introduction of an individualized routing path for Germany to be able to ask two separate consents for data linkage. A second record linkage project was established in Germany besides the existing linkage to data from the German Pension Insurance (SHARE-RV): a linkage with administrative data from the Institute for Employment Research (SHARE-ADIAB). This was the first time that two separate consents

for linkage had been collected in one country in SHARE. A total of 1,425 respondents consented to one or both linkages in Wave 10 (1,414 to RV and 1,392 to IAB). 97 per cent of consenting respondents, consented to both linkages. Both consent samples will be processed separately and prepared for release of the linked data at the beginning of 2027.

Fieldwork Preparation w11

A total of six SHARE countries started preparations for setting up linkage projects from w11 onwards: Czech Republic, France, Lithuania, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland with extension plans for the existing project. The early preparation steps for new linkage projects include establishing contact with the admin data providing institution, negotiating individual data flow procedures, negotiating contractual agreements and preparing fieldwork material. These steps are being closely coordinated between the Country Teams, the admin data providing institution and SHARE-ERIC.

With the software change in the CAPI instrument for w11, also the LI module was adapted: the adaptations included further harmonisation between different routing paths and countries, implementation of checks and insert options to verify and improve interviewer input within the instrument as well as some formatting issues. The LI module was also included in the intense testing procedures for w11.

Perspective

SHARE continues to see strong interest from Country Teams in launching national linkage projects and will continue to expand this opportunity. In addition to infrastructure developments and methodological research, this includes ongoing harmonisation while maintaining national flexibility. New linkage data releases for w10 data are planned for the foreseeable future and will include linked data from Belgium, Italy, Austria and Germany. Furthermore, plans for new projects in w12 concerning new countries and new data sources are already being discussed.



SHARE-CoRaL

Investigating Consent Rates for Linking Survey and Administrative Data in a Multilingual, Multinational, and Multicultural Context

The social survey research community is becoming increasingly interested in using administrative data alongside survey data. This approach complements the breadth of subjective and contextual information of the latter with the data precision and reliability of the former. In light of the growing sensitivity to privacy and data protection issues across Europe, innovative methodologies are needed to reassure respondents about the safety and benefits of administrative data linkage for research purposes, thereby helping to obtain individual consent and aiming to improve consent rates. For ethical and legal reasons, linking administrative data sources requires the informed consent of respondents. Despite the growing popularity of record linkage and an expanding body of methodological literature, comparable, cross-national data on consent behaviour remains scarce. Without a reference point, it is difficult to develop improved methods of collecting linkage consent and to implement linkage projects in new countries. Consequently, linked datasets might lack representativeness across countries due to low and potentially biased linkage consent.

Study design

The SHARE-CoRaL pilot project addressed this issue by analysing two sources of linkage consent data within the multilingual, multinational, and multicultural context of the SHARE study. The first source was existing linkage consent data from SHARE Wave 9 and earlier. The project analysed data on consent to data linkage from 44,446 individuals aged 50 and over. This data was collected during SHARE Waves 5–9 and came from the following countries: Austria, Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Finland, as well as Girona in Spain. This data had not yet been used before and was made available specifically for this project. The second data source comprised hypothetical consent questions for linkage, developed for the study after careful consideration of the different administrative data domains relevant to the SHARE survey (e.g. employment, health, pensions, income, and taxes). These questions were then implemented into the SHARE Wave 10 Field Rehearsal questionnaire, which was administered to respondents in the 27 European countries and Israel that participate in SHARE. The questions were translat-



ed into all SHARE languages using the Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pretest, and Documentation (TRAPD) approach, ensuring cross-cultural comparability. Interviewers were trained in the administration of these questions by the survey agencies in their respective countries, who were themselves trained during a Train-the-Trainer session organized by SHARE's central coordination to ensure consistent data collection across countries. The Field Rehearsal fieldwork of Wave 10, including the administration of the hypothetical consent questions, took place between March and July 2024.

Results

Considerable variation was found in linkage consent rates across SHARE countries. Real-life consent rates at the initial request ranged from 97 per cent in Denmark to 20 per cent in Italy. Asking participants multiple times increased consent rates by 6.3 percentage points in Germany and 4.8 in Estonia. Individuals with a high or medium level of education were significantly more likely to consent than those with a low level of education. Minority language speakers were also significantly more likely to consent. Those aged 66–80 were more likely to consent than those aged 50–65, while those over

80 were significantly less likely to do so. Gender had no effect on the likelihood of consent.

As with real-life consent, willingness to give hypothetical consent also showed a considerable range across countries and data domains, with the lowest being consent to employment histories in Italy (9%) to the highest being consent to health record linkage in Belgium (83%). Domain-wise, respondents were generally more willing to consent to data linkage for employment history and health than for income and taxes. The average hypothetical consent rates across all SHARE countries were 43.7% for pensions and social security information, 43.5% for health and for employment histories, and 35.3% for income and tax information. The relative sensitivity of each domain varied across countries in two ways. Firstly, in some countries, consent depended more on the data domain than in others, where individuals tended to give blanket consent or refusal regardless of the domain. Secondly, the ranking of willingness to consent per domain was inconsistent across countries. While the average respondent in most countries is least likely to consent to linking income and tax information, the other domains' rankings vary between countries.

A comparison of real-life and hypothetical consent data for countries where both were available showed that real-life rates were nearly always higher than hypothetical ones. This suggests that hypothetical consent questions can serve as fairly reliable predictors of real-life consent behaviour and provide a valuable tool for planning and decision-making in data collection efforts. In this context, hypothetical consent rates may indicate the lowest expected consent rate in a country.

The findings of the SHARE-CoRaL project emphasise the importance of considering countries as relevant

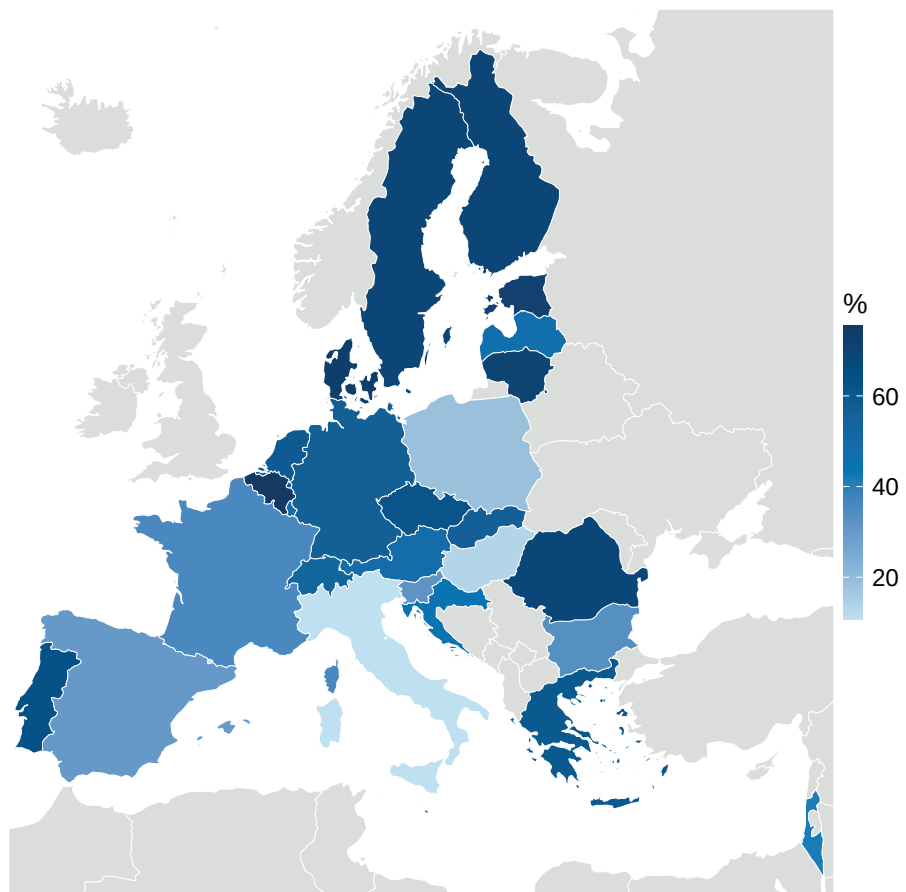
dimensions for linkage consent, thereby contributing to the methodological discussion in this area. Furthermore, the project highlights the value of SHARE's harmonised multinational approach to methodological research.

Literature:

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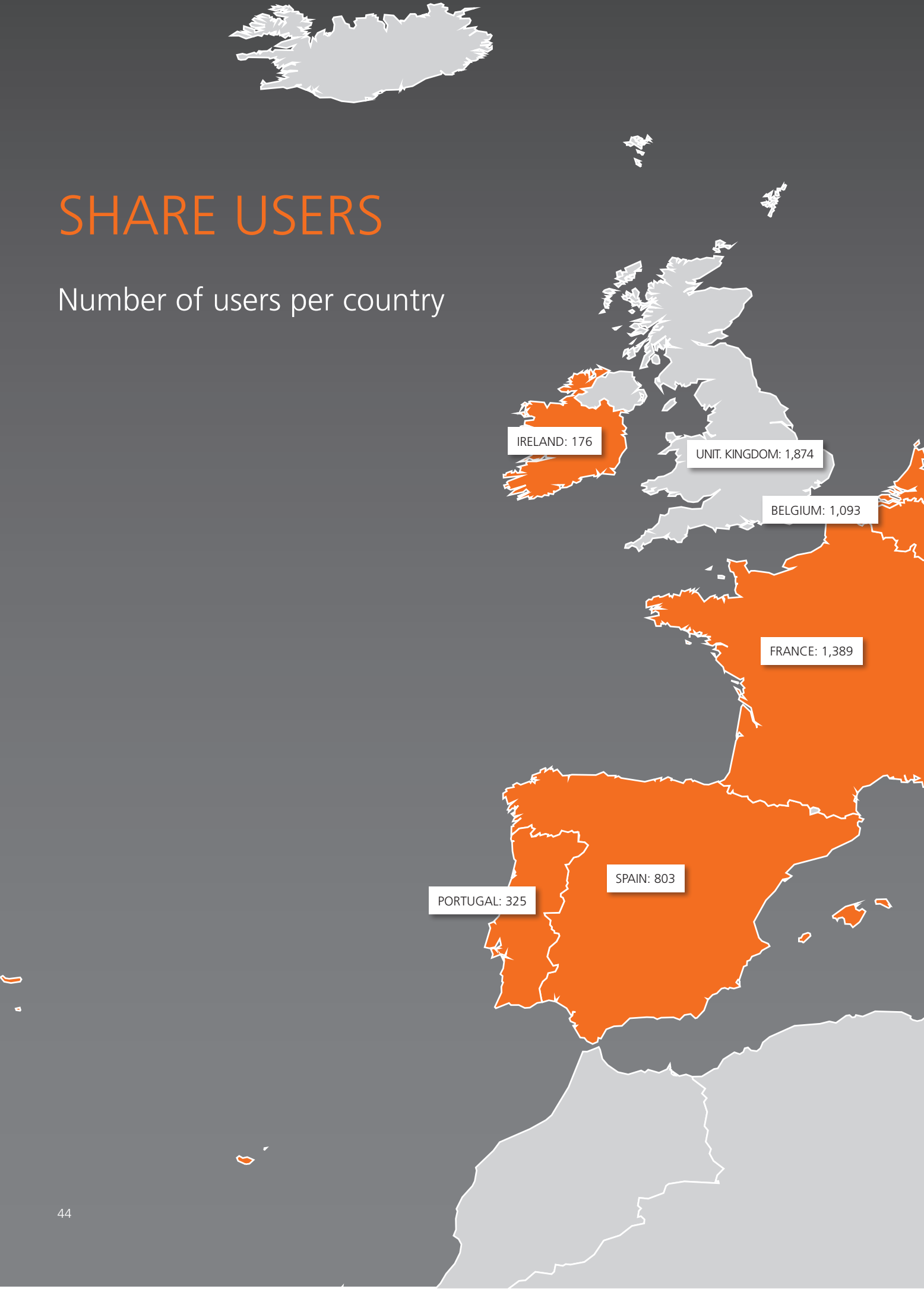
Web: <https://share-berlin.eu/en/our-projects/share-coral/>
This project was funded by the Pilot Project Award of the NIA-funded Network for Innovative Methods in Longitudinal Aging Studies, or NIMLAS (U24 AG077012-01).

Figure 4: Mapped consent rates to hypothetical linkage across 27 European countries and Israel (averaged across the four data domains).



SHARE USERS

Number of users per country





COMMUNITY OF SHARE USERS IS GROWING

SHARE user registrations are growing faster than ever

In 2025, SHARE saw the largest increase in user registrations to date. The community of SHARE users increased by more than 2,700 users to a total of 23,360. We are delighted to see the continuation of this positive trend of more than 2,000 user registrations each year in recent years. These numbers show the importance of SHARE both to researchers and to policy makers in their quest to study and understand the life circumstances of older individuals in our ageing Western societies.

SHARE users came from 98 countries, bringing perspectives from different scientific disciplines, societies, and cultures. The country with the highest number of registered users is Germany with more than 4,300 users. It is followed by users from the Netherlands, UK, Italy and France. Though mostly European, there is also a large user community in the US and growing interest for SHARE data in China. Both countries contribute more than 1,000 registered users to the scientific community of SHARE users.

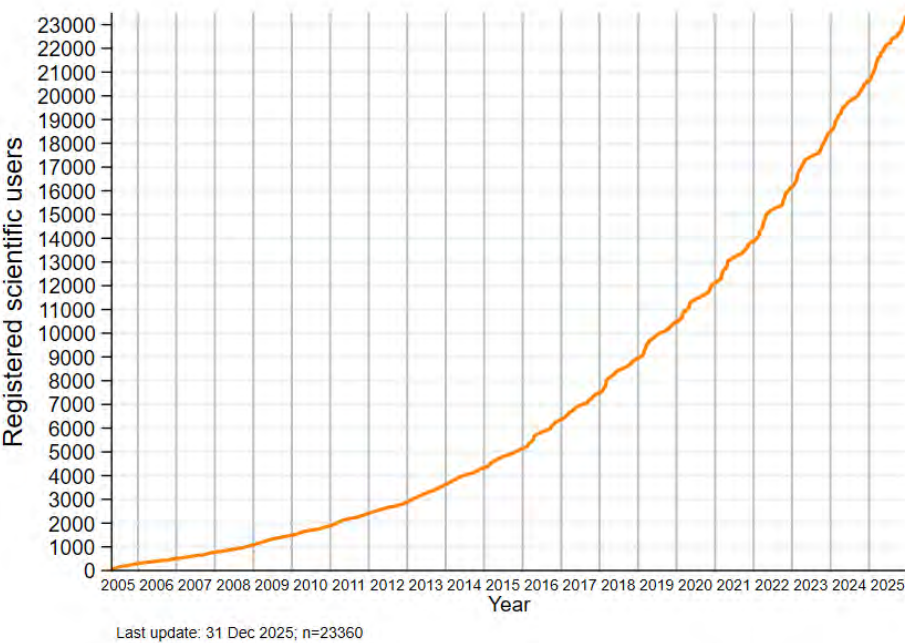


Figure 5: SHARE Data Users

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION

Country-Level Efforts to Increase SHARE's Scientific Impact

Throughout 2025, the SHARE country teams continued their outreach activities to connect with their local scientific communities and to promote SHARE as a valuable resource for research.

To further interdisciplinary use of SHARE data, the Belgian country team hosted an online introduction event to SHARE data specifically tailored to the needs of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Antwerp with about 20 participants. Meanwhile, the Bulgarian team organised an academic course in Plovdiv with the aim of introducing easySHARE data as a resource for teaching and practicing data analysis skills with SPSS and PSPP. The course was attended by 14 participants.

Throughout 2025, SHARE Finland has prepared to launch SHARE-MOOC – a Massive Open Online Course presenting the SHARE data and teaching cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis methods in order to enable researchers to make use of SHARE's research potential. The course is scheduled to be available openly and free of charge in September 2026. The Finnish team also hosted an easySHARE training course for students in association with an academic course on work life studies.

The Israeli country team organised several outreach events targeted at various audiences. In an online training session with about 20 attendants, the country team presented background information

on SHARE as well as data and published research to representatives of the Israeli Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs. In another online course, the Israeli team gave an introduction on SHARE data and its research potential to a class of 20 gerontology students. In a meeting of the SHARE Israel steering committee, data use in Israel, the national study's current status and future plans were discussed with multiple stakeholders from different Israeli government agencies and ministries. Further, the Israeli team presented its SHARE-based research on loneliness among older people at the 28th Annual Conference of the Israel Society of Biological Psychiatry and the Volkswagen Stiftung Symposium on Loneliness in Hanover.

The Latvian SHARE team hosted an online symposium titled "Secondary data in research: SHARE data and their possibilities" to an audience of 60 psychology students and researchers. The goal of the event was to give an overview of SHARE data and its key variables. In an in-person SHARE user seminar, the country team provided an overview of SHARE's data structure and documentation and gave practical recommendations for research use.

This selection of national outreach efforts demonstrates the country teams' enduring engagement in connecting with the scientific community, be it students or senior researchers, as well as with policymakers.

SHARE USERS



ALL OVER THE WORLD



USER SUPPORT

Facilitation of Data Usage

The SHARE Central team at SBI provides a range of support services designed to assist both new and experienced users in effectively working with SHARE data.

A central element of the user support activities is the SHARE e-mail helpdesk (info@share-project.org). Through this service, users can submit a wide range of inquiries related to SHARE. The team ensures prompt responses by providing additional documentation, clarifying data structures and content, assisting new users with the data access procedure, tracking SHARE-related publications, and, when necessary, forwarding specialized questions to country teams or experts in areas such as weighting and imputation.

Another key component of the support is the maintenance of clear, comprehensive, and regularly updated documentation. Due to the richness and complexity of SHARE datasets, high-quality documentation is essential to enable researchers from diverse disciplines and countries to use the data efficiently. The core documentation materials include the SHARE Release Guide, the Scales and Multi-Item Indicators Manual, and the Data & Documentation Tool (DDT). In addition, SHARE Central is constantly updating the FAQ section of the SHARE website that serves as another useful source of information for users of SHARE data.

Finally, direct interaction with the research community is fostered through user workshops. These workshops serve both as an introduction for new users and as advanced training opportunities for experienced researchers. Whenever possible, the SHARE Central team also contributes to national workshops organized by the SHARE Country Teams by sending subject-matter experts. One such example was the “SHARE User Seminar” at the Riga Stradins University, Latvia, in December 2025.



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PO LICY IMP ACT

With its broad data on the economic, social and health situation of European citizens, SHARE enables policymakers to tackle socio-economic and public health challenges with the help of scientific evidence and contributes to improving the living situation of European citizens.

POLICY IMPACT

Evidence-based policy making with SHARE

"SHARE data are an important input for OECD work on ageing populations, long-term care, and social protection. The survey's longitudinal and harmonised design allows us to analyse how differences in policy settings, funding models, and care provision affect older adults' well-being, health outcomes, and access to services across European countries.", says Dr Ana Llena-Nozal, Senior Economist, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Europe is undergoing profound demographic change. Declining birth rates combined with rising life expectancy are steadily increasing the share of older people in the population. These shifts have far-reaching implications for healthcare systems, pension schemes, labour markets and social cohesion. To respond effectively, policymakers and researchers must develop a clear understanding of the dynamics and consequences of population ageing and identify ways to manage its impact on society.

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) provides an essential evidence base for this purpose. By collecting comprehensive data on the economic, social, and health condi-

tions of individuals across Europe, SHARE enables policymakers to address socio-economic and public health challenges with scientifically grounded insights. Since its establishment, the research infrastructure has contributed valuable information that supports efforts to improve the wellbeing and living conditions of European citizens.

What distinguishes SHARE is the scope and harmonised design of its data collection. The survey provides internationally comparable data covering 27 European countries and Israel, allowing researchers and decision-makers to examine the effects of population ageing across diverse national contexts.

On the European level, SHARE has contributed directly to policy processes and analytical work of key institutions. Collaboration with the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) has resulted in concrete outputs, such as recent work on long-term care in the EU27.

At the international level, SHARE maintains strong links with organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank (WB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). SHARE data and expertise contribute to major comparative reports and policy briefs, including joint OECD and EC publications on health. These collaborations aim to ensure that SHARE remains a key evidence base for international policy analysis and to strengthen its role as a policy advisory resource on population ageing.

The following section highlights selected examples of how SHARE data has informed evidence-based policymaking at the national, European and global levels.

ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Austria

Loneliness in Austria



The Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection published the report *“Loneliness in Austria (Einsamkeit in Österreich; Ein Überblick über die Verbreitung und Struktur von Einsamkeit)”* which provides an overview of loneliness across the population and identifies high-risk groups for targeted policy interventions. The report has important implications for social, health and economic policy and strengthens the case for a coordinated national loneliness strategy.

SHARE data are used to analyse loneliness among older people in Austria, showing that the risk of loneliness, social isolation and lack of companionship increases with age. The data also highlight the strong link between health limitations and loneliness in later life, as well as differences between men and women in reported experiences of loneliness. Overall, the results underline the need for targeted measures to support social participation and well-being among older and more vulnerable population groups

Health of older people in Austria 2025

A report *“Health of older people in Austria 2025 (Gesundheit älterer Menschen in Österreich 2025)”* published by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection provides an overview of health conditions and challenges among the older population. The report draws on public statistics and data from SHARE to support evidence-based policy development.

SHARE data contribute to the analysis of digital participation, medication use and mental health in later life. They illustrate disparities in digital skills across age, gender and educational groups as well as widespread and socially differentiated patterns of medication use among older individuals. Furthermore, the data are used to examine depression and suicidal ideation pointing to increased vulnerability among older and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. Overall, the report highlights the need for policies that strengthen inclusion, improve health management and support mental well-being in older age.

Germany

9th Government Report on Older People



The 9th Government Report on Older People provides a comprehensive overview of living conditions, inequalities and participation in later life serving as an important basis for ageing-related policy. Commissioned by the German Federal Government and published by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The report draws on a wide range of data sources, including SHARE which is used as an international and comparative data source on ageing in Europe.

SHARE data are used in the report to analyse the relationship between socioeconomic conditions and health in older age. In particular, they support research on the direct and indirect effects of socioeconomic status, social capital and behavioural factors on the health of people aged 60 and over. The results show that a lack of material resources, mediated through social capital and behavioural patterns, is associated with poorer self-rated health with the strongest effects observed among individuals with lower socioeconomic status.

Informal care in Germany

The report *“Größter Pflegedienst in Deutschland: Millionen Menschen pflegen Angehörige inner- und außerhalb ihres Haushalts”* by the German Institute for Economic Research analyses informal care arrangements in Germany and highlights their central role in the care system. The study situates the analysis within the broader research landscape on informal care.

They report identifies and compares different care arrangements as well as looks at the complexity of

caregiving relationships, settings and support structures. In this context, SHARE supports the interpretation of patterns of informal care, complementing national data and helping to frame the diversity of care situations and challenges faced by caregivers and care recipients.

Slovenia

Informal care in Slovenia



The Ministry of Solidarity-Based Future used SHARE-based evidence to raise awareness at the political level about the extent of informal care received by people aged 65 and over. This information supports a better understanding of care needs and the role of informal caregivers in the ageing population.

The data are also being used by the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development of the Republic of Slovenia for the preparation of the Development Report 2025, to be published in 2026. In this context, the evidence contributes to analysing ageing-related challenges and informing policy discussions on long-term care and social support systems.

ON THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

European Commission

Social Situation Monitor: clustered disadvantages in older age

The EC Directorate-General for Social Affairs, Employment and Social Inclusion report *“How clustered are disadvantages among older Europeans? Evidence from SHARE”* analyses inequalities in later life across European countries.

In the report, SHARE data are used as the main empirical basis to examine how disadvantages in different dimensions of well-being cluster among older individuals. In particular, the data support analyses of employment, social participation, independent living and capacity for active ageing as well as cross-country comparisons of these dimensions. The report also uses SHARE to study the persistence and evolution of clustered disadvantages over time and to assess how multiple disadvantages interact within individuals providing a comprehensive view of inequalities in older age across Europe.

Long-term care demand projection models in the EU

The Joint Research Centre (JRC), tasked with providing independent, evidence-based science and knowledge to the EC, published the report *“Long-term care in the EU27: overview of demand projection models”*. The study presents an overview of methodological approaches used to project long-term care demand and lays the foundation for a harmonised model to assess future care needs across EU Member States.

The report applies SHARE data to estimate care needs based on individuals’ health status and functional limitations as well as to analyse patterns of formal and informal care use. In addition, the data are used to examine the relationship between household composition and the availability of informal care, supporting scenario-based projections of future long-term care demand across European countries.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

OECD

Employment trajectories at older ages

The report on *“Employment Outlook 2025”* analyses labour market participation and employment patterns at older ages across countries. It examines employment dynamics over the life course and their implications for longer working lives. Analyses on employment trajectories between the 50s and 60s are executed using SHARE data. The report shows how earlier labour market attachment is associated with later employment outcomes. In particular, it supports evidence on the persistence of employment status over time, the relationship between employment stability and the likelihood of working longer and differences by education and skill level. The data also contribute to cross-country comparisons of employment patterns among older workers, highlighting structural differences in labour market participation across population groups.

OECD & European Commission

Country Health Profiles 2025

The OECD together with the EC and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies published the *“Country Health Profiles 2025”*. The reports cover all EU countries. The profiles provide a comparative overview of population health, health systems and key risk factors, supporting evidence-based health policy across Member States.

The profiles analyse health outcomes in older age. SHARE data are applied to assess life expectancy and healthy life years at age 65 as well as the prevalence of multiple chronic conditions among people aged 65 and over. In addition, the data are used to examine limitations in daily activities in later life contributing to cross-country comparisons of health status and functional capacity among older populations.

OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

SHARE is grateful for the financial support received. We thank the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space and the European Commission, for financing the central coordination of SHARE. We are thankful to national governments, research councils and foundations for funding the data collection in the member countries.

We thank the EU Commission and the US National Institute on Aging for their support of innovation in SHARE and the additional support of data collection in those countries that are facing financial challenges.

SHARE-ERIC COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025

The 19th SHARE-ERIC Council Meeting took place on Friday, 13 June 2025, in Berlin and was held in a hybrid format. The Chair of the Council, Dieta Lohmann, informed the Council that David Richter had assumed the position of Managing Director at the beginning of the year, together with the newly appointed Management Board. She further noted that a revised version of the SHARE-ERIC Statutes entered into force on 1 January 2025. The Council was also informed that both the appointment of the new Managing Director and the relocation of the registered seat of SHARE-ERIC from Munich to Berlin had been formally recorded in the German trade register.

During the meeting, the Council unanimously elected Jürgen Maurer as a new member of the Management Board. The Managing Director, Prof. Dr. David Richter, reported on current developments and SHARE activities. Among other topics, he referred to the recruitment of new staff members at the SHARE Berlin Institute (SBI) and provided an update on the ongoing Wave 10 fieldwork. He also informed the Council that the Consortium Agreement had been signed by all participating countries and had therefore entered into force. In addition, he reported on the release of the SHARE HCAP data and the Gateway Harmonized SHARE data, as well as the successful completion of several grants with positive evaluations, including the COVID, COHESION, and EU COVIL projects.

The meeting continued with the presentation of the Financial Statement and the Annual Activity Report for 2024, as well as the Spending Plan for 2025. All documents were approved by the SHARE-ERIC Council without objections.

The 20th SHARE-ERIC Council Meeting took place online on Friday, 28 November 2025. During the meeting, the Managing Director, Prof. Dr. David Richter, presented the current state of affairs to the Council, highlighting the official and successful completion of Wave 10. He also outlined planned innovations for Wave 11, including, among others, a module on ageism and a module on nutrition. Furthermore, he informed the Council about personnel changes in the Scientific Monitoring Board (SMB), noting that its composition had evolved to include a greater representation of women and researchers based in Europe. David Richter also briefed the Council on the ongoing evaluation of SBI by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space. The evaluation report, to be submitted to the Ministry by the end of February 2026, would include SBI's planning for the next five years and outline ongoing efforts to further establish SBI as a research-based infrastructure within Berlin and Germany.

The meeting continued with the presentation of the budget planning for the following three years, including budgetary provisions related to the central server solution. The Commercial Director of the SBI,

Sylvia Becker, subsequently presented the financial overview. This presentation was complemented by the Managing Director's overview of all grants currently approved, ongoing, and submitted. Following these presentations, the Council approved the Annual Spending Plan for 2026 and acknowledged the Financial Planning for 2027–2028 without abstentions or objections. In continuation of the successful cooperation established in the previous year, the Council confirmed the reappointment of GKK PARTNERS Audit GmbH as the external auditor for the annual financial statements for 2025.

As the final agenda item, the Chair and the Managing Director emphasised the need for a revision of the SHARE-ERIC Statutes, involving, first, a minor formal revision necessitated by personnel changes in the SMB, followed by a more substantial update in line with revised EU regulations and the statutes of other ERICs.



SHARE SPRING 2025 MEETING

In the midst of Wave 10 fieldwork

The first in-person meeting of the year 2025 was hosted by the Greek country team in Athens. From 7–9 May, representatives of all SHARE countries gathered in the Greek capital to discuss fieldwork progress of Wave 10 that was still ongoing in all countries at the time of the meeting.

Traditionally, day one brings together the Country Team Operators (CTOs) to focus on technical issues of the survey. It is a rather interactive meeting with practical hands-on training sessions, feedback by the countries with the goal of being an open forum for exchange. One of the agenda topics was “tool development and software testing on tablets”, a new innovative approach in SHARE that will be implemented in Wave 11.

On the following two days, the Country Team Leaders (CTLs) and the Management Board joined the meeting. Some topics of general interest were treated in the plenum e.g. a report on Wave 10, an outlook to Wave 11 and beyond, the start of the SoGreen Project, finances, procurement and scientific dissemination activities whereas others were discussed in sub-groups, like for example funding, EU calls or content design.

Besides these project-related sessions, there were also scientific presentations by various SHARE researchers using – of course – SHARE data.



SHARE Spring 2025 Meeting, 7–9 May 2025, in Athens, Greece

SHARE AUTUMN 2025 MEETING

Moving forward towards the next wave

The second meeting of the year was held in the Flemish city of Antwerp in Belgium. Both Belgian SHARE country teams served as hosts for this gathering which took place on 15–17 October 2025.

With Wave 10 concluded in most countries, this meeting already focused on the next wave of the SHARE survey. This could be seen at the Operators' Meeting on the first day, which prepared participants for many changes that are to come in Wave 11 including in the fields of translations, tools and procedures, questionnaire and data.

The main meeting on the following two days brought – among other topics – some new insights into where it makes sense for SHARE to strengthen its international collaborations with both other European research infrastructures and international policy organizations and how this can be achieved. Other agenda items included an overview of future proposals for funding, a report by the newly established multi-mode working group and side-meetings on questionnaire-related topics and record linkage. The meeting concluded with two scientific presentations and a report by the Management Board on its recent activities.



SHARE Autumn 2025 Meeting, 15–17 October 2025, in Antwerp, Belgium

SHARE COMMUNICATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION

Effective communication is essential for SHARE's success. As a research infrastructure, we must effectively reach a diverse set of stakeholders – internal and external project partners, researchers, policymakers, funders, media, the general public, and survey respondents – keeping each informed and engaged through targeted content across SHARE's communication channels. A key part of this is amplifying the work of our user community, ensuring that findings based on SHARE data reach the relevant audiences.

Web Presence

SHARE maintains an online presence across several websites. Most content is available on the SHARE-ERIC website (share-eric.eu), which was completely redesigned and relaunched in 2022. Since then, the website has been continuously maintained, improved, and further developed. As the host of SHARE, the SHARE BERLIN Institute is represented online through its own website (share-berlin.eu/en/). The SBI website includes key performance indicators of SHARE on its landing page. Additionally, a new subsection "Events" was added to the SBI website in 2025. In this subsection, the SHARE International Seminar Series (SISS) is announced each month. This format is attracting up to 50 researchers monthly to participate in a scientific presentation based on SHARE data with following discussion.

Being active on social media

Besides the websites mentioned above, the Communications team maintained an active presence on social media. In 2025, LinkedIn and Bluesky were used to engage with international researchers, policymakers, and partner projects worldwide. Content included event and publication announcements, job vacancies, research highlights, and scientific updates.

On LinkedIn, SHARE's 80 posts generated roughly 70,000 impressions throughout the year and achieved sustained audience engagement, supporting the dissemination of content to wider networks. By the end of the year, the page had approximately 1,400 followers, consisting predominantly of researchers from around the world. The SHARE Communications Team also became active on Bluesky, posting regularly on the platform from February 2025 onwards.



PR material for conferences and events

In addition, the year 2025 saw a significant update of SHARE print materials used at conferences and events, including the ESRA conference in Utrecht, Netherlands (14–18 July 2025). The Communications team refreshed the content of three

key leaflets – the researcher flyer, the easySHARE flyer and the SHARE Linkage flyer – all of which received new, modernised designs. Furthermore, the SHARE Country Teams requested the flyers for their national promotion activities. The SHARE communications team provided an adaptable version to support translation into local languages.

SHARE - Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe
1.880 Follower:innen
9 Monate •

SHARE Finding of the Month — The "5kg Test" is a simple yet surprisingly strong predictor of health after 50

Muscle weakness as we age is somewhat inevitable, but the weaker we are, the more we're at risk of age-related diseases.

Doctors and researchers often measure muscle weakness with a device that tests grip strength. While informative and widely used, variations between different models can sometimes lead to inconsistent results. Moreover, average grip strength can also vary quite considerably between populations.

That's why researchers are searching for simpler, more standardised strength tests to identify those most imminently at risk.

This new study, led by Dr. **Rizwan Qaisar** and colleagues (**University of Sharjah**, UAE) and published in *Scientific Reports*, suggests that something as basic as lifting 5 kilograms – about the weight of a heavy grocery bag – can be a powerful signal of health over the next four years.

The biggest impacts were on quality of life. Weaker participants scored lower on autonomy, pleasure, and self-realisation, showing that muscle health underpins much more than just physical strength.

The 5kg could be a great, low-cost screening tool helping to flag risks early in clinics, community programmes, or even at home.

Read the full study here: https://lnkd.in/gVa4_HXB

#SHAREdata #Research #Health

Übersetzung anzeigen

The "5kg Test" predictor of health
share-eric.eu

SHARE - Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe
1.880 Follower:innen
7 Monate •

Online seminar: The Exposome and Global Ageing

Where in the world, and why, do people age faster or slower? Presenting findings from a recent *Nature Medicine* study that combined data from over 160,000 adults in 40 countries, this month's speaker introduces a fascinating topic with a rich global perspective.

Register here: <https://lnkd.in/eTmvGaxA>

Speaker: **Sandra Báez**, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Neurosciences at **Universidad de los Andes - Colombia** in Bogotá, Colombia, and a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the **Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI)** (Trinity College Dublin).

Übersetzung anzeigen

SHARE International Seminar Series

The Exposome and Global Ageing

Dr Sandra Baez
Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia

Wednesday, Oct 22, 2025
Online Seminar
15:00 - 16:00 CET

SHARE
SURVEY OF HEALTH, AGEING AND RETIREMENT IN EUROPE

Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)
@share-eric.bsky.social

We are live!

The SoGreen project website is now online:
sogreen-project.eu

We invite you to explore, share, and follow along as we build knowledge to support just and evidence-based policies in the green transition in Europe.

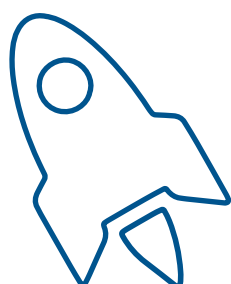
@ess-survey.bsky.social @ggp.bsky.social @guide-cohort.bsky.social

Übersetzen

SoGreen

Home • SoGreen
SoGreen is a European research collaboration integrating the four leading longitudinal social science surveys to track how people across Europe experience and respond to....
sogreen-project.eu

16:32 • 29.09.2025 • Jeder kann antworten





Updated SHARE Flyers with new design

Continuing key publications and resources

Another notable achievement in the past year was the further development of the SHARE Working Paper Series. The series continues to be a key platform for SHARE-affiliated researchers to publish preliminary results and methodological and technical papers aimed at facilitating the use of SHARE data. The series aims to provide a timely platform for discussing findings based on SHARE data. Submissions were opened beyond colleagues across the SHARE network to external researchers using

SHARE data in December 2025. To maintain quality and consistency, all submissions are reviewed by members of the SHARE Working Paper Editorial Board for relevance, scientific soundness, and formal compliance. The editorial board consists of six designated SBI researchers, among them the Institute's leader Professor David Richter. In 2025, SHARE published eight new working papers and technical papers, reflecting the breadth of research the infrastructure supports, from data privacy attitudes and vaccination behaviours to palliative care and accelerometer data.

Promoting research through scientific events

Apart from the Working Paper Series we also highlight research based on SHARE data through scientific events to fostering exchange between researchers. The SHARE International Seminar Series (SISS) tries to bring together SHARE researchers and the wider research community. The seminar series continued to grow in 2025, with nine seminars held. Presenters were typically senior and occasionally high-profile academics, and the range of presenters reflects the breadth of interdisciplinary research conducted with SHARE data, spanning economics, medicine, psychology, and the social sciences.

In November 2025, the SHARE BERLIN Institute hosted the Berlin Ageing Research Forum, an online one-day scientific symposium bringing together researchers from across Berlin's ageing research community and the four SBI shareholder institutions – WZB, DIW, Charité, and DZA. Director David Richter opened with two significant new SHARE data releases: SHARE-HCAP, an in-depth cognitive battery harmonised with sister studies worldwide, and dried blood spot data. Six further presentations covered topics ranging from marital history and wellbeing, social support in later life, and the cognitive effects of caregiving, to AI ageing, national health survey findings, and neuroimaging approaches to dementia risk. The forum was well received and will return in 2026, planned as an in-person event.

These and other events were led by the Scientific Dissemination team, who managed speaker invitations, planned all materials, and chaired proceedings. The Communications team provided additional support through social media coverage before, during, and after each event, as well as designing and distributing promotional materials.

To support SHARE-affiliated researchers and country teams, the Communications team further developed a standard SHARE introduction presentation, which is regularly updated and available for use at scientific events. This material can be customised by country teams to fit local contexts and needs.

A newly designed presentation template was also introduced, to ensure a consistent and professional look for SHARE colleagues representing the infrastructure at international and national events and conferences.

Highlighting research: Finding of the Month, newsletter and media coverage

To showcase the breadth and societal relevance of research conducted with SHARE data, the Communications team publishes a monthly accessible, plain-language highlight of a compelling recent study. In 2025, twelve findings were featured, covering topics ranging from dementia risk detection and the health effects of retirement to grandparental support across Europe and the predictive power of grip strength. Each finding is promoted across SHARE's social media channels, extending its reach beyond the immediate research community. A triyearly SHARE Findings Newsletter was developed and distributed.

Each edition also features a roundup of media coverage in which SHARE-based research has been cited or reported on, demonstrating the real-world visibility of the infrastructure's scientific output.

In 2025, SHARE-based research attracted coverage from a range of high-profile international outlets including the New York Times, NBC News, BBC Science Focus, Psychology Today, and Science Daily, on topics spanning wealth and health inequality, dementia prevention, vaccination, long COVID, and healthy ageing.

SHARE'S INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND COOPERATIONS IN 2025

The year 2025 marked a significant period of consolidation and expansion for SHARE. Building on the successful establishment of the SBI and the completion of SHARE Wave 10, we launched new international projects, strengthened our research networks, and deepened our engagement with European and international policy actors. The following activities demonstrate SHARE's central role not only as a data provider but as an active partner in addressing major societal challenges.

International Projects Launched in 2025

Two international projects were launched in 2025

Just like EU-COV II, the EU-COV III project was funded by DG EMPL of the European Commission. Running from 5 March 2025 to 4 September 2026 with a budget of €2.1 million, this project is coordinated by the SBI. As a direct follow-up to its predecessors, EU-COV III is designed to safeguard the pan-European nature of the SHARE infrastructure. Its primary objective is to secure the continuation of data collection for Wave 10 in 11 member countries that face funding challenges. These include newer EU member states such as Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Malta, Romania, and Slovakia, as well as so-called "crisis countries" like Estonia, Greece, Portugal, and Spain. At the time of this report, Wave 10 data collection has been successfully completed. The project's core activities focus on the central management and coordination of this multi-country effort, including administering

and monitoring fieldwork for Wave 10 in the target countries and performing crucial data checking and cleaning to prepare high-quality, harmonized data for public release to the global research community. By ensuring the inclusion of these countries, EU-COV III maintains the largest possible longitudinal database on aging for researchers, the European Commission, the OECD, and the WHO.

SoGreen (Social Dimensions of the Green Transition)

The SoGreen project is a landmark collaborative initiative funded by Horizon Europe, running from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027 with a budget of €4.99 million. Coordinated by the SBI, the project brings together three other major European research infrastructures: the European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), and GUIDE (Growing Up In Digital Europe). The overarching goal of SoGreen is to enhance the capacities of these four leading social science infrastructures to systematically investigate and evaluate the social dimensions of the green transition for different generations and socioeconomic groups across Europe, employing a life-course perspective. By doing so, the project addresses a critical gap in understanding how environmental policies and societal shifts such as changes in home heating, transportation, and energy costs affect diverse populations.

Aligned with the Horizon Europe work programme topic "Next generation of scientific instrumentation, tools and methods and advanced digital solutions," SoGreen will develop new services compri-

sing innovative tools, solutions, and questionnaire modules related to the social aspects of the green transition. The unique longitudinal and multi-generational perspective of the infrastructures involved goes beyond the current state of the art by integrating new data and novel analytical frameworks to foster interdisciplinary insights at national and regional levels.

Central to this approach is the collaborative development of a new, harmonized SoGreen Questionnaire Module, designed to ensure coherence in addressing environmental themes across the different surveys. In 2025, this involved the methodological development and piloting of this module, which covers environmental and climate conditions, mobility, energy-related behavior, and perceptions of climate policies. The module was integrated into SHARE's Self-Completion Questionnaire (SCQ) and fielded in six countries, including Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Sweden, and the Netherlands. This data collection forms the empirical basis for future comparative and longitudinal studies of climate-related vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities in later life.

Beyond the new questionnaire module, SoGreen will deliver additional new services, including geospatial data linkable with survey datasets and new visualization tools. The project will also prepare harmonized aggregates of collected data and present them through a joint dissemination platform, enhancing accessibility and promoting consistency in data interpretation across various studies. Finally, the Knowledge Mobilisation Lab will serve as another innovative tool to identify, build, and engage

a multifaceted network of different audiences and stakeholders, including professionals from policy, research, non-profit, and private sectors. Through these efforts, SoGreen aims to actively shape the discourse and inform developments related to the green transition across Europe.



International Cooperations in 2025

Beyond these new projects, SBI maintained and deepened its engagement in strategic cooperations and networks, solidifying SHARE's position in the global research landscape.

Global Network of Aging Surveys

A central pillar of SHARE's international engagement is its integration into the global network of aging surveys, often referred to as "sister studies." This collaborative effort unites major harmonized panel studies from around the world to strengthen research on issues relevant to individual and population aging, such as health, disability, retirement, and family support. The network includes "parent surveys" that preceded and influenced SHARE's design, most notably the US Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). In turn, SHARE has served as a model for "daughter surveys" like the Japanese Study on Aging and Retirement (JSTAR). Other sister studies in this global family include TILDA (Ireland), CHARLS (China), LASI (India), as well as studies in Brazil, Korea, Mexico, Egypt, South Africa, Malaysia, and Thailand.

In 2025, SBI contributed to this HRS **“Around the World”** Network, which comprises over 50 major harmonized panel studies. This global cooperation ensures conceptual alignment, methodological consistency, and the development of joint research directions across studies. The partnership with the **Gateway to Global Aging Data**, based at the University of Southern California, was significantly strengthened in this context. Following the successful co-organization of the SHARE–Gateway User Conference in Berlin in November 2024, which announced the first release of the “Gateway Harmonized SHARE” dataset, 2025 focused on embedding this new data product into the research community. This collaboration facilitates cross-national comparative research by providing harmonized data across international aging studies, including HRS, ELSA, and CHARLS.

European Research Infrastructure Partnerships

SHARE-ERIC and SBI secured a positive funding decision on 07.02.2026 for the Horizon Europe project SIRENE (Environmental Exposure and Health Assessment). Preparatory work in 2025 laid the groundwork for this €9.99 million project. **SIRENE** aims to advance the integration of environmental exposure indicators (e.g., air pollution, climate data) with SHARE data, opening new avenues for research on the environmental determinants of health and aging.

Besides, SBI initiated strategic discussions with **BBMRI-ERIC**, the European Research Infrastructure for biobanking, to prepare for the future integration of genetic and biomolecular information. This collaboration envisions linking SHARE’s rich longitudinal socioeconomic and health data with biobank-based genetic information under robust ethical and legal frameworks. Initial pilot implementations are planned for the Czech Republic and Finland in

SHARE Wave 11 (starting in 2027) to test feasibility, consent procedures, and data interoperability.

Participation in European Governance and Infrastructure Platforms

The **ERIC Forum 2**, the follow-up project of the ERIC Forum (2019–2022), started on 1 September 2023 and will run until 31 August 2027. The ERICs, under the umbrella of the ERIC Forum, represent one of the leading science policy voices in Europe and play a key role in structuring the research infrastructure landscape. This project aims to structure the cooperation between European Research Infrastructure Consortia, support the implementation of the ERIC Regulation and ERIC services, and consolidate the integration of the ERICs in the European Research Area (ERA) by deepening the ERIC Forum’s contribution to research policies. To reach its objectives, the project relies on a multidisciplinary consortium involving all identified ERICs. SHARE-ERIC is involved in the ERIC Forum 2 activities through its affiliated entities: the SBI and the SGH Warsaw School of Economics. SBI continued its active engagement in the Forum throughout 2025. This participation helps align SHARE with the evolving priorities of the ERA, strengthens the institute’s visibility, and ensures SBI contributes to strategic dialogues on the long-term sustainability, governance, and investment needs of European research infrastructures.



Apart from that, as an ESFRI Landmark, SHARE’s development is closely monitored. In 2025, SBI’s activities were aligned with ESFRI objectives related to sustainability, governance maturity, and international visibility, ensuring SHARE remains a model for successful European research infrastructures.

Other Significant Cooperations and Projects in 2025

Several other collaborations and projects at different levels were prominent in 2025.

National-Level Partnerships (Germany)

Running from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2027 (€5.23 million), the **SHARE-DE** (DFG-funded) project supports the data collection and survey development for the German component of SHARE. Beyond national data implementation, SHARE-DE serves as a crucial methodological test bed for the entire European infrastructure, piloting innovations like multi-mode designs and new questionnaire modules before a broader rollout. The project involves close coordination with the German Country Team Leader and the international SHARE-ERIC framework.

In addition, SBI strengthened its ties with its shareholder institutions in Berlin (Charité, DIW, WZB, DZA). A key example is the **Berlin Ageing Research Forum** (held online on 4 November 2025), a format focused on scientific exchange and collaboration among Berlin-based aging research

institutions. Furthermore, two SBI researchers were appointed as research fellows of the Einstein Center for Population Diversity (ECPD), a network involving Charité, WZB, DIW, and RKI, fostering interdisciplinary projects on topics like family diversity, health inequalities, and migrant health.

High-Level Policy Engagement

At the European level, SBI provided direct expert input into EU policy processes. This included participation in the Implementation Dialogue on the Demography Toolbox with Commissioner Dubravka Šuica, focusing on the “older people pillar.” Policy notes and analytical contributions will be delivered to DG EMPL under the EUCOV III project.

At the international level, engagement with international organizations continued. SBI ensured that SHARE data remains analytically relevant for bodies like the OECD, WHO, World Bank, and UNECE. This included providing expert consultation and analytical input for major comparative reports, such as the OECD’s “Health at a Glance: Europe” and UNECE Policy Briefs on Ageing. Letters of support from these organizations, attest to the strength of these relationships.

FINAN CIAL ASPE CTS

SHARE is fully financed by public funds, which are granted by national ministries/research councils, the European Commission or other public funders, such as foundations.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

SHARE is a multidisciplinary research infrastructure serving a broad and diverse scientific user community. Its scope extends beyond that of a conventional social survey by combining socio-economic data with comprehensive and resource-intensive health measurements. At the same time, SHARE supports the European Commission's objective of enabling participation across a wide range of countries with differing capacities to finance research infrastructures.

The financial framework of SHARE-ERIC is defined in Article 11 of the SHARE-ERIC Statutes, effective from 1 January 2025. Under these provisions, each Contracting Party is responsible for financing its national share of survey implementation costs, either directly or through its designated Scientific Partner Institution. Participating countries also contribute to the operational costs of the infrastructure through their respective institutions.

The central international coordination of SHARE is funded by Germany through the SHARE Berlin Institute GmbH (SBI). These activities comprise the overall coordination and management of the SHARE infrastructure and are financed directly by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR).

In addition, all Contracting Parties contribute to the common expenditure of SHARE-ERIC through

an annual Membership Fee. These contributions finance the governance and administration of the consortium, including the activities of the Management Board and the Scientific Monitoring Board, as defined in the Annual Spending Plan.

Country contributions

The fee structure approved by the SHARE-ERIC Council in 2023 continued to apply in 2025. It comprises a Membership Fee of EUR 5,000 payable by all members and a Participation Fee ranging from EUR 25,000 to EUR 50,000, depending on the country classification defined within the SHARE-ERIC financial framework.

These contributions constitute an important component of the SHARE-ERIC financing structure. They primarily support the provision of central IT services by Centerdata. In addition, they finance other central SHARE-ERIC functions, particularly in the areas of financial management, data protection, communication, legal advice, and governance.

The Participation Fee framework can be adapted to changing financial, organisational, and regulatory requirements and provides the basis for the sustainable financing of central IT and support services within SHARE-ERIC.

An overview of the country contributions applicable for 2025 is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Country contributions to central costs of SHARE-ERIC, 1 January – 31 December 2025

Country	Status	Contributions (€)
Austria	Member	42,500.00
Belgium	Member	55,000.00
Bulgaria	Member	30,000.00
Croatia	Member	30,000.00
Cyprus	Participant	*
Czech Republic	Member	30,000.00
Denmark	Participant	**
Estonia	Participant	25,000.00
Finland	Participant	37,500.00
France	Member	**
Germany	Member	55,000.00
Greece	Member	*
Hungary	Member	30,000.00
Israel	Member	**
Italy	Member	55,000.00
Latvia	Participant	25,000.00
Lithuania	Member	30,000.00
Luxembourg	Participant	37,500.00
Malta	Participant	*
Netherlands	Member	55,000.00
Poland	Member	30,000.00
Portugal	Participant	*
Romania	Participant	*
Slovakia	Participant	*
Slovenia	Member	30,000.00
Spain	Participant	50,000.00
Sweden	Member	55,000.00
Switzerland	Participant	50,000.00
		752,500.00

* On 12 June 2026, the Management Board decided to allocate Participation Fees of €15,000 each from the funds of the successfully completed EU-COV II project to countries supported by DG Employment that do not have their own funding. The corresponding accounting entries will be recorded in the 2026 financial year.

** The Participation Fee contributions of these countries had been received in full by June 2026.

Funding

The funding structure of SHARE reflects the diversity of the participating countries and their respective research funding systems. Funding mechanisms vary considerably across countries, ranging from support provided by national ministries, research councils and academic institutions to contributions from European funding programmes that facilitate participation in the infrastructure.

In total, SHARE is supported by more than 50 funding sources. This diversified funding model contributes to the long-term sustainability of the infrastructure while enabling the participation of countries with differing financial capacities.

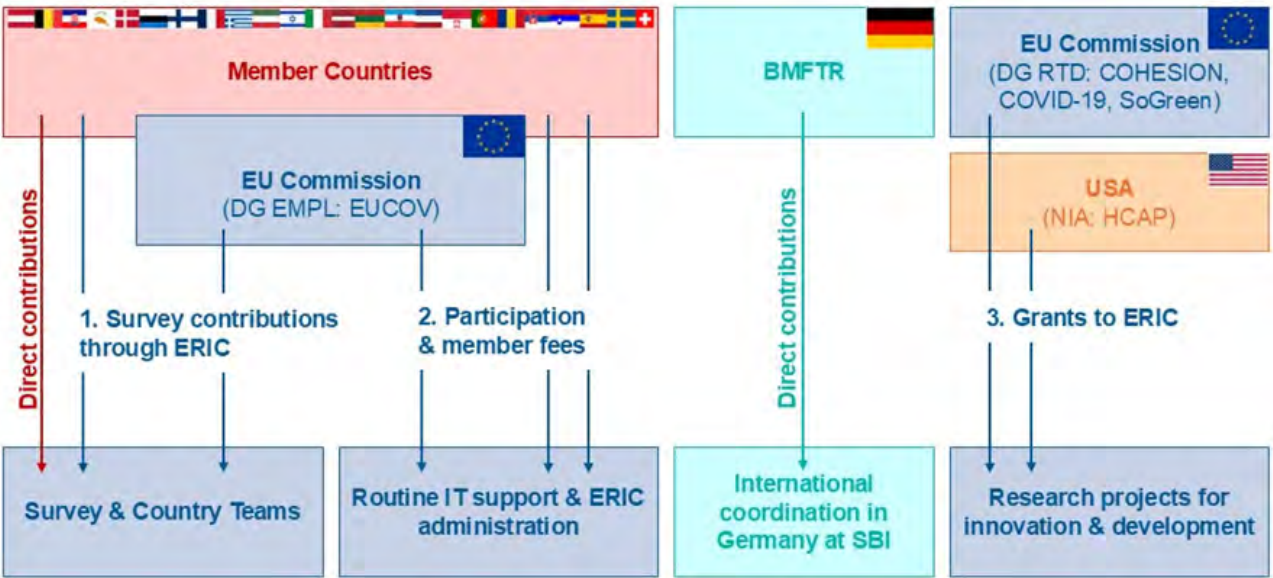
The corresponding financial flows are equally diverse. In some countries, survey implementation is financed directly by national funding bodies and payments are made to the respective national SHARE teams or contracted survey agencies.

These transactions are therefore not reflected in the financial statements of SHARE-ERIC. In other cases, funds are administered centrally through SHARE-ERIC, which undertakes the procurement, contracting and payment of survey services and allocates the corresponding resources to participating countries in accordance with approved budgets and grant agreements.

In addition, SHARE-ERIC administers resources required for the operation and governance of the infrastructure, as well as for the implementation of externally funded research and development projects.

Figure 6 provides a schematic overview of the principal financial flows within the SHARE ecosystem and illustrates the interaction between national funding bodies, SHARE-ERIC, and participating country teams.

Figure 6: Monetary flows of funds in SHARE



Third-Party-Grants

The major EU-funded projects in which SHARE participated as coordinator or partner were successfully completed in the previous year. These included the Horizon 2020 project “SHARE-COHESION” (Grant Agreement No. 870628), coordinated by SHARE-ERIC, which supported innovation and the further development of the regular SHARE survey waves, as well as the project “SHARE-COVID-19”, funded by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD). Within the framework of SHARE-COVID-19, database construction at the SHARE Berlin Institute GmbH (SBI) and scientific analyses based on the second COVID-CATI telephone survey conducted by SHARE Linked Third Parties were supported.

In 2025, the administrative closure of these projects was successfully completed. The European Commission concluded the final technical and financial reviews without observations and accepted the submitted final reports and financial statements. Consequently, the outstanding final grant payments were released and disbursed.

The US National Institute on Aging (NIA) supported the measurement of cognitive decline and dementia through the “HCAP” grant awarded to the Max Planck Society. Data collection activities were financed through a subaward to SHARE-ERIC, while database construction was financed through a subaward to the SHARE Berlin Institute GmbH (SBI).

A further Horizon Europe project, “SoGreen”, was submitted in March 2024 together with ESS ERIC and the ERICs in preparation GGP and GUIDE. The proposal was approved in late 2024, allowing the project to commence as planned on 1 January 2025.

Since 2023, the central international coordination of SHARE has been carried out by the SHARE Berlin Institute GmbH (SBI) in Germany. These activities are funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR). Annual funding amounts to approximately EUR 2.5 million and covers the routine expenditure associated with the central coordination of SHARE. The corresponding funds are transferred directly from the BMFTR to SBI and are therefore not reflected in the financial statements of SHARE-ERIC.

Table 2: Third-Party-Grants 1 January - 31 December 2025

Country	Status	Contributions (Euro)
DG EMPL	EUCOV II and III	1,480,976
EU Horizon 2020	COHESION SHARE COVID 19	366,254 71,802
EU Horizon Europe	ERIC Forum 2	2,398
DFG	DFG Grant MEA	939,930
Direct contribution		
BMFTR Germany (BMBF)	International coordination in Germany at SBI	2,574,084

Explanation of income and expenditure categories

The financial activities of SHARE-ERIC comprise three principal categories of income. First, participating countries contribute to the implementation of survey activities either directly or through funds administered by SHARE-ERIC. Second, Contracting Parties provide Membership Fees and Participation Fees to support the routine operation of the infrastructure. Third, SHARE-ERIC administers third-party grants from national and international funding bodies for specific research and development projects.

The largest share of expenditure relates to survey implementation in the participating countries. These costs include, in particular, data collection, survey fieldwork and related operational activities. Depending on national funding arrangements, these costs are financed either directly by the participating countries or through resources administered by SHARE-ERIC on their behalf.

A further significant expenditure category comprises IT services and technical support required for the operation and continuous development of the SHARE infrastructure. These activities include survey programming, data processing, data management and the maintenance of central technical systems.

In addition, SHARE-ERIC incurs administrative and governance costs associated with the operation of the consortium. These include financial and legal administration, coordination activities, governance bodies and other central support functions necessary for the management of the infrastructure.

Expenditure financed through third-party grants is reported separately and is allocated to the respective projects in accordance with the applicable grant agreements and funding conditions.

The following financial statements provide an overview of the income and expenditure structure of SHARE-ERIC for the financial year 2025.

Table 3: Statement of comprehensive income

	2025 (Euro)		2024 (Euro)	
Income	*6,433,565		11,616,125	
Direct costs	7,661,007		5,250,428	
Gross Surplus		-1,227,443		6,365,697
IT support	611,594		593,400	
Administrative expenses	151,340		341,047	
		762,934		934,447
Restricted reserves		-2,681,377		4,753,869
Unrestricted reserves		691,000		677,381
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Financial Year		0		0

* This includes EUR 5,283 of unrealised foreign exchange gains.

Table 4: Statement of financial position

	2025 (Euro)	2024 (Euro)
Current Assets		
Cash at bank account 1	7,056,425	9,113,266
Cash at bank account 2	249,099	182,634
	7,305,524	9,295,900
amount falling due within one year	6,614,524	8,618,519
Net Current Assets	691,000	677,381

Audit Statement

GKK PARTNERS Audit GmbH has been appointed as the auditor of SHARE-ERIC for the period from 01 January – 31 December 2025.

The audit was conducted between February and May 2026. The preliminary results were presented to the SHARE-ERIC Council at its meeting on 25 June 2026. The final audit report was completed following the Council meeting.



Opinion:

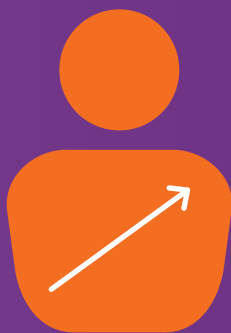
The Independent Auditor's Report to the Council of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), states that we, GKK PARTNERS Audit GmbH, after performing the agreed-upon audit procedures regarding to the accounting records of the SHARE European Research Infrastructure Consortium (the "ERIC") for the year ended 31 December 2025, have noted no findings.



SHARE IN NUM BERS

FACTS & NUMBERS

Number of Registered Users



20,652
in year 2024

23,360
in year 2025

244

in year 2025

Processed
User Requests



User Workshops

2024: **21**

2025: **18**



User Countries

2024: **91**

2025: **98**



Total number of publications in our database:

December 2025: **4,858**

New publications added in 2025: **715**



100%

100% of our own
Publications are published as Open Access

Participating Countries

Full coverage of 28 countries
since 2017 (W7)



Interviews

616,000

Wave 1 to 9

Policy Actors Using SHARE Data



2024: **691**

2025: **737**



Respondents

160,000

Wave 1 to 9

Global Sister Surveys:

18



Social Media Followers



Linkedin

2024: 850

2025: 1,400



Bluesky

2025: 250

Available since 2025



Please note that these numbers are presented for the purpose of obtaining a quick overview of SHARE's operations – they cannot and should not, however, be used to compare SHARE against other Research Infrastructures (RIs) since KPIs with the same names often have fundamentally different meanings for different RIs.

The number of users, for instance, heavily depends on the type of RI and the modes of access. Commercial partners are, for example, necessarily excluded by the nature of SHARE as a social survey based on voluntary participants who report very private health and economic data. Commercial use is thus out of the question due to SHARE's strict protection of the data of its respondents, which in turn affects the number of users.

Another example is the financial volume of business with external contractors, which is obviously very different between RIs with mainly digital services and e.g. physical RIs that operate heavy machinery in large facilities. The construction/maintenance costs they require cannot be compared to those of social surveys. Similar specifics are to be taken account in all areas of RI operations.

SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS OF SHARE-ERIC MEMBERS

AUSTRIA

Johannes Kepler University Linz

The Austrian country team has been coordinating SHARE in Austria since the project's inception, with more than two decades of continuous experience in longitudinal data collection on health, ageing, and retirement. Based at Johannes Kepler University Linz, the team works at the intersection of economics, demography, and the health sciences, with a focus on the high-quality fieldwork, panel care, and methodological development that underpin SHARE's evidence base on the Austrian population. Michael Radhuber leads the Austrian country team. He is supported by Nicole Halmdienst as Scientific Lead and by Rudolf Winter-Ebmer, who initiated SHARE in Austria and continues to act as scientific mentor.

BELGIUM – NL

University of Antwerp, CSB

CSB's principal objective has been to study the adequacy of social policies. Its research is mainly based on large-scale socio-economic surveys of households. Koen Decancq leads the Belgian country team.

BELGIUM – FR

University of Liège, CREPP

CREPP's main fields of specialisation are social security, retirement behaviour and well-being among the elderly and intergenerational transfers. Jérôme Schoenmaeckers is in charge of the SHARE project coordination in the Belgian French-speaking community.

BULGARIA

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IPS-BAS), Sofia

IPS-BAS, the former Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at BAS (ISSK-BAS), conducts complex theoretical and empirical, fundamental and applied, philosophical, sociological, and science-studies-related research on knowledge, values, man and society, in accordance with the academic, national, and European criteria and world trends in science, and trains highly qualified specialists in the academic disciplines of philosophy, sociology, science studies, and their sub-divisions. Country team leader for Bulgaria is Assoc. Prof. Ekaterina Markova.

CROATIA

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB)

FEB is the most important institution of higher education and research in economics in Croatia. The Centre for Longitudinal Population Studies (CLPS) at the FEB coordinates the Croatian participation in the SHARE study. The Centre's research activity is focused on international multidisciplinary population surveys, with dominant reliance on longitudinal survey data. Šime Smolić leads the Croatian country team.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Economics Institute (EI) of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

The Economics Institute (EI) of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague is a joint work place with

CERGE (Center of Economic Research and Graduate Education) of Charles University, Prague. Its main expertise is in social, economic and political transition in the Central and Eastern European countries. Radim Bohacek leads the Czech country team.

FRANCE

LEDa-LEGOS, Paris-Dauphine University

The Department of Health Economics and Management (LEDa-LEGOS) at Paris-Dauphine University is one of the leading departments for Health Economics in France. LEGOS's main fields of specialisation are economics of ageing, health inequalities, social security and health systems efficiency. Florence Jusot, Professor of Economics, leads the French country team.

GERMANY

SHARE BERLIN Institute (SBI)

Central coordination of SHARE takes place at the SHARE BERLIN Institute (SBI). SBI is a non-profit company conducting substantive and methodological research at the interface between socio-economic and bio-medical research. SBI is also the host of SHARE-ERIC. David Richter, Professor of Psychology, is the Managing Director of SHARE-ERIC and Principal Investigator of SHARE. Moreover, he is the Director SHARE Infrastructure at the SHARE BERLIN Institute GmbH. The German country team is also based at the SBI in Berlin. Arne Bethmann leads the German Country Team.

GREECE

Panteion University, Athens

Panteion University is a public institution centering on social and political sciences. Economics, sociology, social anthropology and psychology are major disciplines while regional development & public administration are interdisciplinary departments where cross-cutting viewpoints from many disciplines met. Antigone Lyberaki leads the Greek country team.

HUNGARY

Centre for Economic and Regional Studies

The basic activity of the Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, consisting of the Institute of Economics, the Regional Research Institute and the Institute of World Economics, is the scientific analysis of the Hungarian economy, the international economic and political environment, and of economics in general. The Centre undertakes theoretical and empirical studies in the fields of national and world economics, in regional processes and in other interdisciplinary areas of the Social Sciences. Anikó Bíró leads the Hungarian country team.

ISRAEL

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, IGDC

The Israel Gerontological Data Center (IGDC) at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem facilitates research and dissemination of data on ageing, and directs the Israeli participation in the SHARE project. Sharon Shiovitz-Ezra leads the Israeli country team.

ITALY

University of Padua, Dept. of Economics

Padua's Department for Economics and Management covers the whole spectrum of economics and management science, in particular applied econometrics, public and health economics as well as labour economics. Guglielmo Weber leads the Italian country team. He also serves as deputy coordinator of SHARE.

LITHUANIA

Vilnius University, Faculty of Philosophy, Vilnius

The Faculty of Philosophy at Vilnius University conducts fundamental and applied research in the social sciences, humanities, and interdisciplinary fields, contributing to the advancement and dissemination of scientific knowledge in Lithuania and internationally. The faculty's research areas include cultures and societies, psychological factors related to cognition, health, education, work and well-being, social policy, social work and criminology as well as many others. Antanas Kairys leads the Lithuanian country team.

THE NETHERLANDS

Utrecht University School of Economics

The Utrecht University School of Economics focuses on social themes concerning the future of work, behavioural insights for policy making, entrepreneurship, sustainable finance, and sustainability and economic development. Bella Struminskaya leads the Dutch country team.

POLAND

Warsaw School of Economics

Warsaw School of Economics is the oldest university of economics in Poland and one of Europe's leading universities in this field. Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak is the Polish country team leader.

SLOVENIA

Institute for Economic Research Ljubljana (IER)

The Institute for Economic Research (IER) is the leading institute for macroeconomic research in Slovenia, which recently focuses particularly on economic, social and health aspects of structural reforms in Slovenia. Boris Majcen leads the Slovenian country team.

SWEDEN

Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research, Umeå University

Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research (CEDAR) is an interdisciplinary centre for research on long-term demographic trends and ageing from a social science, humanistic and health perspective. Apart from the research CEDAR also produces a number of large longitudinal datasets including both contemporary and historical demographic, socio-economic and health information. Gunnar Malmberg is professor at CEDAR and leader for the Swedish country team.

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