

Editorial

It is SHARE's vision to generate a genuine multidisciplinary pan-European panel survey that follows individuals as they age and react to the changes in the social and economic environment.

SHARE has become a pillar of the European Research Area with a very rapidly increasing number of users, already exceeding the 1000 registration mark.

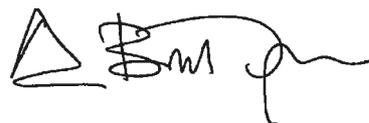
In the near future, from late 2010 onwards, SHARE is scheduled to be financed through a consortium of member countries, the European Union and the U.S. National Institute on Aging.

A well-attended and highly successful Kick-off Conference on April 28 in Delft, Netherlands, initiated the communication process among the future consortium partners. After official speeches by representatives of the Dutch government, the EU DG Research, EU DG Employment and the U.S. National Institute on Aging (NIA), national science ministry representatives conducted round table discussions about the future structure, organization and financing of an enlarged SHARE. The strong presence of national representatives of the European Strategy Forum (ESFRI) of the SHARE countries and the Chair of ESFRI Humanities and Social Sciences shows, how well SHARE is embedded both in national and European research infrastructures.

In presence of the European Union Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik, the SHARE wave 2 data will be released for public access in autumn 2008 in Brussels. He will also present an accompanying book with about 40 papers based on first results of the SHARE wave 2 data. This book presents substantive results from an economic, sociological and public health point of view and demonstrates the vast research potential of the now longitudinal SHARE data set (read more on page 4).

Right before the public release of the SHARE wave 2 data, the pilot study of the SHARE's third wave of data collection, a collection of retrospective life histories of over 30,000 Europeans in 14 countries (SHARELIFE), was successfully finished (read more on page 3).

Mannheim, June 2008, Axel Börsch-Supan, Ph.D.



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Presentation of the family of projects linked to SHARE

SHARE is a group of EU-sponsored projects, building up a bi-annual panel Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe. We use the acronym SHARE (Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe)

for both the entire project bundle and the core project within this bundle. Figure 1 depicts the organizational structure of the SHARE project family.

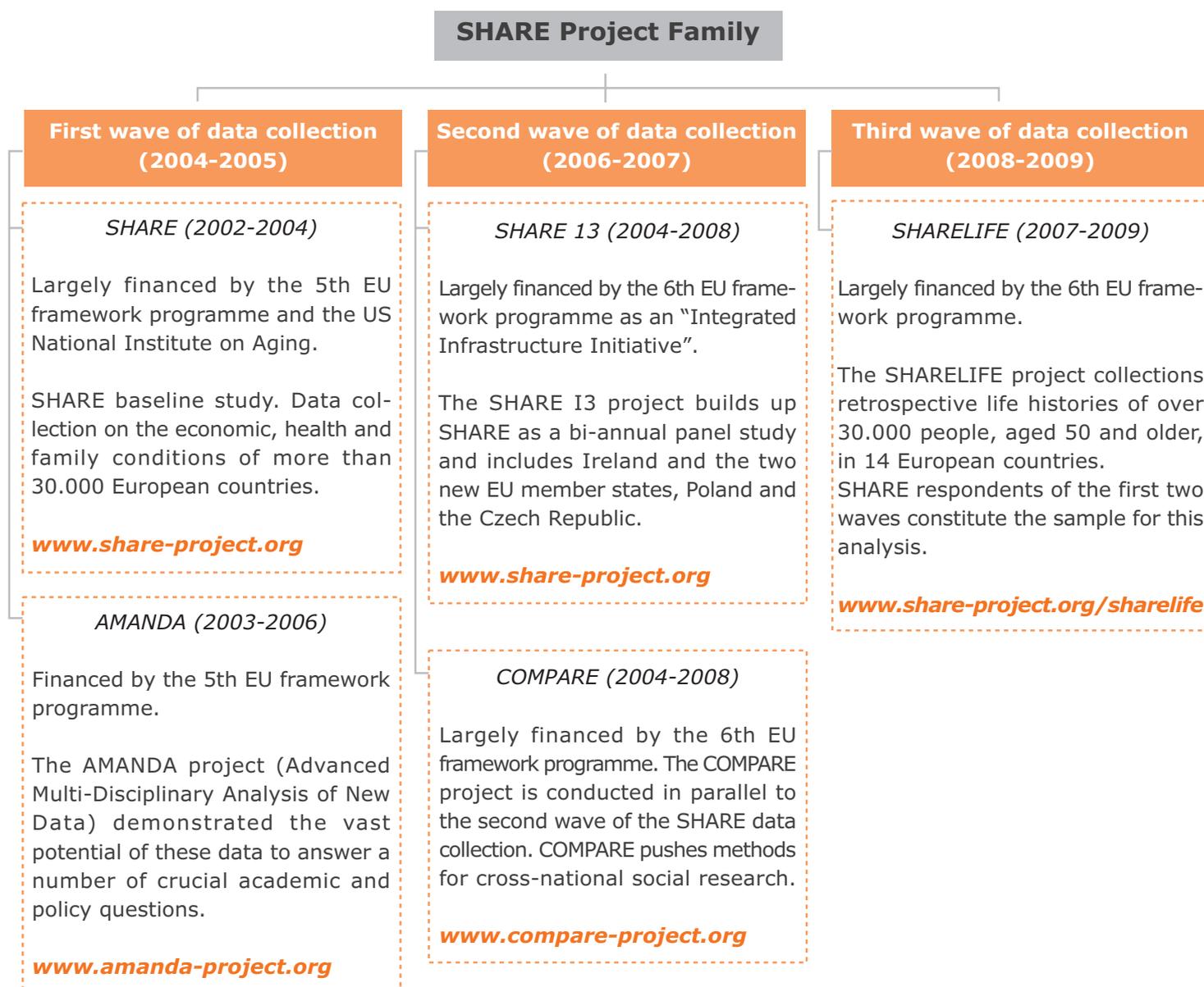


Figure 1: Organizational structure of the SHARE project family

Presentation of the family of projects linked to SHARE

*Today's focus:
SHARE's innovative combination of life
history, micro and institutional macro data*

*SHARELIFE - Employment and Health at
50+: A life history approach to European
welfare state interventions*

In the following section "Today's focus", we give you a quick overview on the latest sub-project of the SHARE project family, SHARELIFE.

In autumn 2008 SHARELIFE will start the third wave of SHARE data collection. Respondents of the first two waves constitute the sample for SHARELIFE. In contrast to the focus on the respondents' current situation in the previous waves of data collection, the new SHARELIFE questionnaire takes a retrospective view on people's lives. All in all, the life histories of over 30.000 people, aged 50 and older, in 14 European countries will be gathered.

The data collection focuses on important events and trajectories in the respondents' lives, particularly with respect to family, housing, work and health. In addition, the individual micro data of life histories are combined with institutional data. This enables researchers to investigate the impact of the European welfare state on individual decision making over the course of several decades.

As the SHARELIFE data are provided for 14 European countries, they provide ample opportunities to observe changes in government programs and laws, which may have influenced individual decisions. This comparative aspect of the data will make it easier to assess the effectiveness of government programs across Europe and to evaluate their influence on the individual in a cross-national and cross-cultural situation.

SHARELIFE is financed by the 6th EU framework programme for a period of three years from January 2007 to December 2009. The project is centrally coordinated at the Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging.

The SHARELIFE website was launched in spring 2008. See www.share-project.org/sharelife

SHARE on stage in research and policy

SHARE-ISRAEL symposium at the biennial scientific meeting of the Israel Gerontological Society February, 4-5 2008, Tel Aviv, Israel

Papers based upon wave 1 data of SHARE-Israel were authored by Leah Achdut and Ramsees Gharrah, Keren Amit, Liat Ayalon, Eliyahu V. Sapir and Howard Litwin.

Annual Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), "Science and Technology from a Global Perspective", February, 14-18 2008, Boston, USA

Presentation of SHARE in the symposium "The Global Dimension of Research Infrastructures". Background of this symposium was the strategic roadmap for new research infrastructures of pan-European relevance, presented by the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) in autumn 2006. SHARE was presented as a European research infrastructure in the context of worldwide research networks.

SHARE PREP Kick-off Conference on April, 28 2008: Delft, Netherlands

On April 28, SHARE reached a new stage on its way of becoming an ESFRI-institution with the kick-off conference in Delft. After official speeches by representatives of the Dutch government, the EU DG Research, EU DG Employment, and the U.S. National Institute on Aging (NIA), and national science ministry representatives conducted round table discussions about the future structure, organization and financing of an enlarged SHARE.

SHARE user conference June, 5 2008, IRDES, Paris, France

The 2nd SHARE French users' conference took place at the Institute for Research and Information in Health Economics (IRDES), Paris (Fr) on Thursday the 5th, June. In presence of French funding agencies, researchers presented papers on labour market participation, social and family issues and life-time aspects, based on panel and cross-sectional SHARE data. It is planned, to publish the papers of the French SHARE user conference, both in renowned French and international journals. The programme and the abstracts of the SHARE user conference will soon be available at www.share-project.fr and www.irdes.fr.

Public release of the SHARE Wave 2 data in autumn 2008, Brussels, Belgium

In presence of the European Union Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik, the public release of the SHARE wave 2 data and the presentation of SHARE's "First Results Book" on the SHARE wave 2 data will be celebrated in autumn 2008 in Brussels. The book comprises around 40 papers on health, ageing and retirement in Europe and on SHARE methods. It also compares SHARE and its sister studies, the English Longitudinal Study on Ageing (ELSA) and the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS).

SHARE research in progress

Findings from the SHARE Working Group "Labour force participation, income and pension rights", led by Agar Brugiavini

Across all projects of the SHARE project family (see figure 1, page 2), at present 18 working groups focus on selected aspects of SHARE's key concepts health, aging and retirement in Europe and method innovation.

In the present issue of the SHARE newsletter, the SHARE working group "Labour force participation, income and pension rights", led by Agar Brugiavini, gives insight in their research.

Health and retirement: what keeps people healthy in old age? Linking healthy ageing to working longer.

Agar Brugiavini- SHARE - University "Ca' Foscari" of Venice

* How do people retire?

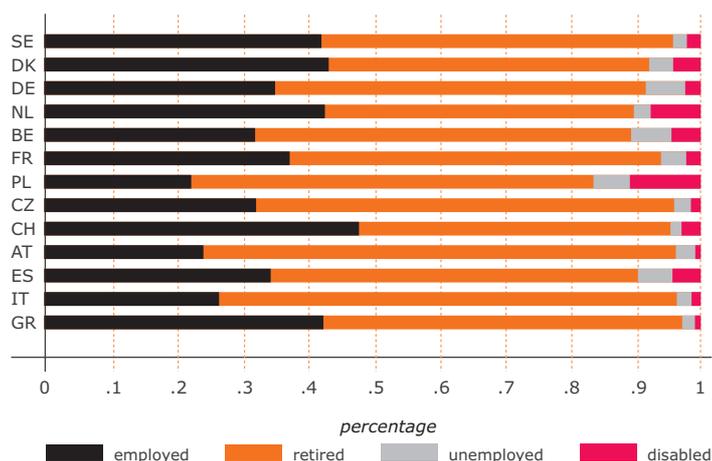
SHARE offers the opportunity to follow individuals over time (between 2004 and 2006) in different countries. Workers are "exposed" to different incentives to exit the labour force according to the prevailing rules and the generosity of the pension system.

The dynamics of retirement are quite complex: people can stop working in many different ways hence it is important to understand the different "pathways to retirement".

Wave 2

Wave 1	Retired	Employed	Unemployed	Disabled	Homemaker	Other	Obs
Retired	92.12	0.70	0.17	1.62	4.56	0.84	6,562
Employed	14.06	78.01	2.80	1.78	2.38	0.98	3,997
Unemployed	23.85	19.26	39.39	4.81	8.74	0.12	457
Disabled	32.50	6.50	0.75	52.50	6.25	1.50	400
Homemaker	15.96	3.20	1.16	3.20	74.36	2.13	2,250
Other	36.84	7.89	2.63	15.79	15.79	21.05	38
Obs	7,219	3,353	333	487	2,145	167	13,704

Economic Activity if functioning age 55-65



For example, looking at the transition matrix one can see that out of 100 workers in 2004, 14 went directly into retirement and a relevant fraction went into other situations of non-employment. Also: if one looks at the first column one can see that 32% of those who were disabled and 24% of those who were unemployed in 2004 went into retirement until 2006. When disaggregating by country: just in a few countries (e.g. Italy) the transition is simply from work to retirement, pathways to retirement are quite common in many countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Germany). It is also common to work – maybe in bridge-jobs – before retirement (Sweden and Denmark).

* Who retires too early? Why?

Early exits from employment are widespread, particularly in Mid-European and Southern European countries. Ill-health plays an important role, but cannot be the only explanation. In fact: it is true that respondents self-report worse health conditions on average when they leave employment, but there is a large percentage of individuals who report no limitations and yet are retired or out of work. In other words there is "unused capacity".

SHARE data updates and alerts

Many SHARE data users have written mails, asking for access to the SHARE wave 2 panel data. We will stick to the SHARE policy to give access to the data as close to the data collection as possible. Hence, the release 1 of the SHARE wave 2 data will take place in autumn 2008, just one year after the end of data collection for wave 2 with over 30.000 respondents across Europe.

All registered users will be alerted by e-mail, as soon as they can download the wave 2 data through the SHARE website. Alternatively, users can gain access SHARE via the Central Archive for Empirical Social Research in Cologne/Germany. For details see the www.gesis.org/en/za/index

Presentation of the SHARE Crew

Meet the members of the SHARE crews in the new EU member states Poland and the Czech Republic who are currently working on implementing SHARE as a longitudinal survey study in their countries



Radim Bohacek received his PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1999. Since 2000, he has taught at CERGE-EI of Charles University and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. He is currently a Senior Researcher at the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Prague. His research interests include general equilibrium models with heterogeneous agents, optimal fiscal and monetary policies, dynamic macroeconomic theory, and models with asymmetric information. With SHARE since 2005



Michał Myck is Research Associate at DIW-Berlin in the Public Economics Department. He is an International Research Fellow at IFS, an affiliated researcher at the MEA and at the University of Warsaw where he coordinates the Polish part of the SHARE project and a research group on microsimulation (SIMPL). He received his B.A. degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (1997) and an M.Phil. degree in Economics (1999) at the University of Oxford. In 2006 he received a Ph.D. degree at the University of Warsaw. His research interests include effectiveness of welfare to work programs, the structure of personal taxes and benefits, and the dynamics of wage distributions

Latest SHARE based publications

The list of SHARE based publications is growing rapidly. It paints a colorful and balanced picture of multidisciplinary research around the key concepts of SHARE: Health, Ageing and Retirement in the European context from an economical, sociological, epidemiological, medical, demographical and social policy perspective. The most recent SHARE based publications are:

Adam, S.; Bonsang, E.; Germain, S.; Perelman, S. (2007): Retraite, activités non professionnelles et vieillissement cognitif. Une exploration à partir des données de Share, *Économie et Statistique* 403-404, 83-96.

Avitabile, C.; Jappelli, T.; Padula, M. (2008): www.share-project.org/papers/wp187.pdf "Screening Tests, Information, and the Health-Education Gradient, Centre for Studies in Economics and Finance CSEF NO. 187.

Blanchet, D.; Debrand, T.; Dourgnon, P.; Laferrère, A. (2007): Santé, vieillissement et retraite en Europe, *Économie et Statistique* 403-404, 3-18.

Blanchet, D.; Debrand, T. (2007): Souhaiter prendre sa retraite le plus tôt possible: santé, satisfaction au travail et facteurs monétaires, *Économie et Statistique* 403-404, 39-62.

Buber, I. (2007): Ageing in Austria: An overview of "Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe" (SHARE) with special focus on aspects of health, *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research* 2007, 309-326, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna. Published Online: DOI: 10.1553/populationyearbook2007s1.

Castro-Costa et al. (2007): Prevalence of depressive symptoms and syndromes in later life in ten European countries - The SHARE study, *British Journal of Psychiatry* 191: 393-401.

Christelis, D.; Georgarakos, D.; Haliassos, M. (2008): www.csef.it/WP/wp194.pdf "Economic

Integration and Mature Portfolios, CSEF Working Paper No. 194, University of Salerno.

Clark, A.; Vicard, A. (2007): Conditions de collecte et santé subjective: une analyse sur données européennes, *Économie et Statistique* 403-404, 143-164.

Debrand, T.; Lengagne, P. (2007): Pénibilité au travail et santé des seniors en Europe, *Économie et Statistique* 403-404, 19-38.

Hank, K.; Schaan, B. (2008): Cross-National Variations in the Correlation Between Frequency of Prayer and Health Among Older Europeans, *Research on Aging*, 30 (1), 36-54.

Hank, K.; Stuck, S. (2008): Ehrenamt, Netzwerkhilfe und Pflege in Europa – Konkurrierende oder komplementäre Dimensionen produktiven Alterns?, in: Marcel Erlinghagen & Karsten Hank (Hrsg.), *Produktives Altern und informelle Arbeit in modernen Gesellschaften [Reihe ‚Alter(n) und Gesellschaft‘]*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 27-50.

Peytremann-Bridevaux, I.; Santos-Eggimann, B. (in press): Health correlates of overweight and obesity in adults aged 50 years and over : Results from the survey of health, ageing and retirement in Europe (SHARE), *Swiss Medical Weekly*.

Peytremann-Bridevaux, I.; Santos-Eggimann, B. (in press): Financial burden of Europeans with, compared to those without, depressive symptoms, *Psychiatric Services*.

Sirven, N.; Debrand, T. (2008): www.irdes.fr/EspaceAnglais/Publications/WorkingPapers/DT7PromotingSocialParticipation.pdf "Promoting Social Participation for Healthy Ageing. A Counterfactual Analysis from the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), IRDES DT n° 7.

Latest SHARE based publications

Wahrendorf, M. / Siegrist, J. (2008): Soziale Produktivität und Wohlbefinden im höheren Lebensalter, in: M. Erlinghagen & K. Hank (Hrsg.), Produktives Altern und informelle Arbeit in modernen Gesellschaften. VS Verlag: Wiesbaden, 51-74.

Wolff, F.C.; Attias-Donfut, C. (2007): Les comportements de transferts intergénérationnels en Europe, Économie et Statistique 403-404, 117-142.

Find the complete list of SHARE based publications on our website: www.share-project.org

Please help us to keep the publication list on the SHARE website up to date. Keep us posted about all your SHARE based publications (Journals, Books, Working Papers) and remember the SHARE acknowledgement policy.

Users are requested to provide references to all papers based on the SHARE data to the SHARE co-ordination team. Moreover, whenever a paper is being written, an acknowledgement should be included in the following form. *Note that the acknowledgement has slightly changed.*

"This paper uses data from release 2 of SHARE 2004. The SHARE data collection has been primarily funded by the European Commission through the 5th framework programme (project QLK6-CT-2001-00360 in the thematic programme Quality of Life). Additional funding came from the US National Institute on Ageing (U01 AG09740-13S2, P01 AG005842, P01 AG08291, P30 AG12815, Y1-AG-4553-01 and OGHA 04-064). Data collection for wave 1 in Austria (through the Austrian Science Foundation, FWF), Belgium (through the Belgian Science Policy Office), Switzerland (through BBW/OFES/UFES), France (through CNAM, CNAV, COR, Drees, Dares, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations et le Commissariat Général du Plan) was nationally funded. The SHARE data collection in Israel was funded by the US National Institute on Aging (R21 AG025169), by the German-Israeli

Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (G.I.F.), and by the National Insurance Institute of Israel. Further support by the European Commission through the 6th framework program (projects SHARE-I3, RII-CT-2006-062193, and COMPARE, CIT5-CT-2005-028857) is gratefully acknowledged. For methodological details see Boersch-Supan and Juerges (2005)."

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