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## Editorial

Dear readers,

summer time has finally arrived and SHARE is busy as ever. The third round of fieldwork has successfully been finished and SHARELIFE data are now running through the data cleaning process. As usual, a first release of the data will be made available as soon as possible. New data arrived but nonetheless we also keep working on data from wave 2 for you. Release 2.2.0 will thus be ready and downloadable via our website by the end of the summer.

For all those working with the data there will be a chance to present the fruit of their efforts in October. The second International SHARE User Conference in Mainz, Germany provides a forum for 'old' and 'new' users to share their experiences with the data and to discuss ongoing research projects. Both cross-sectional and longitudinal papers on all topics covered in SHARE are welcome. For more information on the conference and the call for papers, you should again consult our website.

Preparations for the forth wave of data collection also reached a new level. At the end of June SHARE's newly formed questionnaire board got together and discussed possible further improvements.

Last but not least SHARE as a European research infrastructure has taken important steps at the recent SHARE-ESFRI meeting in Ludwigsburg. The Federal Republic of Germany has officially

taken over the position as a host country and most of the other member countries demonstrated their future support for SHARE by signing a memorandum of understanding. SHARE thus has many reasons to enjoy the summer.

We hope the same is true for you,  
Sincerely,  
Prof. Axel Boersch-Supan, Ph.D.  
Mannheim, August 2009

## **SHARE on stage in research and policy**

SHARE travels around the globe, making it impossible to name all events. We hope to have selected a representative collection of the past months.

### *3rd International Congress of GIP SPSI, Paris, December 8-9, 2009*

The congress organized by GIP, the public interest group for health and social protection in the international arena, dealt with health and social welfare in the face of greater life expectancy and the drop in birth rates on a global scale. Challenges and possible answers were discussed as well as the possibility of a European and international comparison. French country team leader Anne Laferrère from INSEE and her colleague Nicolas Sirven from IR DES represented SHARE at the colloquium and offered insights into the topic of ageing in Europe.

### *Seminar on Attrition and Non-Response in Longitudinal Studies of Ageing (ELSA, SHARE, HRS), London, March 23, 2009*

In the session dedicated to the comparison of survey design and response rates, SHARE was represented by SHARELIFE assistant coordinator M. Schroeder. He had contributed to a paper on response rate comparisons, which highlighted some of the complexities around comparing HRS, SHARE and ELSA directly. Further on, SHARE working group members G. De Luca and F. Peracchi gave a presentation about determinants of the attrition process in the first two waves of SHARE in the session on attrition and factors affecting non-response. They mainly discussed three potential sources – mortality, survey design, and individual decisions associated with leaving a panel.

### *SHARE at the Research Connection organized by the European Commission, Prague, May 7-8, 2009*

In Prague representatives from science, economy, industry and the media got together during the 'Research Connection'. Parallel sessions, press briefings and forums underscored the importance of science and research with regard to the key challenges of our age. The conference was complemented by an exhibition of selected EU-funded projects, among them SHARE. At the well-visited SHARE stand interested attendees were given the opportunity to learn more about the latest results, the methods and devices used for SHARE data collection, and about the project in general.

### *2nd Belgian SHARE Conference, Brussels, May 28, 2009*

At this conference results of SHARE-data analyses were presented to some 60 social and economic researchers, policy makers and other interested parties. Next to Hendrik Juerges' presentation on social trust and health and Sergio Perelman's discourse on the link between

retirement and cognitive reserve, the diversity of the SHARE-data was also illustrated by four paper sessions on welfare, intergenerational solidarity, labour and methodological issues. A number of papers and presentations can be consulted on [www.share-project.be/event01.htm](http://www.share-project.be/event01.htm)

### *3rd Conference of the European Survey Research Association, Warsaw, June 29-July 3, 2009*

SHARE researchers were present at the biannual conference of the European Survey Research Association in Warsaw. Barbara Schaan gave a talk about the monitoring of SHARE's survey agencies, and Kirsten Alcsér contributed with the newly developed SHARE quality profile for SHARE's third wave, SHARELIFE. Mathis Schroeder chaired a session on "Health Surveys in Europe", where SHARE was introduced as a prime example of comparative health research in Europe. Finally, Sabrina Zuber showed work (joined with Mathis Schroeder) on how SHARE's data quality is related to the age of the respondent.

### **SHARE-ESFRI Conference in Ludwigsburg, July 24, 2009**

#### **SHARE – Desiring to further strengthen Europe's position in research in the world, and to intensify scientific co-operation across disciplinary and national boundaries**

While SHARE has been funded since its beginnings in 2002 by the European Commission under Framework Programmes 5 to 7, some time ago it took on the task to join the so called roadmap process of the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). This means that funding for the survey is passed from the European to the national level, enabling the many different SHARE countries to contribute to the development of the European Research Area. With funding on national level the countries provide their share in strengthening Europe's position in the research world.

At the SHARE-ESFRI Conference in Ludwigsburg Dr. Beatrix Vierkorn-Rudolph from the German Ministry of Education and Research and Vice-Chair of ESFRI, discussed the procedures and developments within the ESFRI process with the assembled representatives from ministries and scientific institutions of the SHARE countries:

The first European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures was published in 2006 and upgraded in 2008, aiming for "an open and competitive access to European and global research infrastructures based on excellence." SHARE was chosen as one of the 44 projects on the ESFRI roadmap to be implemented.

In May 2009 the Council of the European Union approved the European Legal Framework "ERIC" (European Research Infrastructure Consortium), which will facilitate the implementation of the legal frames for such research infrastructures. ERIC gives research infrastructures some privileges and exceptions that usually only international organisations do have. Examples are the exemption from VAT and excise duties. An ERIC has to take its domicile in one of the research infrastructure's member states and it needs an assembly of members (shareholders), which appoints a director. To set up an ERIC, this consortium draws up statutes and submits the project to the European Commission for approval.

Following the introductory explanations of Dr. Vierkorn-Rudolph, SHARE's project coordinator, Prof. Axel Boersch-Supan, gave detailed insight into the planned SHARE-ERIC in terms of governance, time lines and financial issues. The first step to be taken in Ludwigsburg was the ratification of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) by representatives from the SHARE

countries, expressing their will to support the survey. The morning session was perfected by a fruitful discussion about this memorandum, its contents and aims. The different countries reported on the state of affairs with regard to the ESFRI process and also discussed future steps to be taken by SHARE as a European research infrastructure and ERIC.

***SHARE is considered worldwide to be a model survey which makes both national and European policies more effective.***  
**(Prof. Dr. Frieder Meyer-Krahmer)**

In the afternoon the representatives from ministries and scientific institutions were welcomed in Ludwigsburg's chateau by Dr. Beatrix-Vierkorn on behalf of Prof. Dr. Frieder Meyer-Krahmer, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. In his statement, which she delivered to the audience, he stressed the importance of the social and economic sciences and the humanities, calling upon them to regain their role in the shaping of societies. At the same time he rewarded SHARE's major contribution to this end as "a model survey which makes both national and European policies more effective." Considering demography as a challenge on the European but also on the national level, fostered the German Federal Republic's decision to support SHARE in the future. Not only will Germany be the host country for the SHARE-ERIC, but the Ministry of Education and Research will provide financial support for the central coordination of the project, situated at the Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging.

***We are proud to have a major pillar of SHARE located in our state.***  
**(Dr. Claudia Huebner)**

Dr. Claudia Huebner, State Minister for Demography and for Senior Citizens at the State Ministry of Baden-Wuerttemberg showed herself delighted and thanked Germany's national government for what she called the right decision.

Besides Germany, most of the other SHARE member countries later on signed the memorandum of understanding. SHARE thereby took the first steps to establish an ERIC. In the time to come, the signatories of the MoU will get together and form a steering committee, which will discuss the above mentioned statutes and submit the proposal to the Commission.

After the signing ceremony, the afternoon ended with insights into SHARE's three research areas, namely economics, health and sociology. Prof. Axel Boersch-Supan presented Europe as a laboratory for research on ageing, unfolding its many opportunities and strengths. As a result of this research he had selected some findings which focused on the correlations between health, wealth, work and happiness. Mauricio Avendano, Ph.D., represented the health area and depicted the interrelations of socioeconomic status and health. And Prof. Howard Litwin, SHARE's area coordinator for sociology, reported on new findings from SHARE's wave 2 with the main focus on family structure and dynamics, social exchange and engagement as well as the subjective quality of networks.

Speeches, statements, presentations and pictures are available on [www.share-project.org](http://www.share-project.org).

## Impressions from the SHARE-ESFRI Conference

SHARE countries signing the memorandum of understanding



Prof. Axel Boersch-Supan, Dr. Beatrix Vierkorn-Rudolph and Dr. Claudia Huebner



During the morning session



## SHARE research in progress

Radim Bohacek and Michal Myck on the transition countries Czech Republic and Poland and their labour markets

- *What are the advantages of having included the Czech Republic and Poland in the SHARE sample?*

Poland and the Czech Republic are an interesting extension for the sample due to their specific histories and their populations' experiences. In no other SHARE country, with the exception of Germany, have populations gone through such major shake-ups of the political and economic systems as in the Czech Republic and Poland. Moreover, no other part of the population has

been more significantly subjected to the “shock therapy” of the economic transition than the cohorts represented in the SHARE data.

- *Where do you see differences between the Czech Republic and Poland and the other SHARE countries?*

Both countries joined the European Union in 2004 but their level of economic prosperity is still much lower compared to the EU average. In the field of key health indicators the two countries are also lagging behind, for example when it comes to life expectancy at birth.

- *Are there any differences between the Czech Republic and Poland as transition countries?*

The two countries differ in many respects. The PPP-adjusted GDP per capita in the Czech Republic is significantly higher compared to Poland. In turn, Poland is much larger and much more populous with a higher share of agricultural population. Also the countries' approaches to transition as well as the depth of the recession following the collapse of the old regimes were different. In Poland, the trough of the recession occurred earlier in 1991 compared to 1993 in the Czech Republic and it was more pronounced. One should therefore avoid false generalizations by aggregating the two countries into a ‘transition group’.

- *In short, what can you tell us with regard to the 50+ labour markets of the two countries?*

In both countries the transition from central planning to the free market has strongly affected the 50+ individuals but the Czech population has maintained a much greater labour market involvement. In Poland the levels of employment are significantly lower than in the Czech Republic, and labour market conditions of those who are working seem to be much inferior. In many aspects of job quality both transition countries lag behind compared to other SHARE countries. However, in several respects the conditions in the Czech Republic are very much like those in EU10-North countries\*. This similarity is also very clear in the expressed desire to retire as early as possible from the current job, which is much more common in Poland than in the Czech Republic.

\* EU10 countries: South (Greece, Italy, and Spain), North (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden)

- *Can you give us some specific results?*

Comparing the Czech Republic and Poland with the other SHARE countries, one will see that there is a very high proportion of retired women in the age group 50-64 in the two transition countries. Further on, Poland has a higher proportion of permanently sick and disabled people. But the perhaps most worrying feature is the low level of employment among men and women in Poland. In the Czech Republic the labour market status of the 50+ population can be distinguished by the fact that a great majority of both men and women fall into either the working or retired category. Such distribution suggests that individuals retire relatively early, and that the transition is a direct one, from work to retirement. This pattern is confirmed when we look at the age of retirement among those who are already retired.

Radim Bohacek, Ph.D., is the SHARE country team leader for the Czech Republic and is currently working at the Czech Academy of Sciences. Dr. Michal Myck is the SHARE country team leader for Poland and is currently working at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW).

For more results on the 50+ labour markets, retirement decisions and perceived job quality please consult the full text available on the SHARE website:

Bohacek, R. and M. Myck. (2008). Czech Republik and Poland. The 50+ on Labour Markets in Transition. In: A. Boersch-Supan et al. Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (2004-2007) – Starting the longitudinal dimension, 84-92. Mannheim: MEA.

## **SHARE data updates and alerts**

SHARE releases 2.2.0 of wave 1 and wave 2 will soon be available for scientific use free of charge. Some of the most important updates and changes in releases 2.2.0 are listed below. For more detailed information on the datasets you may consult the new documentation, which will be available with the releases on the SHARE website ([www.share-project.org](http://www.share-project.org)).

- Data from Ireland is now included.
- IDs and merging of data files: The first release of wave 2 introduced a new identification system, which is now also implemented in wave 1.
- Missing codes: When respondents reply with “don’t know” (DK) or refuse (RF) to answer a question, consistent missing value codes are included.
- Country of birth and citizenship are now coded for all respondents of wave 1.
- Known issues in coding etc. were corrected.

Registered SHARE users can access the data with their current login code and password. New users have to register only once. The login code and password are valid for all subsequent releases and future waves of data. You can download the data via the SHARE website.

## **Presentation of the SHARE Crew**

### **SHARE Country Survey Operators (CSO)**

In most SHARE countries the country team leader is assisted by a survey operator, who performs the operational work of the survey. Operators are in day-to-day contact with the survey agencies and organize the national training session for the interviewers. They function as their country’s database management in accordance with the central database management (in Mannheim, Germany), adjudicating translation, taking care of the gross sample and checking and cleaning the data. Their tasks also include the local budget administration and audit reports as well as the administrative part of annual and midterm reports, public relations and the preparation of meetings with funders.

### **Aaron van den Heede, CSO for the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium, Flanders**

In 2008 Aaron van den Heede obtained a Master Degree in Sociology from Ghent University. Two months later he started working as a junior researcher at the Herman Deleeck Centre for Social

Policy at the University of Antwerp. His research focuses on the impact of social stratification and social inequality on the well-being of elderly. Other research interests are ageing in general, social inclusion and leisure activities among the elderly.



### **Danilo Cavapozzi, CSO for Italy**

Danilo Cavapozzi is a research officer at the University of Padova. He holds a Laurea degree in Statistics and Economics and a Ph.D. in Economics and Management from the same university. His Ph.D. thesis empirically investigates the determinants of the labour supply of the elderly in Europe placing particular attention on the role played by human capital, health and institutional settings. His main SHARE activities include data analyses supporting the income imputation working group. As part of the COMPARE project, he has used SHARE anchoring vignettes to study the comparability of quality of life indicators based on self-assessments. His research interests cover microeconometrics, labour economics and health economics.



### **Selection of latest SHARE based publications**

Achdut, L. and D. Biton. (2008). Employment, Standard of Living and Economic Gaps Among Persons Aged 50 and Over: Israel in a European Perspective. *Social Security - Journal of Welfare and Social Security Studies* 76: 125-51.

Angelini, V., D. Cavapozzi, L. Corazzini, and O. Paccagnella. (2009). Do Danes and Italians rate life satisfaction in the same way? Using vignettes to correct for individual-specific scale biases. "Marco Fanno" Working Paper no. 90. University of Padua, Department of Economics and Management "Marco Fanno".

Attias-Donfut, C. and N. Sirven (Eds). (2009). *Emploi et retraite en Europe. Enquete SHARE. Retraite et Société* 57 (June 2009).

Avendano, M., M. Glymour, J. Banks, and J.P. Mackenbach. (2009). Health Disadvantage in US

Adults Aged 50 to 74 Years: A Comparison of the Health of Rich and Poor Americans With That of Europeans. *Am J Public Health* 99: 540-48.

Boersch-Supan, A., K. Hank, H. Juerges, and M. Schroeder (Hrsg.). (2009). *50+ in Deutschland und Europa – Ergebnisse des Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europa* [Series 'Alter(n) und Gesellschaft']. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag fuer Sozialwissenschaften.

Bonsang, E. (2009). Does informal care from children to their elderly parents substitute for formal care in Europe?. *Journal of Health Economics* 28: 143-54.

Brandt, Martina (2009): *Hilfe zwischen Generationen. Ein europäischer Vergleich*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag fuer Sozialwissenschaften.

Brandt, M., K. Haberkern, and M. Szydlik. (2009). Help and Care Between Generations in Europe. *European Sociological Review*, forthcoming. DOI:10.1093/esr/jcn076.

Brunello, G., M. Fort, and G. Weber. (2009). Changes in Compulsory Schooling, Education and the Distribution of Wages in Europe. *The Economic Journal* 119 (March): 516-39.

Czapinski, J. (2009). Psychological and social well-being of Poles aged 50+ compared to selected European societies. *CenEA Research Note Series (RN01en/09)*.

Datta Gupta, N., N. Kristensen, and D. Pozzoli. (2009). External Validation of the Use of Vignettes in Cross-Country Health Studies. *IZA DP No. 3989*.

Denny, Kevin. (2008). Handedness and depression: Evidence from a large population survey. *Laterality: Asymmetries of Body, Brain and Cognition* 14(3): 246-55.

Gwozdz, W. and A. Sousa-Poza. (2009). Ageing, Health and Life Satisfaction of the Oldest Old: An Analysis for Germany. *IZA DP No. 4053*.

Hank, K., and I. Buber. (2009). Grandparents Caring for their Grandchildren. Findings from the 2004 Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe. *Journal of Family Issues* 30(1): 53-73.

Igel, C., M. Brandt, K. Haberkern, and M. Szydlik. (2009). Specialization Between Family and State. Intergenerational Time Transfers in Western Europe. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies* 40(2): 203-27.

Juerges, H. and K. Hank. (2009). The Last Year of Life in Europe: Initial Findings from the SHARE Study. *MEA Discussion Paper (177-09)*. University of Mannheim.

Litwin, H. and E.V. Sapir. (2009). Perceived Income Adequacy Among Older Adults in 12 Countries: Findings from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe. *The Gerontologist* 49(3): 397-496.

Paccagnella, O., V. Rebba, and G. Weber. (2008). Voluntary private health care insurance among the over fifties in Europe: a comparative analysis of SHARE data. "Marco Fanno" Working Paper no. 86. University of Padua, Department of Economics and Management "Marco Fanno".

Find the complete list of SHARE based publications on our website: [www.share-project.org](http://www.share-project.org)  
Please help us to keep this list up-to-date by informing us about all your SHARE based

publications. Moreover, remember to include the user acknowledgement in all of them. The text of the acknowledgement can be found in the section "Access the data" of the SHARE website.

## Contact

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### Imprint

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