

## Editorial

*Welcome to the first SHARE newsletter, the multidisciplinary Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe ([www.share-project.org](http://www.share-project.org)). SHARE is co-ordinated at the Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging. It is funded by the European Commission, the US National Institute on Aging and national sources.*



SHARE strives to understand ageing and how it affects middle-aged and older individuals in diverse European cultural and welfare settings. For this, SHARE's ex-ante harmonized cross-national dimension is indispensable. One member of the SHARE project family, the COMPARE project, pushes the design of internationally comparable measures of quality of life. It was launched in 2006 (read more page 2).

The data is easily and conveniently accessible through CentER-data (<http://www.uvt.nl/centerdata/en/>) and the Central Archive for Empirical Social Research, Cologne (<http://www.gesis.org/en/za/index.htm>).

SHARE has been writing a success story from its beginning in 2002. In 2004, about 30,000 Europeans reported in the first wave of data collection on their economic, health and family conditions. The eleven participating countries represented the Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark), Western European countries (Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland), and the Mediterranean (Spain, Italy, Greece). Meanwhile, the second wave of data collection is done. The second wave includes additionally Central European countries with the Czech Republic and Poland. Ireland and Israel came on board, too. Just having finished the second wave of data collection, we are already planning for the third wave. Our future ambition is to cover all 27 members of the European Union, plus Israel and Switzerland.

The number of registered users of SHARE wave 1 data has been growing rapidly since the release 1 in April 2005: at present CentER data in the Netherlands has registered more than 700 scientific users from Europe and overseas (read more page 3).

The anticipated release 2.0.1 of the wave 1 data was published in July 2007. It includes more data from more countries (Israel, Belgium), including vignette data. Apart from that, the SHARE team worked hard to improve the overall user-friendliness. SHARE wave 1, release 2.0.1, now includes generated variables, ISCO coding for occupations and industries, ISCED coding for education, multiple imputations and a revised and more detailed documentation (read more page 5).

The rapidly growing list of publications on our website reflects the productivity and multi-disciplinarity of the SHARE group and the users of the SHARE dataset. The list of publications is composed of a well-balanced analysis of SHARE's core concepts within the European context: health, retirement, labour force participation, productive ageing (volunteering, informal work and support), relations and support between the generations. The represented disciplines range from economics, sociology, psychology to public health.

The relevance of SHARE for policy and practice is demonstrated in numerous publications, e.g. about the utilization of health care and socio-economic inequality. The link to the COMPARE project and various methodical papers of the SHARE group substantiates SHARE's ambition to push method innovation for cross-national social research.

SHARE has been selected to be one of the 35 European strategic research infrastructures (ESFRI), forming the back bone of the European Research Area (ERA). This newsletter will document data releases and alert to important publications and conferences. It will accompany the creation of a genuinely multidisciplinary longitudinal knowledge base to tackle one of the big challenges of the 21st century: ageing and demographic change.

Mannheim, November 2007



## Presentation of the family of projects linked to the SHARE Project



Today's focus:  
SHARE's emphasis on ex-ante harmonized  
cross-national social research

### COMPARE – The Toolbox for Improving the Comparability of Cross-National Survey Data with Applications to SHARE

SHARE is a group of EU-sponsored projects that will build up a Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe:

- ✦ The original SHARE project ([www.share-project.org](http://www.share-project.org)) was largely financed by the 5th framework programme, in 2004 a first wave of data on the economic, health and family conditions of about 30,000 respondents aged 50 years and over was collected in 11 European countries
- ✦ The AMANDA project (<http://www.amanda-project.org/>): First analyses of the data were also financed by EU FP5 in the AMANDA project (Advanced Multi-Disciplinary Analysis of New Data). They showed the vast potential of these data to answer a number of crucial academic and policy questions.
- ✦ The SHARE I3 project: The second wave of data collection was finished in summer 2007. It includes Poland, the Czech Republic and Ireland, mostly financed by the 6th framework programme as an "Integrated Infrastructure Initiative".
- ✦ The COMPARE project was conducted in parallel to the second wave of the SHARE data collection. As described in more detail below, this project pushes methods for cross-national social research.
- ✦ The SHARELIFE project: The third wave of data collection will be different from the previous two waves. The longitudinal aspect will not change, such that the same persons are interviewed again. But while the first waves contained mainly questions about the current situation, SHARELIFE will instead focus on the life history of the respondents. The third wave is expected to collect data from about 30,000 people, aged 50 and over, from 14 countries.

The COMPARE project collects survey data aimed at creating internationally comparable measures of several dimensions of the quality of life - health, economic position, work disability, contacts with family and friends, health care quality, political efficacy, and satisfaction with life as a whole. Its full name is "Toolbox for Improving the Comparability of Cross-National Survey Data with Applications to SHARE".

Quality of life is typically measured with subjective questions, such as "how good is your health?" with possible answers "very good", "good", "moderate", "fair" or "poor." International comparisons of such answers may be biased if people in different countries use these response scales differently. For example, someone in Denmark may answer his health is "very good," but someone with exactly the same health but living in Germany may answer "good." COMPARE aims at making answers comparable by correcting for such response scale differences. The method that is used for this is the technique of anchoring vignettes.

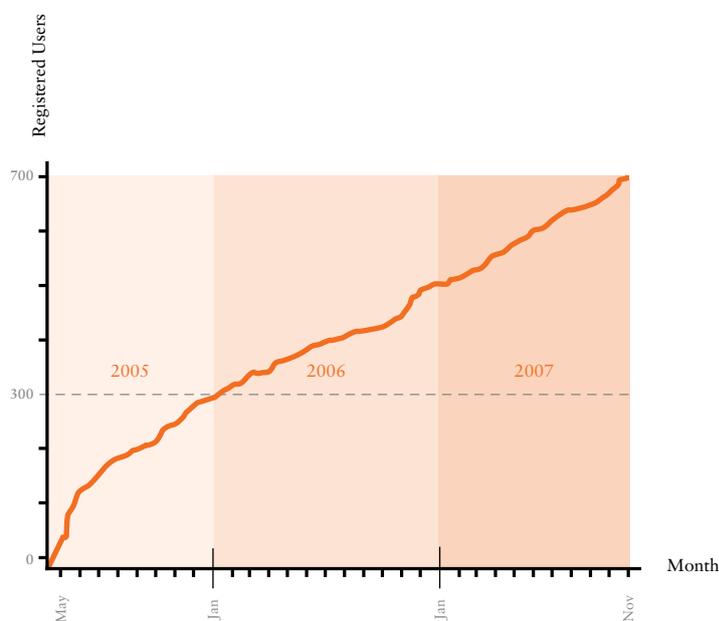
Anchoring vignettes are short descriptions of, e.g., the health or job characteristics of hypothetical persons. Respondents are asked to evaluate the hypothetical persons on the same scale on which they assess their own health or job. Respondents are thus providing an anchor, which fixes their own health assessment to a predetermined health status or job characteristic. These anchors can then be used to make subjective assessments comparable across countries and socio-economic groups.

Data collection is in parallel to the SHARE data collection in waves 2004 and 2006 and follows the same procedures. The sample covers respondents of age 50 and older and their spouses in 10 EU countries: Sweden, Germany, Poland, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Czech Republic, Spain, Italy and Greece. Similar data will also be collected in Denmark (funded by NIA). In all other countries data collection is funded by the European Commission (CIT5-CT-2005-028857).

See for details: <http://www.compare-project.org/>

## How many people use the SHARE wave 1 data?

The number of registered users of SHARE wave 1 data has been growing rapidly since the first public release (Release 1). At present, the CentERdata SHARE archive has more than 704 registered users. At present some 20 new users register each month through the SHARE website.



## Who are the users of SHARE wave 1 data?

	University	Academic research institution	Public Policy Institution	Total
Austria	30	11	5	46
Belgium	31	7	13	51
Czech Republic	1	0	0	1
Denmark	14	2	0	16
Finland	3	4	3	10
France	22	12	5	39
Germany	130	21	4	155
Greece	9	1	1	11
Ireland	8	0	0	8
Italy	62	6	5	73
Netherlands	55	12	2	69
Poland	4	1	0	5
Spain	21	7	6	34
Sweden	13	2	2	17
UK	58	3	1	62
Other	16	0	0	0
<b>NON EU COUNTRIES</b>				
Israel	5	0	0	5
Switzerland	24	2	4	30
USA	57	3	0	60
Other	11	0	1	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>704</b>

A look at the registered users list clearly demonstrates that SHARE has reached the main target groups: academia and public policy institutions such as communes, ministries, the European Commission or international organizations like the OECD or WHO.

Apart from continental European scientists, more than 120 researchers in the US and UK asked for access to the SHARE data set. These are the countries where the SHARE sister studies, the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the English Longitudinal Study on Ageing (ELSA) are located.

### The SHARE project on stage in research and policy:

#### *Conference on Healthy Ageing and Retirement, 3 July 2007, Brussels:*

The well-attended and received conference looked at various linkages between employment, health, active ageing and retirement, mainly based on SHARE data. The conference consisted of three sessions. Session 1 was about “Health and Social Protection as Investment: Health and Health Behaviour and their Link to Socio-Economic Status” with a paper from Johan Mackenbach (Erasmus University, Rotterdam). The second session addressed “Health and retirement – what keeps people healthy in old age, linking Healthy Ageing to working longer” with a paper by Agar Brugiavini (University of Venice). The third session had the topic “Beyond Work and Formal Protection: Social Productivity, Family Care and Family Transfers” with a paper by Martin Kohli (European University Institute). The conference ended with a panel discussion about ways to improve our knowledge base.

#### *Pre-conference SHARE meeting on the 6th World Congress of the International Health Economics Association (IHEA) on Friday, July 5th in Lund:*

In a pre-conference session, members of the SHARE-team presented samples of their work to an interested audience that had come (despite the dreadful weather) to Lund, Sweden. This forum was ideal to raise awareness for SHARE, especially among American researchers. Brigitte Santos-Eggimann (University of Lausanne) focused on the growing problem of obesity in Europe, specifically in relation to health care utilization and general health effects. Mauricio Avendano (Erasmus University, Rotterdam) contributed with a paper on wealth-health gradients across Europe and the United States. Finally, Kristian Bolin (Lund University) analyzed the economic relationships between formal and informal health care for the elderly in Europe.

#### *SHARE User conference, 8 October 2007, Brussel, Belgium:*

The first Belgian SHARE user conference took place on 8 October 2007 at the centre “Amazone” in Brussels. More than 50 registered users and interested scientists, including representatives of public and private institutions, were informed about the latest and future developments of the SHARE project. Survey methodological and data issues were clarified and experiences with the SHARE wave 1 data discussed. The program was varied and multidisciplinary with theoretical, methodological, practical and more applied presentations: Sergio Perelman (CREPP-Université de Liège) and Karel Van den Bosch (CSB-University of Antwerp) introduced the SHARE project and the research project on the life-histories in the SHARE – sample (SHARELIFE). Karel Van den Bosch focused on methodological issues such as the sampling design, weighting procedures and imputations. Eric Bonsang (Université de Liège) presented his work on the issue of substitution of formal by informal care. Dimitri Mortelmans (CELLO- University of Antwerp) presented data on social support in Europe. Bert Weemaes (MO-Catholic University of Leuven) presented his findings on the impact of preference variation on volunteering decisions. Steven Gorré (CSB- University of Antwerp) investigated the impact of involuntary (“forced”) retirement on depression. The presentations can be found on the new bilingual Belgian SHARE website, see <http://www.share-project.be>.

#### *SHARE conference, 14 November 2007, Jerusalem, Israel:*

In this conference, first results of SHARE Israel, collected from October, 2005 through July, 2006 will be presented. The papers to be presented are grouped according to findings related to economic aspects, health-related topics and social welfare. The papers presented at the conference will be published afterwards in a special double issue of the Israeli journal Social Security (Bitachon Soziali). The conference will be held at the prestigious Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Leah Achdut, currently at the Van Leer Institute, and Howard Litwin are the conference co-chairs. SHARE-Israel is administered by the Israel Gerontological Data Center at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, with support from The Israeli National Insurance Institute, the National Institute of Aging of the National Institutes of Health (US) and the German-Israeli Fund for Research and Development.

## SHARE data updates and alerts

### *Spotlight: SHARE release 2.0.1 now available!*

We have good news for you: Release 2.0.1 of SHARE wave 1 data was published in July 2007. Registered users of SHARE wave 1, release 1, data do not have to register again. Their login code and password is still valid!

Release 2.0.1. of SHARE wave 1 data has the following new features:

#### **More Data: Inclusion of data from Belgium and Israel**

 The SHARE dataset offers ex-ante harmonized data from now altogether 12 countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland). The data from Israel are preliminary.

#### **New or enlarged data modules:**

-  Improved multiple imputations: Compared to release 1 an extensive overhaul of the imputation process has been performed. The definition of total gross household income now excludes imputed rent from owner-occupied housing.
-  Original cover screen data on household level
-  Cover screen data on respondent level includes all household members (also non-eligible persons, e.g. children)
-  Vignettes
-  ISCO coding of occupations & NACE coding of industries
-  ISCED coding of education also available for children and interviewers
-  Generated variables for housing and region: NUTS codes and combined information on housing
-  Generated variables for support and household composition: additional variables on household composition

 Overall improved user-friendliness (more detailed documentation, release history, language variables etc.)

 Although extensive data cleaning has been done for SHARE Release 2 users should nevertheless check the data for potential problems like outliers etc. With regard to financial questions more cleaning has been done in the imputations files than in the ordinary CAPI modules

 Feedback is much appreciated: In case you spot errors, please let us know! Contact: Stephanie Stuck,

[stuck@mea.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:stuck@mea.uni-mannheim.de)

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 using the release 2 of the SHARE data, a disclaimer and an acknowledgement should be included in the following form:

“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 OGH04-064). Data collection in Austria (through the Austrian Science Foundation, FWF), Belgium (through the Belgian Science Policy Office) and Switzerland (through BBW/OFES/UFES) 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).”



## Presentation of the SHARE crew

*Meet two members of the SHARE crew who did the major share of the work to make release 2.0.1 possible:  
Dimitris Cristelis and Stephanie Stuck*



Dimitris Christelis is a SHARE research fellow at the Centre for Studies in Economics and Finance, University of Salerno. He has a bachelor in economics from the Athens School of Economics and Business and a Ph.D in economics from the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include: household saving and portfolio choice, micro simulation, imputation of missing data.



Stephanie Stuck is a SHARE research fellow at the Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging. She did her master in political science and psychology at Mannheim University. Her research is on methods of comparative research and on social capital in Europe.

## SHARE based publications in 2007

The list of SHARE based publications is growing rapidly and 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:

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

Check out the new national SHARE websites as well:

SHARE Belgium

<http://www.share-project.be>

SHARE France

<http://www.irdes.fr/EspaceAnglais/International/ShareSurvey.html>

SHARE Germany

<http://www.share-project.org/deutsch/>

SHARE Ireland

<http://geary.ucd.ie/share/index.php>

SHARE Israel

<http://igdc.huji.ac.il/>

SHARE Italy

<http://venus.unive.it/share/>



## Selection of latest SHARE based publications from 2007

**Albertini, M.; Kohli, M.; Vogel, C.** (2007): Transfers of Time and Money among Elderly Europeans and their Children: Common Patterns - Different Regimes?, *Journal of European Social Policy*, forthcoming

**Andreyeva, T.; Michaud, P.C.; van Soest, A.** (2007): Obesity and Health in Europeans aged 50 years and older, *Public Health* (121) 7, 497-509.

**Boersch-Supan, A.** (2007): Work Disability, Health, And Incentive Effects, *MEA Discussion Paper 135-2007*, University of Mannheim.

**Boersch-Supan, A.** (2007): European Welfare State Regimes And Their Generosity Towards the Elderly, *MEA Discussion Paper 128-2007*, University of Mannheim.

**Bolin, K.; Lindgren, B.; Lundborg, P.** (2007): Informal And Formal Care Among Single-Living Elderly In Europe, *Tinbergen Institute Discussion Paper (TI 2007-031/3)*.

**Bonsang, E.** (2007): How do Middle-Aged Children Allocate Time and Money Transfers to their Older Parents in Europe?, *Empirica*, forthcoming.

**Castro-Costa, E.; Dewey, M.; Stewart, R.; Banerjee, S.; Huppert, F.; Mendoca-Lima, C.; Bula, C.; Reisches, F. et al.** (2007): Prevalence of Depressive Symptoms and Syndromes in Later Life in Ten European Countries, *The British Journal of Psychiatry* 191, 393-401, doi: 10.1192/bjp.bp.107.036772.

**Hank, K.** (2007): Proximity and Contacts between Older Parents and Their Children: A European Comparison, *Journal of Marriage and Family* (69) 1, 157-173.

**Hank, K.; Jürges, H.** (2007): Gender and the Division of Household Labor in Older Couples: A European Perspective, *Journal of Family Issues* (28) 3, 399-421.

**Hank, K.; Schaan, B.** (2007): Cross-National Variations in the Correlation Between Frequency of Prayer and Health Among Older Europeans, *Research on Aging* (forthcoming).

**Jürges, H.** (2007): True Health vs. Response Styles: Exploring Cross-Country Differences in Self-Reported Health, *Health Economics* (16) 2, 163-178.

**Kalwij, A.; Vermeulen, F.** (2007): Health and Labour Force Participation of Older People in Europe: What Do Objective Health Indicators Add to the Analysis?, *Health Economics* (Published Online: DOI: 10.1002/hec.1285).

**Knesebeck, O.v.d.; Wahrendorf, M.; Hyde, M.; Siegrist, J.** (2007): Socioeconomic Position and Quality of Life Among Older People in 10 European Countries: Results of the SHARE Study, *Ageing & Society* (27) 2, 269-284.

**Lundborg, P.; Nystedt, P.; Lindgren, B.** (2007): Getting Ready for the Marriage Market? The Association Between Divorce Risks and Investments in Attractive Body Mass Among Married Europeans, *Journal of Biosocial Science* (39) 4, 531-544.

**Maurer, J.** (2007): Modelling Socioeconomic and Health Determinants of Health Care Use: A Semiparametric Approach, *Health Economics* (16), 967-979, Published Online: DOI: 10.1002/hec.1253.

**Mojon-Azzi, S. M.; Mojon, D. S.** (2007): Waiting Times for Cataract Surgery in Ten European Countries: An Analysis Using Data from the SHARE Project, *British Journal of Ophthalmology* (91) 3, 282-286.

**Ogg, J.; Renaut, S.** (2007): The influence of living arrangements, marital patterns and family configuration on employment rates among the 1945-1954 birth cohort: evidence from ten European countries, *European Journal of Ageing* (online)

**Peytremann Bridevaux, I.; Santos-Eggimann, B.** (2007): Health Care Utilization of Overweight and Obese Europeans Aged 50-79 years, *Journal of Public Health*, forthcoming.

**Peytremann-Bridevaux, I.; Santos-Eggimann, B.** (2007 May 15): Healthcare and Preventive Services Utilization of Elderly Europeans with Depressive Symptoms, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, Epub ahead of print.

**Siegrist, J.; Wahrendorf, M.; Knesebeck, O. v. d.; Jürges, H.; Börsch-Supan, A.** (2007): Quality of Work, Well-being and Intended Early Retirement of Older Employees - Baseline Results from the SHARE Study, *European Journal of Public Health* (17) 1, 62-68.

**Verropoulou, G.; Tsimbos, C.** (2007): Socio-demographic and health-related factors affecting depression of the Greek population in later life: an analysis using SHARE data, *European Journal of Ageing* (Published online: 11 August 2007).

**Wahrendorf, M.; Knesebeck, O.v.d.; Siegrist, J.** (2006): Social Productivity and Well-being of Older People - Baseline Results from the SHARE Study, *European Journal of Ageing* (3) 2, 67-73.

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.

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