



## Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

NO 7 | December 2010

---

### SHARE Newsletter December 2010

*Please enable HTML script.*

#### Content

---

[Editorial](#)  
[SHARELIFE Launch](#)  
[SHARE goes GSA](#)  
[SHARE research in progress](#)  
[Presentation of the SHARE crew](#)

[Selection of the latest SHARE based publications](#)

#### Editorial

---

Dear SHARE users and friends,

the end of 2010 is approaching and we would like to use its last days to inform you on what happened in the second half of the SHARE-year and give you an outlook of 2011.

The big recent SHARE event is the release of the new SHARELIFE data - we hope you already had the chance to take a look into these life history data and the vast research possibilities they provide! Now we are looking forward to reap the fruits of two years' labour in the form of interesting findings and papers. Therefore, additionally to a SHARELIFE Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (see "SHARE goes GSA"), we plan a user conference in Munich, on September 8-9, 2011. This conference will concentrate on the longitudinal dimension of SHARE(LIFE). We also aim to have a special issue on SHARELIFE in "Advances in Life Course Research". The calls for papers will be sent out via this list soon.

The SHARELIFE launch event in Brussels on November 24th attracted many researchers, policy makers and journalists and was a great success (see

"SHARELIFE launch"). Still, after one wave is before the next wave, on which we already started the data collection. SHARE wave 4 will be a "regular" panel wave, but the questionnaire includes new comprehensive information on social networks from now 18 European countries! To accomplish this, we added additional power to the central coordination: We hereby officially welcome Sabine Massoth, our new administrative assistant, Ulrich Krieger, our new survey methods expert and Dr. Frederic Malter, our new operations manager in the team (see "Presentation of the SHARE crew")!

On December 14, we formally submitted the application for SHARE-ERIC to the Commission. SHARE has thus entered the final round of the ESFRI process (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) and we are looking forward to become the first ever ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) in early 2011, enabling us to run wave 4 of SHARE (and hopefully many more to come) on a solid financial base.

And finally on an especially enjoyable note, we want to congratulate Alessandro Martinello, who received a Stringher scholarship by the Bank of Italy for his Master thesis based on SHARE data which was supervised by Professor Agar Brugiavini and Professor Mario Padula, University of Venice!

... but now is the time to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

---

Yours sincerely,

Axel Boersch-Supan

Mannheim, December 2010

---

[SHARELIFE Launch](#)

On November 24th SHARE officially released SHARELIFE, the new life history data and a first results volume on "The Individual and the Welfare State: Life Histories in Europe" at the Representation of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Brussels. Following a cordial welcome by Ministerialdirektor Klaus Tappeser (Ministry of Research, Science and the Arts, Baden-Wuerttemberg), Director General Dr. Robert-Jan Smits (Directorate General for Research), Director Georg Fischer (Directorate General for Employment, Social Protection and Integration) and Director Dr. Andrzej Rys (Directorate General for Health and Consumers) praised the contribution of the SHARE project to evidence based policy reforms in an ageing Europe.

Prof. Axel Boersch-Supan, the Coordinator of the SHARE project, officially handed the SHARELIFE data and the first results book to the Director General and thanked all EU representatives for their multifaceted support to our European Research Infrastructure.

After an informative lunch break spiced with posters on our partner projects CESSDA, ELSA, ESS, LEPAS, RECOWE and TILDA, SHARE researchers presented some of the fascinating new findings based on the SHARELIFE data:

Prof. Guglielmo Weber presented key results on income, housing and wealth, showing that a poor family background leads to more poverty also in old age. However, the strength of this correlation is influenced by the differences in countries' social systems.

Mathis Schroeder, Ph.D., talked about the effects of unemployment on health. He found negative health effects on former employees up to 40 years after they got unemployed due to business closures. Between country analyses showed that generous employment benefits can mitigate this relation.

Prof. Agar Brugiavini followed with a presentation on work and retirement, stating that maternity leave benefits do not always achieve what they aim at. At least if benefits are too high they seem to lead to lower labour participation of mothers and thus also lower retirement replacement rates at older age.

Prof. Dr. Johannes Siegrist and Dr. Morten Wahrendorf focused on retirement and quality of work. They showed that more investments in lifelong learning and rehabilitation services do not only lead to higher perceived work quality, but also to more employment and volunteering among the older population.

Nicolas Sirven, Ph.D., found that health care utilisation differs between educational backgrounds and also between the European countries. Higher participation rates were found among the higher educated as well as in countries with a high density of doctors.

Radim Bohacek, Ph.D., and Michal Myck, Ph.D., showed that the scars of world war second and the rise and fall of communist regimes are still relevant in the lives of today's older Europeans: For more information see "SHARE research in progress".

Please check the SHARELIFE homepage ([www.share-project.org/sharelife](http://www.share-project.org/sharelife)) for the presentations and pictures of the event. First summary results can be downloaded under "press information" and under "publications", you will also find links to SHARELIFE publications and working papers. The SHARELIFE data are available for download from the SHARE website ("Research Data Center"). Please do not forget to include the updated acknowledgement in all your SHARE(LIFE) work and inform us about any publications so we can include them in our online list.

The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America that took place in New Orleans in November 2010 included a special symposium session that was based upon SHARE data: "Comparative Contexts of Care: Findings from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe".

The symposium utilized the unique capacity of the SHARE data to examine the context of care for the older population and its varying configurations and effects in different countries. The paper by Ploubidis and Grundy identified country-level differences in somatic health as a function of the level of egalitarianism that exists in the various countries. Or and colleagues examined a country-specific effect on the probability of health care utilization, controlling for individual-level characteristics. Geerts and Van den Bosch considered the correlates of transitions across formal and informal care in the respective SHARE countries. Brandt and colleagues analyzed specifically the influence of contextual structures on informal care for older parents in European countries and their effects on gender inequality. Finally, Ladin pointed to the lesser utilization of care services among depressed persons, regardless of national setting.

G. B. Ploubidis, E. Grundy (Centre for Population Studies, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), Differences in Health in Later Life: How Important are Country Level Influences?

Z. Or, F. Jusot, N. Sirven (Institute for Research and Information in Health Economics, Paris), Variations in Health Care Utilization in Europe: A Multilevel Analysis.

J. Geerts (Federal Planning Bureau, Brussels), K. Van den Bosch (Centre for Social Policy, University of Antwerp) Transitions in Formal and Informal Care Utilization: A European Analysis.

M. Brandt (Mannheim Institute for the Economics of Aging), K. Haberkern, T. Schmid (University of Zurich), Support to Older Parents, Gender, and the Welfare State.

K. Ladin (Interfaculty Initiative on Health Policy, Harvard University), Differences in Health Services Utilization among Depressed and Non-Depressed Elders in Europe.

Given the success of the symposium and the considerable interest it generated, we will consider organizing another such symposium for the next GSA meeting which will take place in Boston, on November 18-22, 2011. The conference theme will be LIFESTYLE ---> LIFESPAN. This theme is particularly appropriate for analysis of the SHARELIFE data.

We would like to invite you to consider participation in the next SHARE-based GSA symposium in Boston in 2011. Potential participants are invited to submit an

abstract to Prof. Howard Litwin (mshowie@huji.ac.il) who will organize a symposium proposal which will be submitted to the GSA planning committee through the regular application process. The deadline for submission of abstracts to Prof. Litwin is January 20.

SHARE research in progress

---

Radim Bohacek (CERG-EI, Praha, CZ), and Michal Myck (cenEA, Szczecin, PL) tell us about their research on "Persecution in Central Europe and its consequences on the lives of SHARE respondents" based on the SHARELIFE data.

*Why do you consider it important to study persecution in Europe?*

Many of the SHARE respondents have lived through periods of major unrest and persecution in Europe's 20th century history. This applies in particular to Nazi or Soviet occupation, direct World War II experiences, the post-war period, and in the case of the Czech Republic, East Germany and Poland, to several decades of communism. We therefore analyze the information from the SHARELIFE data recalling experiences of persecution and dispossession of SHARE respondents and focus on the relationship of persecution and current outcomes in these three Central European countries.

*How many victims are there?*

10% of the Czech and East German respondents and about 6% of those in Poland report being persecuted. Political reasons are most frequently reported to be the main cause for this persecution.

*What effects did this have on the lives of these people?*

Persecution in the Czech Republic had most severe consequences for professional careers of the respondents, but experience of on the job harassment and pay cuts were frequent also among the persecuted individuals in the GDR and Poland. Consistent with this is that the experience of persecution in the Czech Republic has the strongest effects on the reported satisfaction with job achievements and career disappointment. Czech respondents who experienced persecution are three times as likely to report dissatisfaction with job achievements relative to those who did not, and twice as likely to report being disappointed with their professional careers.

Additionally, we find a strong relationship between persecution and health, especially in Poland, where compared to those not persecuted in the past, the persecuted individuals are between 60 and 70% more likely to report current poor health, three or more limitations in ADLs, as well as having experienced long-term illness and a period of disability. Persecuted individuals in Poland are also

twice as likely to report having three or more symptoms of poor health.

*What do you conclude from your analyses?*

The persecution data from SHARELIFE documents the traumatic experiences of those European citizens who survived the stormy events of the 20th century, and are still alive to recall them in the SHARE interview. Naturally, any consequences of these experiences can only be treated as "lower bounds" of the total effects, given the millions who lost their lives or suffered in numerous ways and have died since. Still, even looking at the current Central European populations, twenty years after the collapse of the communist system under which many of them have suffered, the experience of persecution carries consequences for people's health and career assessment. While the results cannot translate into immediate policy conclusions, they provide important evidence of significant long term consequences of harassment and discrimination.

Presentation of the SHARE crew

---

Sabine Massoth, our new administrative assistant, has a long record in office management and conference organisation. Following her training as office clerk she worked for a renowned pharmaceutical company to organize national and international congresses and exhibitions - now we are glad that she supports us on all matters of SHARE public relations.



Ulrich Krieger has joined our survey methodology team to take care of the German nonresponse project "Respondent Incentives, Interviewer Training, and Survey Participation" funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation). He also works on a project on "Measuring and Explaining Interviewer Effects". Before joining SHARE, he worked on the German Family Panel Study (pairfam).



Dr. Frederic Malter, the new 'master' of SHARE operations and schedule, is social psychologist by training. His Ph.D. thesis focussed on the outcomes of school-based anti-smoking education. He joined MEA after spending five years in the US where he worked as a senior research specialist at the Evaluation, Research and Development Unit, Department of Psychology, University of Arizona, Tucson. His research interests include public health, the connection between policy and health outcomes, and survey methods.



---

**Selection of the latest SHARE based publications**

Aichberger, M.C., M.A. Busch, F.M. Reischies, A. Stroehle, A. Heinz and M.A. Rapp. (2010). Effect of physical inactivity on cognitive performance after 2.5 years of follow-up. Longitudinal results from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement (SHARE). *GeroPsych: The Journal of Gerontopsychology and*

Geriatric Psychiatry 23(1): 7-15. DOI: 10.1024/1662-9647/a000003.

Christelis, D., T. Jappelli and M. Padula. (2010). Cognitive abilities and portfolio choices. *European Economic Review*, 54(1): 18-38.

Denny K. (2010). Handedness and drinking behaviour. *British Journal of Health Psychology* forthcoming. DOI: 10.1348/135910710X515705.

Dykstra, P.A. and T. Fokkema. (2010). Relationships between parents and their adult children: a West European typology of late-life families. *Ageing and Society* : 1-39.

Hairi, F.M., J.P. Mackenbach, K. Andersen-Ranberg and M. Avendano. (2010). Does socio-economic status predict grip strength in older Europeans? Results from the SHARE study in non-institutionalised men and women aged 50+ . *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 64: 829-837. DOI: 10.1136/jech.2009.088476. J

Jagger, C., C. Gillies, E. Cambois, H. Van Oyen, W. Nusselder, J.M. Robine and the EHLEIS Team. (2010). The Global Activity Limitation Index measured function and disability similarly across European countries. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* 63(8): 892-899.

Kapteyn, A. (2010). What can we learn from (and about) global aging?. *Demography* 47 - Supplement: 191-209.

Mojon-Azzi, S.M., A. Sousa-Poza and D.S. Mojon. (2010). Impact of low vision on employment. *Ophthalmologica* 224(6): 381-388. DOI: 10.1159/000316688.

Romero-Ortuno, R., C.D. Walsh, B.A. Lawlor and R.A. Kenny. (2010). A frailty instrument for primary care: Findings from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). *BMC Geriatrics* 10(1): 57. DOI: 10.1186/1471-2318-10-57.

Schenk, N., P. Dykstra and I. Maas. (2010). The role of European welfare states in intergenerational money transfers: A micro-level perspective. *Ageing and Society* forthcoming. DOI: 10.1017/S0144686X10000401.

Shrira, A., Y. Palgi, M. Ben-Ezra and D. Shmotkin. (2010). Do Holocaust survivors show increased vulnerability or resilience to post-Holocaust cumulative adversity? *Journal of Traumatic Stress* 23(3): 367-375. DOI: 10.1002/jts.20524.

Wahrendorf, M., C. Ribet, M. Zins, M. Goldberg and J. Siegrist. (2010). Perceived reciprocity in social exchange and health functioning in early old age: Prospective findings from the GAZEL study. *Aging and Mental Health* 14: 425-432.

Ziegler, U. and G. Doblhammer-Reiter. (2010). Trends and determinants of severe cognitive impairments - Longitudinal section results from Health Survey, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). *Zeitschrift fuer Gerontologie und*

Geriatric 43: 78.

Please find a complete list of SHARE-based publications on our website:

[www.share-project.org](http://www.share-project.org)

You can help us to keep this list up-to-date by informing us about all SHARE-based publications. Moreover, always remember to include the user acknowledgement. The text can be found in the section "Research Data Center" on the SHARE website.

Please always consider including your publications in the US archive PubMed Central (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>) to raise the awareness of our research worldwide. Information on the submission process can be found at [http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit\\_process.htm](http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process.htm) (Method C).

### Contact

Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging  
Dept. SHARE  
Building L 13/17, D-68131 Mannheim  
Phone: +49 621 181 3626  
Fax: +49 621 181 1863  
E-Mail: [share@mea.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:share@mea.uni-mannheim.de)

### Imprint

Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging (MEA)  
University of Mannheim  
Building L 13/17, D-68131 Mannheim

Unsubscribe to the SHARE Newsletter:

You can unsubscribe at any time by sending an e-mail with the subject 'unsubscribe SHARE newsletter' to [share@mea.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:share@mea.uni-mannheim.de)

[www.share-project.org](http://www.share-project.org)