



## Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

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### Editorial

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Dear SHARE users and friends,

we hope you had a successful start into 2014 and still have some time to enjoy the approaching spring-time! After the end of fieldwork for **Wave 5**, we are already well in the preparation of the sixth data collection to contribute interesting new data for your research. If you are interested in using SHARE data, but still have open questions regarding our dataset, the just recently updated **FAQs** provide a perfect starting point for starting your research endeavor. Furthermore we'd also like to draw your attention to the fact that SHARE just received a **DOI number**. DOI stands for Digital Object Identifier and provides a permanent number for the various releases of SHARE data. Through this system we hope to provide even easier ways of citing the data.

Moreover, great opportunities to gain knowledge about SHARE are our user training workshops as well as user conferences which are covered in this edition of our newsletter. Furthermore you will find in-depth information about what has been going on in the past months as well as SHARE based publications which might inspire you to look into related issues yourself. Especially noteworthy is the release of **easySHARE**, which is a simplified dataset, developed especially for students or less experienced data users. We also published a **working paper** offering detailed information about **easySHARE**.

We would like to encourage you to inform us about your SHARE related research and publications using SHARE data by sending an **email** to our team. Please be kindly reminded that including the **SHARE acknowledgment** in every article using SHARE data is essential for SHARE as well as our funders.

Our next newsletter will be published in the coming months – to stay up to date in the meantime, you can “like” us on facebook or “follow” our twitter account. We wish you a great spring and hope to hear about your new SHARE research soon!

Yours sincerely,

Axel Börsch-Supan

Munich, March 2014

### **Impressions from the fourth SHARE user conference**

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SHARE user conferences play a central role in user support since they provide a forum for users with different level of experience with SHARE data, the research environment as well as the required methodology. Through these regularly organized conferences an exchange of knowledge is provided which fosters the reputation of SHARE as a cornerstone for research on ageing in Europe and worldwide.

From November 28-29 the **4th International SHARE User Conference** took place at the HEC Business School in Liège, Belgium. The User Conference was a great success as more than 150 researchers from all over the world participated in various sessions in the fields of health & wellbeing, life course, family & social networks, work & care, inequality & crisis, retirement, survey methodology as well as health care, active ageing and life course & socio-economics.

Specifically noteworthy in this context are the presentations by two of the distinguished key note speakers: Keith Chen (University of California Los Angeles, Yale University, Cowles Foundation) elaborated on the impact of **language on economic behavior** and utilized SHARE data in order to analyze retirement assets and health. Howard Litwin (Paul Baerwald School of Social Work & Social Welfare, Israel Gerontological Data Center, The Hebrew University in Jerusalem) then stressed the importance of social networks for different areas of life and additionally focused on the discussion of how social networks are best measured - this diversity of topics presented displays the vast research possibilities of SHARE data, a fact which we are especially proud of.



## SHARE around the globe

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Since our last newsletter, SHARE was again represented at various international conferences throughout Europe, the US as well as Asia. Just like in 2012, we travelled to the “**American Sociological Association Annual Meeting**” (ASA) and presented SHARE at a booth and in a workshop focusing on the use of longitudinal data. Last year’s ASA meeting took place in New York and we found it a great opportunity to inform American researchers about SHARE. Since the SHARE data is harmonized with HRS, comparative research between Europe and the US is an exciting possibility.

In addition, SHARE was represented at the IUSSP, the “**International Union for the Scientific Study of Population**” – this event took place in Busan, Korea and introduced a worldwide audience to the SHARE data.

Moreover, SHARE travelled to Dublin, Ireland and was part of “Active Ageing – The Potential for Society” – in the context of last year’s publication “**Active Aging and Solidarity between Generations in Europe: First Results from SHARE after the Economic Crisis**” this contributed a central step in the discussion of active ageing in Europe.

The GESIS workshop „**SHARE – Meet the Data**” was held by Martina Brandt, Fabio Franzese and Stefan Gruber on February 13th and 14th in Cologne, Germany. The first day started with an overview of the presented topics, participating countries, overall design as well as research based on SHARE data. On the second day the participants learned how to create their own panel data set based on the regular SHARE waves as well as an introduction on how to work with the retrospective life history of **SHARELIFE**. Due to this great success, further workshops are planned for the future.

These are just a few prominent examples, as researchers using SHARE in their studies are regularly participating in conferences all around the globe.

Regarding upcoming conferences, we would like to draw your attention to two events in particular: A conference on SHARE and ELSA will be held in April in Paris by the English Association Grandparentsplus. It will present the results of a three year research project across 12 EU countries, based on SHARE and ELSA data, and discuss the role of EU grandparents in childcare. The study was carried out in collaboration with the King's College of London. Additional information is available [here](#) and on the French country team's [website](#). Furthermore the Venice International University is hosting the [2nd Summer Institute on Ageing](#). The goal is to deepen the understanding of the ageing process offering a set of activities ranging from some basic notions of the medical and epidemiological literature, to economics and philosophy and social sciences. The Summer Institute will take place on 3rd-7th June in San Servolo Island, Venice, and it is open to graduates, PhD students and professionals. The deadline for registration is May 16th.

### **easySHARE now published**

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Our latest [SHARE Working Paper No 17](#) provides an overview about the construction, structure and content of *easySHARE* – a simplified dataset that is based on the scientific release of SHARE. *easySHARE* contains a subset of “ready to analyse” variables and indices. It is designed for student training on country-comparative and longitudinal analyses as well as introducing SHARE to researchers who have little experience in quantitative analyses of complex survey data. The paper puts special emphasis on the extraction and generation of the dataset using the statistical software package STATA and furthermore provides an example of how to extract more variables from the scientific release of SHARE to include them in the *easySHARE* dataset. You can download the working paper right [here](#) – in this context we'd also like to draw your attention to the [SHARE Working Paper Series](#) which is constantly updated and offers new perspectives on research possibilities.

### **New release of SHARE-RV**

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The release 2\_0\_0 of the administrative data of the record linkage project [SHARE-RV](#) is available for download now. SHARE-RV stands for the direct linkage of survey data of the German subsample of SHARE with administrative records of the German Pension Fund (DRV). In comparison to the first release, release 2\_0\_0 consist of more records which can be linked. In addition, the biographies of respondents who are still on the job marked are updated. A user-guide as well as information on how to get access to the data is available [here](#).



## Welcome to the SHARE team

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We'd like to present two of our new central coordination team members in Munich to you in this edition of our newsletter.

*Fabio Franzese* is member of the SHARE Database Management Team at SHARE central since January 2013. His duties include data cleaning, training and supporting the SHARE country teams as well as user support. He obtained his master's degree in sociology at the University of Heidelberg, his field of research is sociology of the family and health.



*Stefan Gruber* obtained his diploma in sociology with focus on socio-scientific European Studies at the University of Bamberg (Germany). Since January 2013 he is member of the SHARE Database Management Team at SHARE central. He is working on user support, documentation and data cleaning. One of his main projects during the past months was *easySHARE*. His research focuses on inequalities in health care utilization and labour market integration of people with disabilities.



## Selected new publications

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Please find a complete list of SHARE-based publications on our [website](#). Please help us to keep this list up-to-date by informing us ([info@share-project.org](mailto:info@share-project.org)) about all SHARE-based publications.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the European Commission, National Institute on Aging, and the member states, especially the German Ministry of Education and Research.

Please help us in always including in your SHARE publications the full [acknowledgment](#).

Please always consider including your publications in the US archive PubMed Central to raise the awareness of our research worldwide. Information on the submission process can be found [here](#).

## Contact and imprint

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