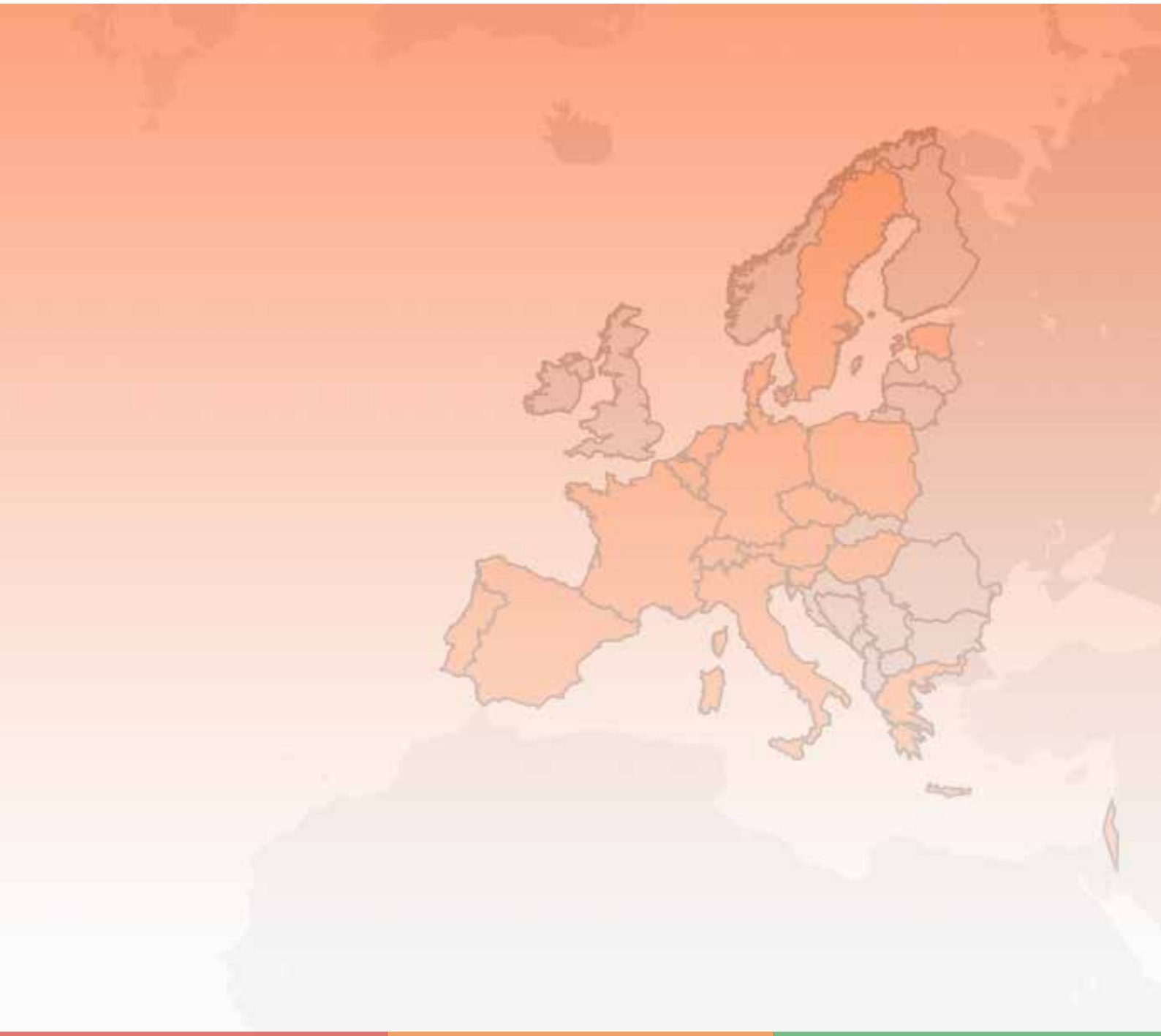
SHARE ERIC

Annual Activity Report 2014



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SHARE ERIC

Annual Activity Report 2014

SHARE-ERIC Council Meeting
Munich, March 2015

Note: This Annual activity report is written to give an overview about the SHARE activities as a whole in the relevant time frame, but also to fulfill the requirements of Article 17 par. 1 of COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 723/2009. Therefore it has to reflect first of all the situation of SHARE as European Research Infrastructure Consortium having several but not all countries from the SHARE Consortium as members. This may cause possibly irritations as there may be discrepancies between scientific activities, e.g. participation in a wave on the one hand and formal membership in the SHARE-ERIC on the other hand.

Foreword

It is my pleasure to present to you the 3rd Annual Activity Report of SHARE-ERIC. The purpose of this report is to give an overview of all activities of SHARE in 2014 with particular regard to scientific, operational and financial issues of SHARE-ERIC.

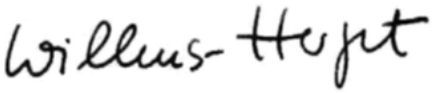
We are very pleased to announce that in 2014 two new members have acceded SHARE-ERIC: Sweden and Poland. Welcome to SHARE ERIC! With these two new members, SHARE-ERIC has now 11 full members and one observer.

The SHARE consortium focused its scientific work in 2014 on the preparation of the fieldwork for the sixth survey wave which has started in January 2015. At the same time, the SHARE research community has produced a draft version of our fifth "First Result Book". It makes extensive use of five waves of SHARE data with many new and surprising results. The final version of the fifth SHARE "First Results Book" will be presented in Brussels in the autumn of 2015. All this comes at the same time that SHARE has greatly improved the user friendliness of the SHARE database. The overlap between tasks aimed at wrapping up a wave and starting the next wave has been a key feature of SHARE. It keeps the SHARE staff rather busy but ensures its scientific success. The graphical overview in Section A.5 shows this overlapping sequence of tasks with a picture of a typical schedule of a SHARE wave.

After the EU Commission has given the green light to the change of the seat at the beginning of the year, the transfer of SHARE-ERIC from Tilburg, the Netherlands, to Munich, Germany, could be completed in 2014. This creates another opportunity to express our gratitude to our first host country, the Netherlands, as well as to the EU Commission for lending us support in the process of moving.

In this year's report, see section A.3, we are particularly proud to present the economic and societal impact which SHARE has had by directly influencing policy decisions on both Member State and Union levels.

Finally, let me also express that the transition from the last Framework Programme (FP7), which ended in 2014, to the upcoming one (Horizon 2020), has posed new and serious challenges in financing SHARE. To master these challenges, SHARE-ERIC has stimulated a debate on concepts of sustainable funding schemes for those research infrastructures which are only meaningful when sufficient European coverage can be guaranteed. This debate needs to include all relevant stakeholders on the Member State and the Union level. We look forward to new positive developments and hope you enjoy reading this report.



Dr. Angelika Willms-Herget
Chair of the SHARE-ERIC Council, March 2015

SHARE's Mission

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe seeks to analyse the process of population ageing in depth. It is the first study to examine the different ways in which people aged 50 and older live in 20 European countries from Sweden to Greece and Portugal to Estonia. Its scientific potential lies in the extensive data gathered from more than 100,000 individuals (approximately 220,000 interviews) all across Europe, covering the interplay between economic, health, and social factors in shaping older people's living conditions.

A. Scientific Aspects: Survey Work

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1. Overview of the Scientific Achievements

- Since late 2013, SHARE has issued a new simplified data set for training and teaching purposes, an enriched release update of its Job Episode Panel as well as a tool that enables users to calculate appropriate weights for statistical analyses of the data on their own. Furthermore, Germany is the first country where SHARE-linked administrative data is now available. This has contributed to a rise in the official user registration numbers of SHARE to about 4300 by the end of 2014. A short overview is provided in Section 2.

- The use of SHARE data has also strong political and as such socio-economic implications on both, the member states and the Union level. Details are described in Section 3.

- SHARE has started in 2014 to prepare a book on the first results of Wave 5, focusing on issues of social inclusion of the older population. A short preview is given in Section 4.

- SHARE has after starting with conceptual revisions already in 2013, finalized the preparation of Wave 6 during 2014. Section 5 describes the progress during the report period.

- At the end of 2014, all major innovations of Wave 6 were completed with a survey instrument tested in multiple languages and able to provide after fieldwork the following new exciting data: bio-medical markers will be available through the collection of dried blood spots in 12 of the participating countries, new ISCO-harmonized job titles will be available for refined analyses including occupations, and cross-nationally harmonized, longitudinal social networks will allow for completely new analyses regarding the role change of social networks in all outcomes relevant for questions on ageing. See Section 6 for more.

2. Wave 1-5 Data Dissemination and Data Usage

SHARE is a unique panel database of micro data on the health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of respondents aged 50 and older covering most of the European Union and Israel. SHARE is closely harmonized with several studies worldwide, most closely with the HRS (USA), TILDA (Ireland) and ELSA (England). The network of harmonized global ageing studies also includes four Asian countries (China, Korea, Japan, and India) and three Latin American countries (Mexico, Brazil and Argentina).

To date, SHARE has collected four panel waves (2004, 2006, 2010, 2013) of current living circumstances and one wave of retrospective life histories (2008, SHARELIFE); 5 additional waves are planned until 2024. Since the release of Wave 4 data in November 2012 (see http://www.share-project.org/home0/wave-4.html for details), SHARE provides data which has been generated by more than 150.000 interviews in 19 countries to the scientific community free of charge. In Wave 5, Luxembourg has joined as the 20th country. With the public release of Wave 5 data in March 2015, the data available to the scientific community will be based on more than 220.000 interviews administered on about 110.000 respondents.

A comprehensive overview of all available data is given in the SHARE "data resource profile" which has been authored by the central coordination team and published in 2013 open access by the International Journal of Epidemiology (Börsch-Supan et al. 2013a, available online via http://ije.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/06/18/ije.dyt088).

Figure 1 provides an update to this as it also incorporates the Wave 5. It shows the sample sizes by country and wave. On average, the sample size in Wave 5 is about 4000 per country; the target size – depending on funding – is 6000 respondents. This number is motivated by three very different phases in the age range after 50 (50-65: pre-retirement; 65-80: healthy retirement; 80+: onset of illnesses) and a sample size of about 1000 for each gender. Note that Greece had dropped from SHARE in Wave 4 due to the economic crisis. Furthermore, Portugal and Hungary did not participate in Wave 5 after only having joined SHARE in Wave 4. Fortunately, Greece and Portugal could be recovered for participation in Wave 6.

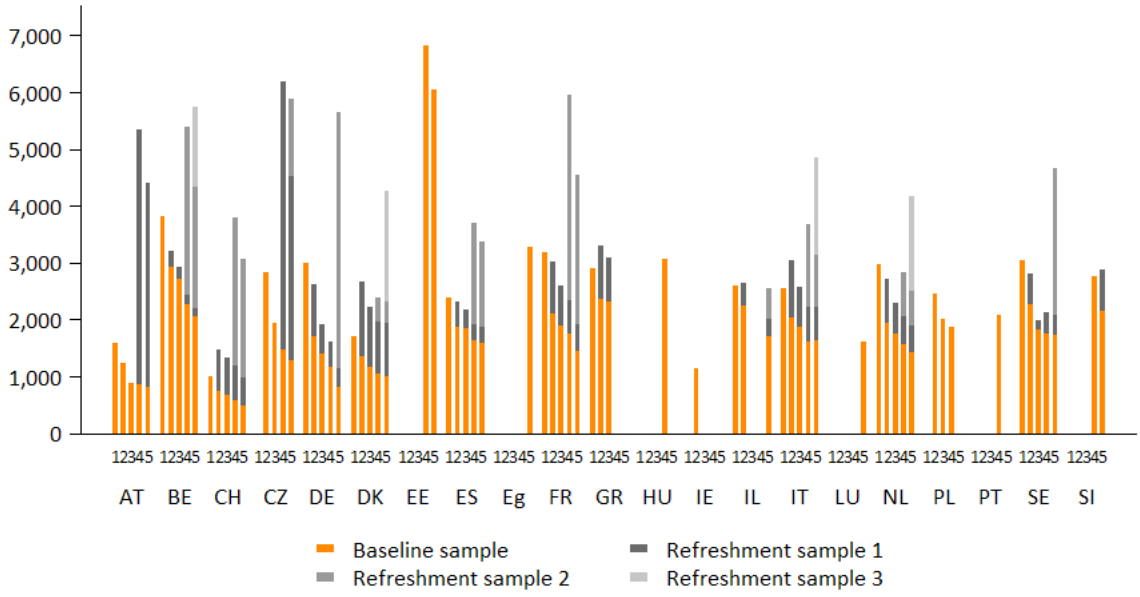

Figure 1: Overview of released samples (including forthcoming release of March 2015)

Between the first public release of SHARE Wave 4 in November 2012 and the first public release of SHARE Wave 5 in March 2015, SHARE was engaged in several additional data dissemination activities. These comprise release updates for Wave 4 (March 2013) and Waves 1 and 2 (November 2013). SHARE also provided additional data and data generating code to complement the regular scientific use files. For example, the latest release update was accompanied by the release of a package that allows users to easily generate their own set of calibrated weights. Also, easySHARE, a simplified data set for training and teaching purposes and the Job Episodes Panel, a refined panel dataset spanning the entire working life of SHARELIFE respondents, were both released already in 2013. In 2014, SHARE released an update of the Job Episodes Panel, now including information on migration histories, fertility histories and relationship histories, as well as contextual variables on pension institutions (Antonova et al. 2014).

Furthermore, SHARE strives for a linkage of its survey data to available administrative data wherever possible. A first success was finally achieved in 2014, when a SHARE-linked data set of administrative data from the German Pension Fund was made available (http://www.share-project.org/data-access-documentation/record-linkage-share-rv.html).

SHARE provides detailed documentation of the available data sets on the SHARE website: http://www.share-project.org/ data-access-documentation/documentation0.html. Additionally, the SHARE community is regularly informed about newly available data, documentation, or SHARE publications etc. via e-mail newsletters (http://www.share-project.org/general-information-news/newsletter.html).

By December 2014, SHARE has about 4300 officially registered data users, see Figure 2. Most of the users are from European countries, but there is also an increase in users from the US and other countries worldwide (see Figure 3) which may partly be due to the comparability of SHARE data with other international ageing surveys, such as HRS in the US, ELSA in the UK, and others. According to Figure 3, most scientific users of SHARE reside in Germany. Users from the US are second, before Italy and the Netherlands. Note that the increase in user registrations has been more than proportional from the outset: Each new wave is more valuable to the users than the previous waves. This has a scientific reason since ageing needs to be studied in its development over time. Further in-between-waves releases of updated and supplementary data, as described above, also seem to be effective in perpetuating the increasing demand in the SHARE data.

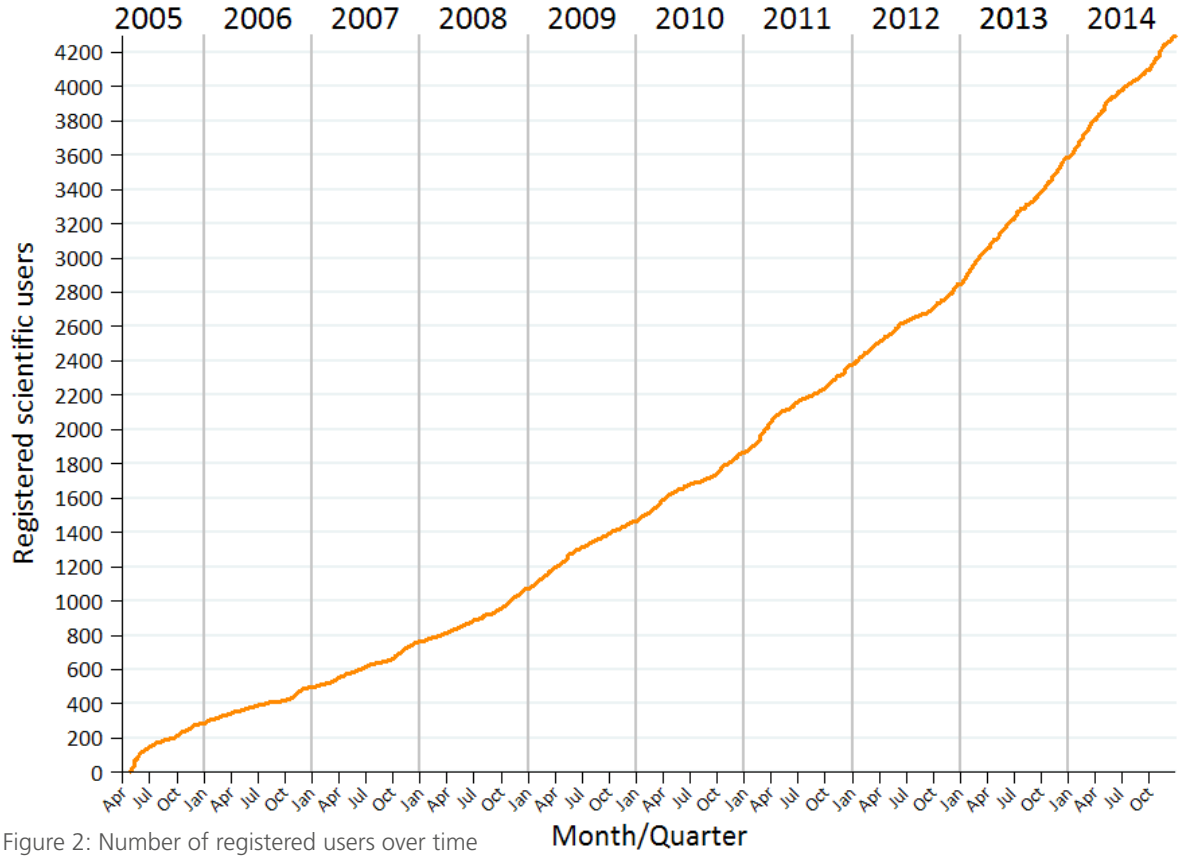

Figure 2: Number of registered users over time

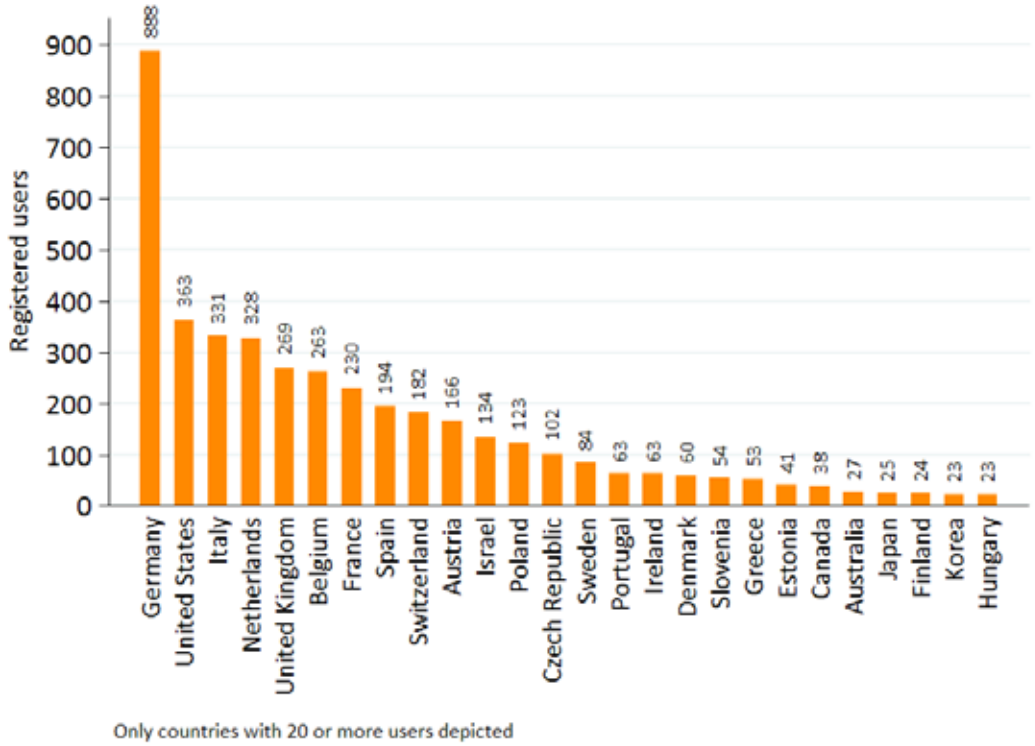

Figure 3: Number of registered users by country background, only countries with >20 users

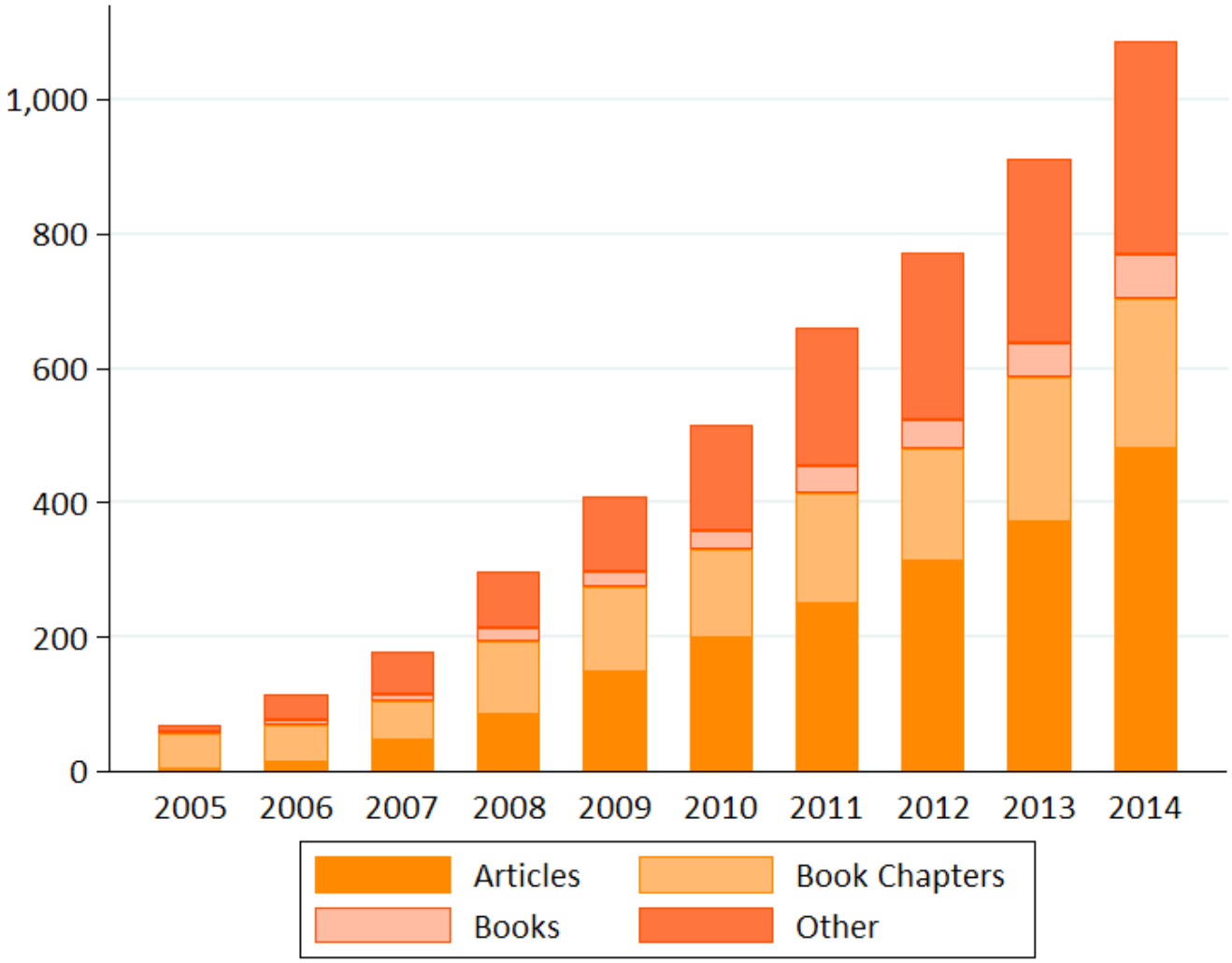

Figure 4: Publications using SHARE data by year and publication type (December 2014)

In accordance with the growing user community, the number of publications based on the SHARE data increased more than linearly amounting to over 1000 publications overall by the end of 2014. The majority of publications are articles in scientific journals, including about 400 Social Science Citation Index ranked articles (see Figure 4). The second frequent type ("Other") mainly comprises Working Papers, but also Theses or Policy Papers.

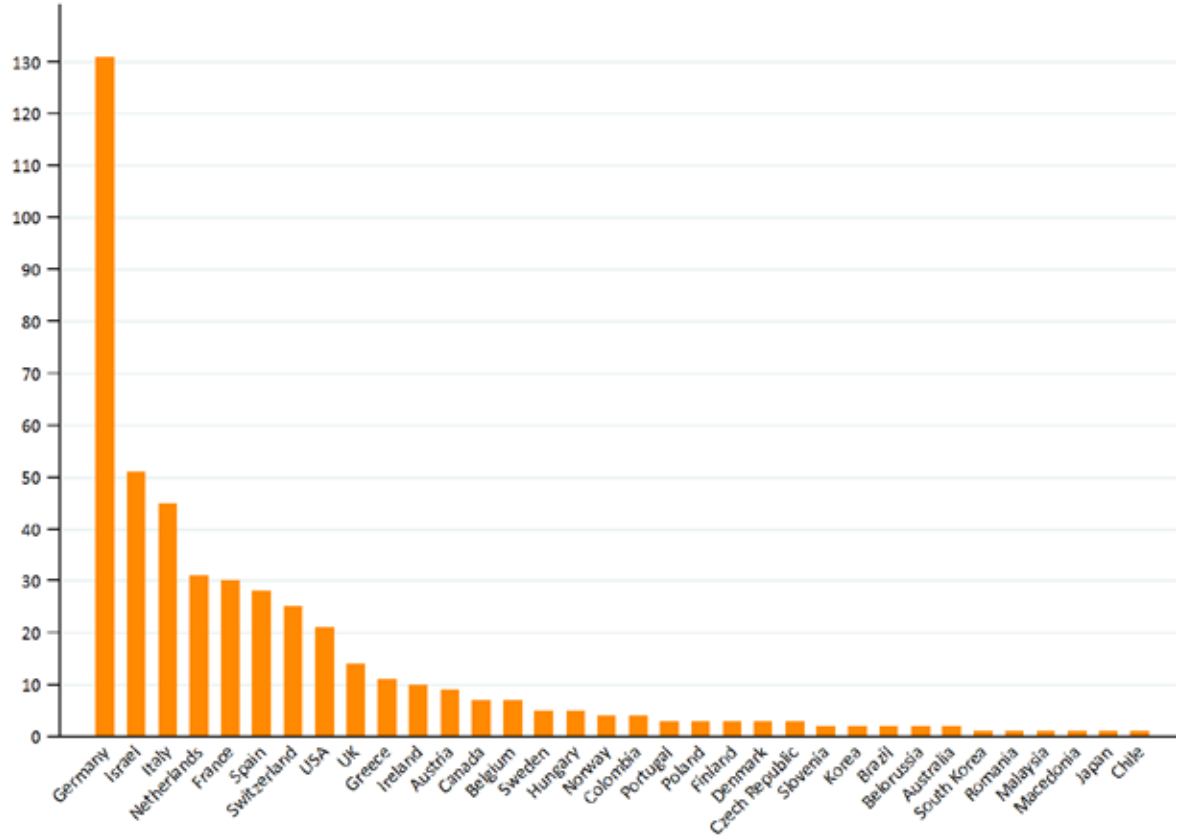

Figure 5: Journal articles using SHARE data by country of first author's institution (December 2014)

As indicated in Figure 5, most of the SHARE based journal articles that have been published until the end of 2014 come from users affiliated to a German university or research organization, followed by users from Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, France and Spanish users.

Note that all publication numbers displayed depend on researchers reporting their publications. As, unfortunately, this may not always be the case even though we regularly encourage all users to report new publications by means of newsletters and our website, the reported number of publications is probably an underestimate.

An overview of all SHARE based publications is available on our website: http://www.share-project.org/publications.html. A selection of the most recent publications is given later in this chapter.

The selection includes all English language publications in refereed journals. Many additional publications have appeared in edited volumes or have been written in other languages. It provides a good impression of the breadth of the inter- and multi-disciplinary scientific work that has become possible thanks to the SHARE data.

Selected New Publications 2014

- Adena, M. and M. Myck. (2014). Poverty and transitions in health in later life. Social Science & Medicine 116: 202-210 DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.06.045.
- Albuquerque, P. (2014). Intergenerational private transfers: Portugal in the European context. European Journal of Ageing 4: 301-312 DOI: 10.1007/s10433-014-0324-x.
- Angelini, V. and J.O. Mierau. (2014). Born at the right time? Childhood health and the business cycle. Social Science & Medicine 109: 35–43. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.03.014.
- Balia, S. and R. Brau (2014). A country for old men? Long-term home care utilization in Europe. Health Economics 23: 1185-1212. DOI: 10.1002/hec.2977.
- Balia, S. (2014). Survival expectations, subjective health and smoking: evidence from SHARE. Empirical Economics 47(2): 753-780. DOI: 10.1007/s00181-013-0750-1.
- Barbosa, F. and A. Delerue Matos. (2014). Informal support in Portugal by individuals aged 50+. European Journal of Ageing 11: 293–300 DOI: 10.1007/s10433-014-0321-0.
- Bosque-Prous, M., A. Espelt, A.M. Guitart, M. Bartroli, J.R. Villalbí and M.T. Brugal. (2014). Association between stricter alcohol advertising regulations and lower hazardous drinking across European countries. Addiction 109(10): 1634-1643 DOI: 10.1111/add.12562.
- Brandt, M. and K. Hank. (2014). Scars that will not disappear: Long-term associations between early and later life unemployment under different welfare regimes. Journal of Social Policy 43(4): 727-743 DOI: 10.1017/S0047279414000397.
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- Dragano, N. and M. Wahrendorf. (2014). Consistent health inequalities in Europe: the importance of labour market disadvantage. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health 68: 293-294. DOI: 10.1136/jech-2013-203655.
- Fernández-Carro, C., M. Evandrou. (2014). Staying put: Factors associated with ageing in one's 'lifetime home'. insights from the European context. Research on Ageing and Social Policy 2(1): 28-56 DOI: 10.4471/rasp.2014.02.

- Flores, M. and A. Kalwij. (2014). The associations between early life circumstances and later life health and employment in Europe. Empirical Economics 47(4): 1251-1282 DOI: 10.1007/s00181-013-0785-3.
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3. Economic and societal impact of the SHARE data

Many of the SHARE findings have strong policy implications with large economic and societal impacts. Social insurance such as pensions and health care affect every individual in our member countries and make up a very large proportion of the public budget as well as national income. Many policy reforms that are currently enacted or contemplated are rather controversial, such as tighter targeting rules for disability insurance or a stricter handling of early retirement pathways, because they have a large economic impact on individuals of all generations. Cutting pension and health care benefits hurts the older generation while increasing contributions to social insurance schemes hurts the younger generation. SHARE with its broad data on the economic, social and health situation of European citizens enables Member States and the Commission to base such difficult economic and social decisions on evidence rather than beliefs. The SHARE data permit an accurate account of who gains and who loses economically from a policy change because the data capture the life circumstances of Europe's citizens which vary so much not only within, but also between Member States.

Some examples may document how successful SHARE has been in providing help for evidence-based policy making. On the member state level:

Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, a new law on long-term care specifies a list of activities (mobility, communication, orientation, nutrition, dressing, hygiene etc.) for which a person needs help and may qualify for social service provided by the government. The Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs asked SHARE researchers to calibrate this list to the proportion of the population that needs assistance, stratified by household income, hospitalization, activities and other socio-economic characteristics, in order to set evidence-based needs levels. Following this successful cooperation, the ministry has procured a country specific add-on to SHARE to estimate the effects of potential higher pensions awarded for a postponed exit from the labour force. These results will serve as the factual foundation for the next step of the Czech pension reform with new regulations on pensions and retirement age.

France

In France, the controversial debate about the retirement age was finally decided by political arguments. However, the debate was moderated by SHARE findings. Two domains have been particularly important. First, the idea of adapting work conditions after age 50 is gaining ground as a precondition for later retirement since SHARE data has shown that good physical and psycho-social working conditions create an incentive to work longer. Second, the SHARE-detected link between early retirement and various negative outcomes, among them declining health, increasing social isolation, or reduced cognitive capacity, has received much attention. In fact, the new French legislation on earlier retirement is much more differentiated than often stated. SHARE provides the empirical basis for such differentiation.

Italy

In Italy, the former Minister of Welfare in the Monti government, Elsa Fornero, was a SHARE researcher at the University of Turin before taking office in Rome. She has used various pieces of evidence to support her pension reform end of 2011, in particular benchmarking Italy to other EU member states. Italian SHARE data on old-age poverty was used in safeguarding the Italian minimum pension from the cuts implied by the new benefit indexation rules.

Austria

In Austria, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has evaluated strategies for the European Year of Active Aging, to allow longer employment of elderly workers by investigating working conditions and better health services within firms. These strategies are based on reports based on SHARE. The economic impact of working longer is very large in particular for the large babyboom cohorts.

Germany

In Germany, SHARE data has been used to estimate the effect of several recent reforms aiming at increasing and reducing the pensionable ages for very specific groups of workers. SHARE data produced the finding that those who may enjoy earlier retirement options are on average both richer and healthier, a finding that has sparked a deep discussion between several ministries leading to a more balanced approach to flexible retirement options.

European Commission

SHARE is an important instrument for the European Commission, especially for economic and social benchmarking exercises as part of the European Semester. The Commission is actually the single largest user of the SHARE data. Three examples on the EU level may illustrate this:

DG ECFIN

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) has used SHARE data to add detail for its long-term projections of pension and health care expenditures. Such detailed data included health services utilisation, morbidity by age and years before death, and retirement propensities by age and health.

DG SANTE

DG for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) uses SHARE for their set of indicators, including the demographic and socio-economic situation (e.g., income inequality); health status (e.g. cancer incidence); health determinants (e.g., consumption of fruit); and health services (e.g. insurance coverage). SHARE was also used to compute health-adjusted life expectancies in Europe.

DG EMPL

The policy of the DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) on active ageing, highlighted during the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, is based on many findings from SHARE. Its recent report on Employment and Social Developments in Europe, for instance, stresses the importance of health prevention and work place quality to foster labour force participation at older ages. Evidence on these cross-cutting themes with their large impacts on the economic and social situation of EU citizens has only become possible through the multi-disciplinarity of SHARE data.

International Organisations

Finally, SHARE has been intensely used by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the World Bank. Again, some examples may suffice: The OECD's compendium of pension policies ("Pensions at a Glance") uses SHARE data. WHO employs SHARE to compute healthy life expectancies. The World Bank employs SHARE data to shed more light on migration flows, e.g. between Germany and Turkey, and between France and Morocco.

A collection of policy briefs based on SHARE data can be found at http://www.share-project.org/publications/policy-papers.html.

4. Wave 4 First Results Published in June 2013

After the success of our open access volumes with first results from SHARELIFE (Börsch-Supan et al. 2011) and SHARE Wave 4 (Börsch-Supan et al. 2013b), we are currently preparing a new volume based on first evidence from the upcoming Wave 5. Proposed chapters have been presented and discussed in a conference in Turin in November 2014. The selected contributions are now being reviewed and edited.

SHARE Open Access Volumes with first results from Waves 3 & 4 and the upcoming volume based on Wave 5

Taking a broader perspective on old age poverty in Europe the focus of the volume will be in on Social Inclusion, based on the European 50+ Exclusion Module developed for and implemented in Wave 5 of SHARE. Parts of the book will be devoted to the introduction of indices for social and material deprivation derived from this module and further analyses of the causes and consequences of social exclusion that make use of these indicators. One result is that severe deprivation (i.e. the combination of social and material deprivation) is not equally distributed over Europe but, among the countries participating in SHARE Wave 5, more common in Italy, Estonia, and Israel but less so in Sweden and Denmark (see Figure 6).

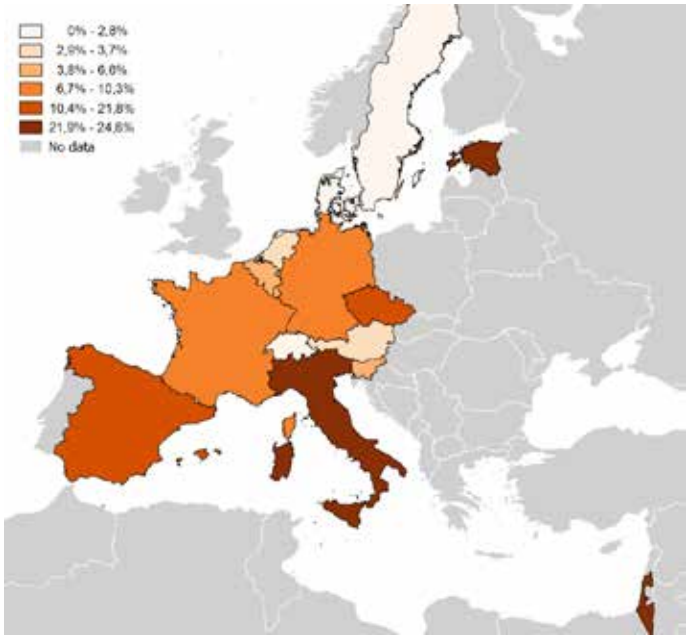


Figure 6: Severe deprivation by country
Source: SHARE Wave 5 (preliminary data)

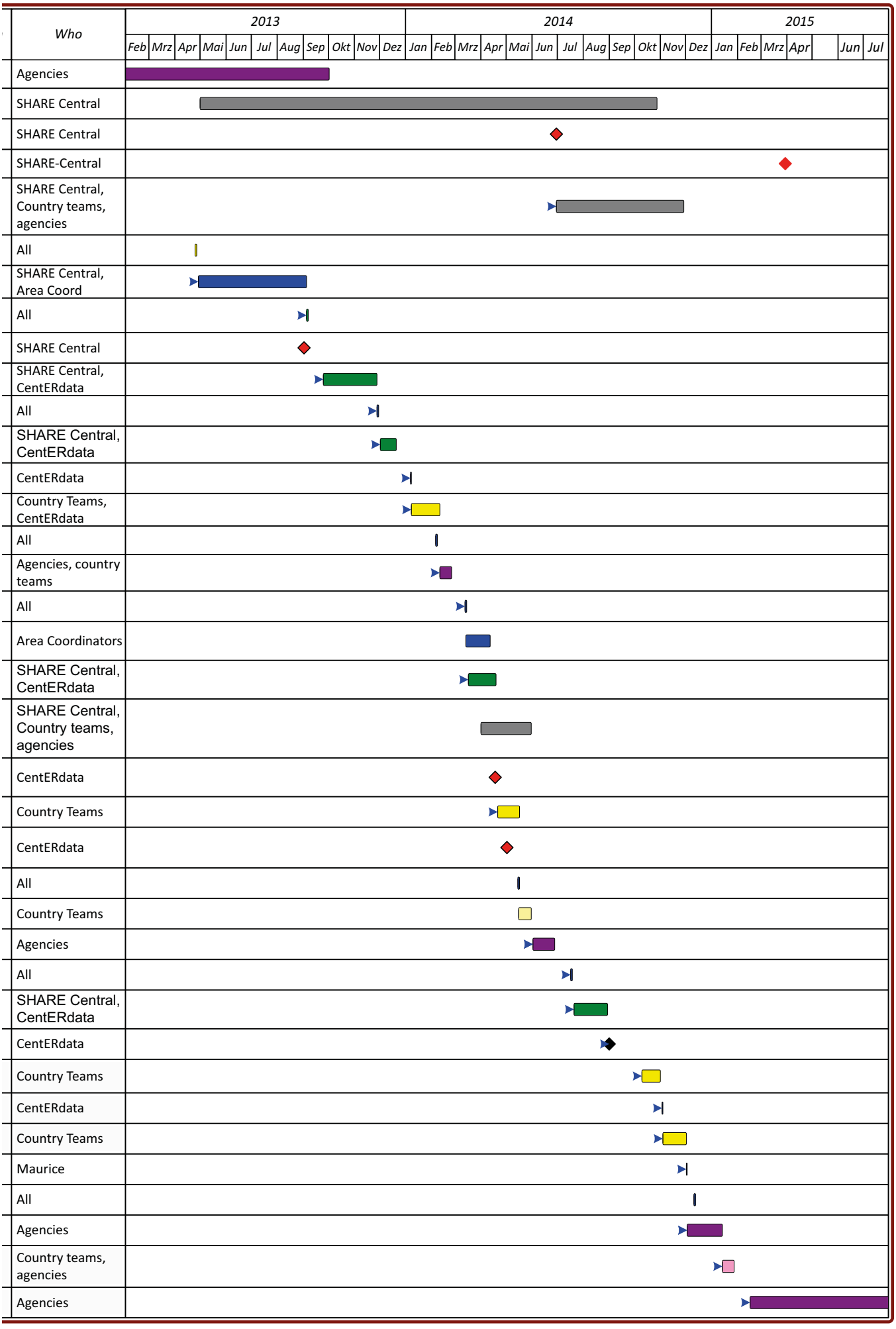
5. Fieldwork Preparation of Wave 6 Starts in Early 2014

The SHARE schedule requires an overlap between tasks on finalizing a given wave and preparing the upcoming wave. As such, Figure 7 on the next pages shows how the preparation of Wave 6 started with the conceptualizing the questionnaire and programming beta-versions of the software while Wave 5 was still in the field! However, the core of preparatory work of Wave 6 happened in 2014 (the red box). In January 2014, a first version of the English (generic) CAPI interview software was ready to be put into a state of "freeze", which meant that no more changes could be implemented until the freeze state was lifted (marked by a new conceptual phase in blue in March/April 2014. The purpose of freezing the generic English CAPI was allowing the university teams of participating SHARE countries to start translating the English generic source questionnaire into the target languages to be used by interviewers when interviewing respondents. Hence, this "CAPI freezing" marked the start of the pilot phase of Wave 6. During the pilot phase (marked by the plum colored period in February 2014) the first version of the questionnaire was fielded with small convenience samples of about 20-30 respondents per country. A Train-The-Trainer (TTT) workshop was held in Munich in early February to teach updates and new procedures applicable in the upcoming pilot data collection.

Results of the pilot data collection were then discussed by the SHARE consortium at a meeting in the middle of March 2014 in Ohalo, Israel. At this meeting, the SHARE Scientific Monitoring Board (SMB) provided valuable input for further revisions of the generic English questionnaire. After a new round of programming and testing, the pretest phase of Wave 6 was kicked off with the pretest TTT workshop in mid-May in Munich. The pretest data collection was a full mock run of the main data collection with a stipulated minimum net sample size of 100 completed interviews from a probability sample in each country. The pretest yielded about 3000 interviews in 19 countries. Last revisions to the questionnaire were implemented after the post-pretest meeting in the middle of July in Krakow, Poland. After a final round of testing, the generic English questionnaire of Wave 6 was frozen at the beginning of November. All country teams and contracted agencies gathered in Munich for the last TTT of Wave 6 in the middle of December 2014 to be taught all relevant procedures and updates of the main data collection of Wave 6, slated to start in January 2015.

ID	Task	Task details	Start	End	Duration
1	Fieldwork	Fieldwork wave 5	01.02.2013	01.10.2013	34,6w
2	Data processing	Data cleaning wave 5	01.05.2013	30.03.2015	77,8w
3	Milestone	Release 0 wave 5 (no weights or imputation, basis for FRB)	30.06.2014	30.06.2014	0w
4	Milestone	Release 1 wave 5 (with imputations & weights); FRB release, user conf.	30.03.2015	30.03.2015	0w
5	Data processing	Preload wave 6	01.06.2014	01.12.2014	22w
6	Meeting	Conference Prague: first decisions on QNN revisions	25.04.2013	26.04.2013	,4w
7	CAPI conceptual	Conceptual & technical QNN revisions	29.04.2013	04.09.2013	18,6w
8	Meeting	Conference Lausanne: presentation and discussion of new content	05.09.2013	06.09.2013	,4w
9	Milestone	Tendering wave 6: model contract + DBS	01.09.2013	02.09.2013	0w
10	Progamming-Testing	Programming & testing generic CAPI	09.09.2013	27.11.2013	9,2w
11	Meeting	Conference Liege: QB meeting	28.11.2013	29.11.2013	,4w
12	Programming-Testing	Programming & testing generic pilot CAPI	02.12.2013	20.12.2013	3w
13	Milestone	Generic Pilot CAPI frozen, Final LMU manual	07.01.2014	07.01.2014	,2w
14	Translation-Testing	Translation & testing of national CAPI	07.01.2014	08.02.2014	4,8w
15	Meeting	Pilot TTT in Munich	06.02.2014	07.02.2014	,4w
16	Fieldwork	Wave 6 Pilot	10.02.2014	21.02.2014	2w
17	Meeting	Post-pilot meeting	13.03.2014	14.03.2014	,4w
18	CAPI conceptual	Conceptual revision	14.03.2014	12.04.2014	4,2w
19	Programming-Testing	Programming & testing generic pretest CAPI	17.03.2014	18.04.2014	5w
20	Data processing	Pretest preload	01.04.2014	30.05.2014	8,8w
21	Milestone	Generic Pretest CAPI Frozen I	18.04.2014	18.04.2014	0w
22	Translation-Testing	Translation and testing of national pretest CAPI	21.04.2014	16.05.2014	4w
23	Milestone	Generic Pretest CAPI frozen II & Pretest SMS frozen	02.05.2014	02.05.2014	0w
24	Meeting	Pretest TTT in Munich	15.05.2014	16.05.2014	,4w
25	Translation-Testing	Compliation of national pretest CAPIs	16.05.2014	30.05.2014	2,2w
26	Fieldwork	Pretest wave 6	02.06.2014	27.06.2014	4w
27	Meeting	Post-pretest meeting	17.07.2014	18.07.2014	,4w
28	Programming-Testing	Programming & testing generic CAPI	21.07.2014	29.08.2014	6w
29	Milestone	Generic CAPI preliminary frozen	01.09.2014	01.09.2014	0w
30	Translation-Testing	Translation and testing of national CAPIs, feedback to generic	02.09.20 14	31.10.2014	3,2w
31	Milestone	Generic SMS-CAPI frozen frozen, Final SMS & SD manuals	03.11.2014	03.11.2014	,2w
32	Translation-Testing	Final adaptation of national CAPIs	03.11.2014	28.11.2014	4w
33	Milestone	National SMS-CAPIs frozen	01.12.2014	01.12.2014	,2w
34	Meeting	Main TTT in Munich	11.12.2014	12.12.2014	,4w
35	Fieldwork preparation	Installation of SMS & SDs at agencies	02.12.2014	31.01.2015	6w
36	Meeting	National training sessions	02.01.2015	16.02.2015	2w
37	Fieldwork	Fieldwork wave 6	16.02.2015	30.08.2015	30w

Figure 7: SHARE project schedule of Wave 6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6. Questionnaire Innovations of Wave 6 (Pilot and Pretest)

At the outset of Wave 6, we commissioned a review of all transitions of Wave 5 to be verified by CAPSTAN, a private business specialized in translation services for social surveys. Findings of the verifications were discussed by the SHARE consortium at the March meeting in Israel. All country teams received the verifications as input to improve their translation for the upcoming Wave 6. In addition, we continued our overhaul of minor wording or conceptual issues (such as measuring alcohol intake in a new way) and continued streamlining the routing technology (which was already started during Wave 5). For example, it will be much easier for interviewers to conduct so-called proxy-interviews in Wave 6. Part of that improvement of proxy interviewing was also a better way of obtaining data on deceased respondents.

Longitudinal Social Networks Module

After a hiatus in Wave 5, we re-introduced the social networks module which was based on a name-generator approach. It was thus necessary to adapt the module to accommodate respondents who had reported their social network in Wave 4 and allow them to compare the network elicited during Wave 4 with that elicited in Wave 6. The focus of analyses of Wave 6 data will then be comparing the quality and quantity of networks over time and relate those changes to outcomes of interest, e.g. reported loneliness or health.

Dried Blood Spots (DBS) Samples

One of the key innovations of Wave 6 is the introduction of a set of new objective health measures via the collection of dried blood spots. New technology allowes a cost-effective extraction of key health indicators with this interviewer administered test: we will be able to report on vitamin D levels (an indicator of osteoporosis), total cholesterol (a marker of developing cardiovascular diseases), long-term glucose levels (so-called Hb1Ac, a marker of diabetes) and various inflammation markers (indicative of stress). For preparation, we clarified, after devising a harmonized procedure and materials, in close cooperation with the SHARE country teams the legal and ethical issues. At the end of 2014, we succeeded in obtaining legal and ethical clearance and secure funding to collect DBS in 11 countries. The picture below shows our training efforts at the pretest TTT in Munich in May 2014.

An important part of training the collection of dried blood spot by medical lay people like interviewers was overcoming initial reluctance or fear through our specific training content.

Automated coding of job titles according to ISCO

Various parts of the SHARE interview deal with occupations. In order to improve usability of data, we introduced an new tool that will allows interviewer to choose from a drop-down menu job titles in accordance to the International Standard Classification of Occupations" (ISCO). Many iterations of CAPI software were programmed and tested until the end of December and Wave 6 will be fielded with a coding tool.

7. References and Further Reading

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B. Operational Aspects of the SHARE-ERIC

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1. SHARE-ERIC Council Meeting

On 6th of March, 2014 the SHARE-ERIC Council took place at the premises of the Munich Center for the Economics of Aging in Munich.

The following main decisions were taken:

- The Council accepted the annotated accession of Poland to SHARE-ERIC.
- Prof. Elsa Fornero, former Italian minister for employment during the Monti government, was elected Vice Chair of SHARE-ERIC after the time of Renée Kessel-Hagenstein, NL, had come to an end.
- The Council adopted the exertion of two payments already stipulated in the SHARE-ERIC statutes: the so called "Column D" as contribution for the arising costs for international coordination of SHARE-ERIC and a membership fee. Representatives of the countries not yet members of SHARE-ERIC were informed that the payment of the Column D should be also an obligatory condition for their participation in an upcoming wave.
- The Council was also informed about the fact that in many countries funding for Wave 6 is still not earmarked and that this potentially jeopardizes the harmonized fieldwork preparation.

2. Formal completion of the transfer from Tilburg, the Netherlands, to Munich, Germany

On the 6th of March, 2014 the European Commission announced that the requested change of the statutory seat of SHARE-ERIC from Tilburg, the Netherlands, to Munich, Germany, had been completed: A formal approval procedure was finally dispensable as the transfer had been envisaged right from the setting up of SHARE-ERIC in 2011 and was as such fixed its statutes.

3. Accessions to SHARE-ERIC

In the relevant time frame two further countries of the SHARE Consortium: Sweden (on 28th Aug.) and Poland (on 22nd Oct.) have acceded to SHARE-ERIC. In case of Sweden the consensus of the Council was obtained by written procedure.

4. Changes in the Scientific Partner Organizations

In December 2014 the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Zagreb became officially a Scientific Partner Institution of SHARE. The Scientific Monitoring Board of SHARE-ERIC approved the application that demonstrated the institution's ability to conduct a complex survey operation like SHARE. Currently the Croatian country team has two members, Šime Smolic the country team leader specialized in Macroeconomics and Health Economics, and Ivan Cipin specialized in Demography. SHARE Wave 6 will be the first one in Croatia, and will be financed mainly through the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). We hope that Croatia will join the ERIC as soon as possible.

C. Financial Aspects

C. Financial Aspects

This Section provides the financial statement for 2014 as required by the SHARE-ERIC statutes, a general overview of the current financial situation and the prospects for 2015 and beyond. We are therefore submitting a probabalistic financial plan for 2015 which reflects the large financial uncertainties which are explained below.

1. Financial Statement for 2014

The accounting for the financial year 2014 could be closed end of February 2015 with an audit report which found all figures provided below (Figure 8) and in the detailed country tables in agreement with the bank accounts. As shown in Figure 9, only a small part of the overall SHARE funding is flowing through the SHARE-ERIC.

Figure 8 shows the collection of funds from member countries (€2.718m plus €49k membership fees) and grants (€361k) in 2014, and the initial survey expenses of Wave 6 plus some remaining expenses of Wave 5 (€4.056m) plus other minor expenses in 2013. Due to the budget uncertainties, fieldwork will start later than planned for all countries, leaving a larger balance (€1.824m) than expected a year ago.

Summary	2014			
All Euro accounts				
Type	Code	Debit	Credit	Balance
INITIAL BALANCE				2.669.619,78
CC: Country Contributions acc. to Art.9	CC	0,00	2.718.583,38	2.718.583,38
GC: Grants & contracts	GC	200.300,00	361.325,10	161.025,10
MF: Membership fees	MF	0,00	49.308,80	49.308,80
II: Interest income	II	0,00	3,36	3,36
VA: VAT reimbursement	VA	0,00	94.162,49	94.162,49
SV: Survey costs	SV	4.056.262,99	85.801,70	-3.970.461,29
PE: Personnel costs	PE	0,00	0,00	0,00
TV: Travel and subsistence costs	TV	9.559,20	0,00	-9.559,20
MA: Materials costs	MA	77.452,16	0,00	-77.452,16
AC: Account and other charges	AC	3.259,84	12,50	-3.247,34
SC: Other subcontracts	SC	113.064,81	0,00	-113.064,81
CD: Column D	CD	32.476,00	337.801,94	305.325,94
XX: unknown, not yet categorized	XX	0,00	0,00	0,00
TOTAL FLOWS		4.492.375,00	3.646.999,27	-845.375,73
END BALANCE				1.824.244,05

Figure 8: Collection of funds from member countries

2. Funding Situation

Funding SHARE is very complex. One reason for this is that SHARE is relatively expensive for the social sciences, although it is much cheaper than most of the ESFRI projects e.g. in the natural sciences. The entire SHARE operation costs about €11m per annum for all 20 countries which are participating in SHARE of which 11 are currently SHARE-ERIC members. The other reason for the complexity, partially related to the first one, is that there are many funders on the international and even on the national level. In Wave 4, we had 54 different funding sources which contributed €10,000 or more; in Wave 5 there were 57. These sources fund four different cost components, see Figure 9:

- The largest component (about €8m) is running the survey in each SHARE country.
- International coordination has two components:
  - First, the international coordination activities which take place at the Munich headquarter (about €1.15m annually) are covered by a grant from the Federal Ministry for Research and Education (BMBF) and the Max Planck Society (MPG) until June 2018 (Column C of the Statutes).
  - Second, Commission support for the international coordination activities which take place in Denmark, France, Israel, Italy and the Netherlands (about €1.25m annually, Column D of the Statutes) has expired at the end of 2014 and no substitute has been received so far for 2015. "Column D" funds from SHARE-ERIC members cover part of expenses until about June 2015. Partially uncovered are currently those coordination costs which are attributable to SHARE countries which are not members of SHARE-ERIC, and all expenses after about June 2015.
- Finally, several other grants (FP7, US National Institute on Aging; totaling about €0.7m per annum) finance innovation and harmonization activities.

The third reason for the complex funding situation are the different time horizons of funding sources. While the funding situation for SHARE is stable in some countries with a reasonably long time horizon, it is fragile and very short term in many other countries. This now holds - which is a new situation - also for the international coordination outside of the Munich headquarters. The latter is especially dangerous for the SHARE operations as this includes SHARE's IT center in Tilburg, the Netherlands. Without IT services, SHARE is infeasible.

Figure 9: Components of the SHARE operation costs (per year)

Regarding funding in the member states, several countries did not manage to fund Wave 5, so SHARE still could not reach full coverage of the EU countries as projected in the SHARE-ERIC statutes, see Figure 10.

Funding is secured until 2022 only in the Czech Republic. Most other countries have short-term funding for one or two waves. Greece, after having missed both Wave 4 and Wave 5, has re-entered Wave 6 thanks to European Structural Funds. In Denmark, a consortium of several universities and the ministry of science has dedicated funds for Waves 6 and 7. Also Sweden has secured funding for Waves 6 and 7.

In general, however, the situation has significantly worsened since our last report a year ago. In the Netherlands, the former host country, funding switched to a university consortium and has been reduced to half of the amount that would be necessary to interview the panel sample again.

The reduced funding level permits an experimental Internet survey which, however, will not be strictly comparable to the remainder of SHARE. In the current host country, Germany, the national research council (DFG) has postponed its funding decision to July 2015.

Interim funding by the Federal Ministry for Research and Education (BMBF) and the Max Planck Society (MPG) has permitted the start of Wave 6 for about a quarter of the sample.

France has secured partial funding for about 80% of the Wave 6 budget, the remainder is still open. Croatia and Spain have applied for funds from DG Employment which are still under administrative evaluation. In Hungary, a mixture of financial and political restrictions appears to make future waves in this country impossible.

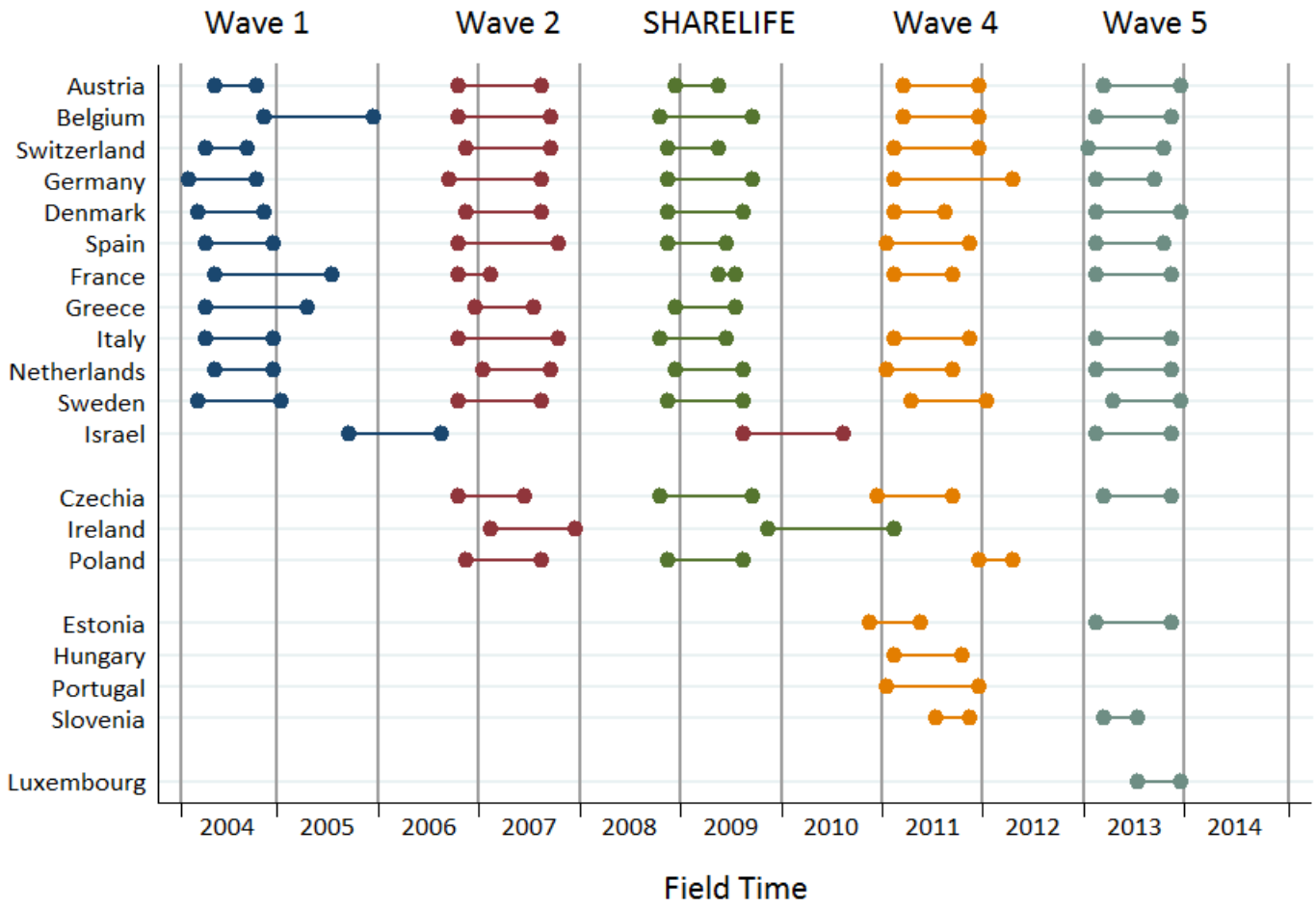

Figure 10: Participation in SHARE, Waves 1-5

This complex and fragile funding situation makes both financial and operational planning very difficult. This has two serious implications.

First, we had to postpone operations in many SHARE countries. The resulting lack of synchronization endangers harmonization and makes management more difficult.

Second, we have currently great difficulties in submitting a formal 2015 budget since the uncertainties are so large. The resulting inefficiency of operations and governance is a great impediment for the scientific integrity of SHARE.

Figure 11, therefore, presents a financial plan which provides probabilities for each income and each expenditure item.

	Income	Amount	Probability	Paid
				due 28.2.
	Membership fee 2015			
1	AT	10.000,00 €	0,95	
2	BE	10.000,00 €	0,95	
3	CZ	10.000,00 €	1	Y
4	DE	10.000,00 €	0,95	
5	GR	10.000,00 €	0,5	
6	IL	10.000,00 €	1	Y
7	IT	10.000,00 €	0,95	
8	NL	10.000,00 €	1	Y
9	PL	10.000,00 €	1	Y
10	SE	10.000,00 €	0,95	
11	SI	10.000,00 €	1	Y
12	expected income	102.500,00 €		
13	certain income	50.000,00 €		
	Column D, 2015H1			
14	AT	45.997,00 €	1	Y
15	BE	42.964,00 €	1	Y
16	CZ	18.449,00 €	1	Y
17	DE	41.195,00 €	1	Y
18	GR	21.735,00 €	0,5	
19	IL	32.801,00 €	1	Y
20	IT	32.476,00 €	1	Y
21	NL	45.239,00 €	1	Y
22	PL	16.112,00 €	1	Y
23	SE	48.335,00 €	1	Y
24	SI	21.735,00 €	1	Y
25	CH	48.335,00 €	1	Y
26	DK	48.335,00 €	0,1	
27	EE	16.428,00 €	1	Y
28	ES	28.180,00 €	0	
29	FR	39.300,00 €	1	Y
30	HR	16.112,00 €	1	Y
31	HU			
32	LUX	48.335,00 €	1	Y
33	PT	19.713,00 €	0	
34	expected income	529.514,00 €		
35	certain income	513.813,00 €		
	EU-COM or Column D, 2015H2			
36	SERISS	202.750,00 €	0,8	
37	SHARE-DEV3	308.333,33 €	0,5	
38	Column D	524.000,00 €	0,4	
39				
40				
41				
42				
43				
44	expected income	525.966,67 €		
45	certain income	209.600,00 €		

Expenditure	Amount	Probability
ERIC administration 2015		
Account charges/transaction fees	2.000,00 €	1
Auditor	3.000,00 €	1
Budget SMB/Travel	30.000,00 €	1
0.5 FTE accountant	25.000,00 €	1
Council meeting	1.000,00 €	1
ERIC network meeting	5.000,00 €	1
Other admin (translations, notary)	5.000,00 €	1
total expenditures	71.000,00 €	
maximum shortfall	-21.000,00 €	
Int'l Coordination ex Munich, 2015H1		
IT support: CentERdata Tilburg	131.000,00 €	1
Economics Area: Padua/Venice	175.000,00 €	1
Health Area: Odense	90.000,00 €	1
Social Area: Jerusalem	55.000,00 €	1
Survey Mgment/Methodology: Paris	30.000,00 €	1
Health Care Area: Wuppertal	28.000,00 €	1
SHARE-ERIC Admin: Madrid	15.000,00 €	1
expected expenditures	524.000,00 €	
maximum shortfall	-10.187,00 €	
Int'l Coordination ex Munich, 2015H2		
IT support: CentERdata Tilburg	131.000,00 €	1
Economics Area: Padua/Venice	175.000,00 €	1
Health Area: Odense	90.000,00 €	1
Social Area: Jerusalem	55.000,00 €	1
Survey Mgment/Methodology: Paris	30.000,00 €	1
Health Care Area: Wuppertal	28.000,00 €	1
SHARE-ERIC Admin: Madrid	15.000,00 €	1
expected expenditures	524.000,00 €	
maximum shortfall	-314.400,00 €	

Figure 11: Financial Plan 2015

	Survey contribution 2015			
46	AT	695.000,00 €	1	
47	BE only partially	60.000,00 €	1	
48	CZ	330.000,00 €	1	
49	DE old panel	400.000,00 €	1	
50	DE new panel	1.000.000,00 €	0,5	
51	GR	350.000,00 €	1	
52	IL			
53	IT	745.000,00 €	1	
54	NL only Internet	500.000,00 €	1	
55	PL	120.000,00 €	1	
56	SE			
57	SI	400.000,00 €	1	
58	CH			
59	DK			
60	EE			
61	ES	468.000,00 €	0,75	
62	FR			
63	HR	134.000,00 €	0,75	
64	HU dropped out			
65	LUX			
66	PT			
67	expected income	4.551.500,00 €		
68	certain income	irrelevant		

	NIA IAG4 2015			
69	NIA grant	635.000,00 €	1	Y
70				
71				
72	expected income	635.000,00 €		
73	certain income	635.000,00 €		

Survey costs 2015		
AT	695.000,00 €	1
BE only partially	60.000,00 €	1
CZ	330.000,00 €	1
DE old panel	400.000,00 €	1
DE new panel	1.000.000,00 €	0,5
GR	350.000,00 €	1
IL		
IT	745.000,00 €	1
NL only Internet	500.000,00 €	1
PL	120.000,00 €	1
SE		
SI	400.000,00 €	1
CH		
DK		
EE		
ES	468.000,00 €	0,75
FR		
HR	134.000,00 €	0,75
HU dropped out		
LUX		
PT		
expected expenditures	4.551.500,00 €	
maximum shortfall	irrelevant	

Biomarker 2015		
DBS support in 13 countries	559.000,00 €	1
Biobank at SDU Odense	73.512,34 €	1
expected expenditures	632.512,34 €	
excess	2.487,66 €	

Figure 11: Financial Plan 2015

The sum of income items, weighted by these probabilities, is the expected income. The same procedure is applied to the expenditure items and yields the expected expenditures. We also compute the certain income which is the income items that have been credited on the SHARE-ERIC account. The financial plan is separated by: income from ERIC membership fee and its usage; income from Column D contributions for the first half of 2015 and its usage; income from EU-COM and/or Column D contributions for the second half of 2015 and its usage; survey contributions and costs; biomarker grant and expenditures.

Sources for uncertainty are:

1. Not all SHARE-ERIC members have paid their membership fee, although we are optimistic that almost all members will pay (probability=0.95=95%). There is additional uncertainty in Greece due to the regulations of Structural Funds.

2. Not all SHARE countries (note that this includes non-ERIC members) have paid their contribution according to Column D for the first half of 2015 („2015H1"). There are considerable uncertainties in some countries. The total expected and certain contributions are sufficient not to jeopardize the international coordination outside of Munich, but paying countries will thereby subsidize non-paying countries which is not a sustainable mode of financing.

3. The situation for the second half of 2015 („2015H2") is completely uncertain. We expect two grants from the EU Commission (SERISS, call INFRADEV-4, and SHARE-DEV3, call INFRADEV-3). SERISS is on the reserve list but since the EU Budget has not been approved there is some remaining uncertainty (probability=80%). SHARE-DEV3 has not yet been evaluated (probability=50%). This seriously jeopardizes the international coordination outside of Munich.

4. In order to resolve this uncertainty, we will need to continue, with 40% probability, Column D support from the countries participating in SHARE, ERIC and non-ERIC members. The ERIC members present at the 2015 Council meeting have agreed to pay the Column D contribution for the second half of 2015, see the certain income amount. Some of those countries will have to reduce sample size, thereby also reducing the scientific value of SHARE. The remaining countries could not commit. The resulting uncertainty of such support poses a severe financial and operational risk to

SHARE-ERIC since the personnel involved is necessary to run SHARE (e.g., without IT support, SHARE has to stop immediately) and has labor contracts which cannot easily be dissolved.

5. There is also considerable uncertainty about the survey in some countries, notably Germany, Spain and Croatia. This does not, however, pose financial risks for SHARE-ERIC since survey costs will only be paid once the country has paid its survey contribution (according to the SHARE-ERIC Bylaws).

While the risks and uncertainties are considerable and unusual for a research project, the SHARE-ERIC management board believes that there are sufficient mechanisms in place to continue operations in 2015 and to finish Wave 6 of SHARE. The management board reiterates, however, that SHARE needs a more stable financial foundation to pursue the infrastructure beyond Wave 6.

Addendum: In April 2015 we were officially informed by the European Commission that the SHARE-DEV3 proposal as well as the SERISS proposal have been successful. Therefore we could inform the SHARE-ERIC delegates that the payment of Column D for the second part for 2015 and for the full duration of these calls will not be necessary. The international coordination of SHARE-ERIC is therefore secured until 2018. We are grateful for this strengthening of our efforts to keep SHARE strictly harmonized across all SHARE member countries.

Annex: Scientific Partners of the SHARE-ERIC

Annex: Scientific Partners of SHARE-ERIC

Country	Participating Organisations	Short Description
Austria	University of Linz, Dept. of Economics	The Department of Economics at the University of Linz directs the Austrian participation in the SHARE project. Its research focus being is labour economics, public economics and problems of pension reform as well environmental economics. It will be represented by the Rudolf Winter-Ebmer, Professor of Economics and specialist in empirical labour economics.
Belgium	University of Antwerp, CSP	CSP's principal objective has been to study the adequacy of social policies. Its research is mainly based on large-scale socio-economic surveys of households. Karel van den Bosch, senior researcher, leads the Belgian country team.
Belgium	University of Liège, CREPP	CREPP's main fields of specialisation are social security, retirement behaviour, and well-being among the elderly and intergenerational transfers. Sergio Perelman is in charge of the SHARE project coordination in the Belgian French speaking community.
Czech Rep.	CERGE-EI, Prague	CERGE-EI is fully accredited in both the United States and the Czech Republic. Its main expertise is in social, economic and political transition in the Central and Eastern European countries and in the former Soviet Union region. Radim Bohacek leads the Czech country team.
Germany	Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy, Munich Center for the Economics of Aging (MEA)	MEA is a world-renowned centre of excellence for the economics of ageing. It moved 2011 from Mannheim to Munich after an offer to become part of the Max Planck Society. Research areas are savings, social insurance and public policy; macroeconomic implications of population ageing; and public health. MEA has been the coordination center of SHARE since its first wave. MEA is represented by Axel Börsch-Supan, director, who has coordinated the SHARE family of projects. Annette Scherpenzeel is the German country team leader.

Greece	Panteion University, Athens	Panteion University is a public institution centering on social and political sciences. Economics, sociology, social anthropology and psychology are major disciplines while regional development & public administration are interdisciplinary departments where cross-cutting viewpoints from many disciplines met. Antigone Lyberaki leads the Greek country team.
Israel	The Hebrew University, IGDC	The Israel Gerontological Data Center at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem facilitates research and dissemination of data on aging, and directs the Israeli participation in the SHARE project. Howard Litwin leads the Israeli country team. He also serves as area coordinator of the social network area in SHARE.
Italy	University of Padua, Dept. of Economics	Padua's Department for Economics and Management covers the whole spectrum of economics and management science, in particular applied econometrics, public and health economics as well as labour economics. Guglielmo Weber leads the Italian country team. He also serves as deputy coordinator of SHARE.
The Netherlands	University of Tilburg, Netspar	Netspar is a scientific Network for studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement connected to the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Tilburg University. Arthur van Soest leads the Dutch SHARE country team.
Poland	Centre for Economic Analysis, Szczecin	The Centre for Economic Analysis, CenEA, is an independent research institute in Poland in the area of applied microeconomic analysis with a focus on household and firm behaviour and on the effects of economic policy on welfare and economic development. Michał Myck is director and member of the Board of Centre for Economic Analysis, CenEA and leader of the Polish country team.

Slovenia	Institute for Economic Research Ljubliana (IER) country team	The Institute for Economic Research (IER) is the leading institute for macroeconomic research in Slovenia, which recently focuses particularly on economic, social and health aspects of structural reforms in Slovenia. Boris Majcen leads the Slovenian country team.
Sweden	Centre for Population Studies (CPS), Umeå University	CPS directs the Swedish participation in SHARE together with the department of Sociology at Umeå University. CPS is a multidisciplinary centre and includes researchers from social sciences, economics, humanities, medicine and behavioural sciences. The research focuses on population dynamics in relation to ageing including studies on social networks, retirement, life style and health. The centre hosts several large micro-databases. The CPS is represented by Professor Gunnar Malmberg.

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