# How we age in Europe.

**SHARE** — SURVEY OF HEALTH, AGEING AND RETIREMENT IN EUROPE

## ACCESS TO THE DATA

Access to the **SHARE** data is provided free of charge to all scientists globally. In accordance with the philosophy of sharing the data as soon as possible with the entire scientific community, a release policy has been adopted that gives free, quick and convenient access to all scientific users world-wide. For details on how to register as a **SHARE** user, please visit our website. At the time of writing, **SHARE** has more than 13,000 registered users all over the world and the number of users is steadily increasing.

## WWW.SHARE-ERIC.EU

The **SHARE** website provides a user-friendly documentation, e.g. on data access, details of the variables, multilingual cross-references and questionnaires. It also gives an overview of all publications with **SHARE** data.

## SUPPORTED STATISTICAL SOFTWARE

The **SHARE** dataset is available for the statistical software packages Stata and SPSS.

**BASIC LITERATURE:**
Börsch-Supan, A., Brandt, M., Hunkler, C., Kneip, T., Korbmacher, J., Malter, F., Schaan, B., Stuck, S. and Zuber, S. (2013). Data Resource Profile: The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). International Journal of Epidemiology.

**SHARE** — SURVEY OF HEALTH, AGEING AND RETIREMENT IN EUROPE

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icons: © FourLeafLover (calendar, magnifier, puzzle); Maljuk (virus) – stock.adobe.com

COVID-19 Data

Economic Situation

Physical Health

Mental Health

Biomarkers

Social Networks & Support

Demographics

CROSS-COUNTRY COMPARISON

LONGITUDINAL

INTERNATIONAL

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

**mea** | MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY
Munich Center For The Economics Of Aging

## WHAT IS SHARE?

**SHARE** – the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, is a research infrastructure for studying the effects of health, social, economic and environmental policies over the life-course of European citizens and beyond. Since 2004, in biennial survey waves, people aged 50 or older from 27 European countries and Israel are interviewed. Overall, 480,000 interviews with approximately 140,000 individuals have been accomplished in the survey Waves 1 to 8.

**SHARE** is the largest pan-European social science panel study providing internationally comparable longitudinal micro data which allows insights in the fields of public health and socio-economic living conditions of European individuals, both for scientists and policy makers. **SHARE** has global impact since it not only covers all EU member countries in a strictly harmonized way but additionally is embedded in a network of sister studies all over the world, from the Americas to Eastern Asia.

In 2020, the collection of new COVID-19 data was initiated. **SHARE** is the ideal database to study the non-intended socio-economic and health consequences of the epidemiological containment decisions and the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic due to its life-course and multidisciplinary approach combining health with socio-economic data. The data offer the possibility to measure and interpret differences in a cross-country and a longitudinal dimension and are embedded in **SHARE**'s sister survey network.

## CONTENT OF THE DATASET

### COVID-19 DATA
Health & health behaviour, mental health, infections & healthcare, changes in work and economic situation, social networks during the pandemic

### ECONOMIC SITUATION
e.g. current work activity, job characteristics, opportunities to work past retirement age, sources and composition of current income, wealth and consumption, housing, education

### PHYSICAL HEALTH
e.g. self-reported health, diagnosed health conditions, physical and cognitive functioning, health behaviour, use of health care facilities

### MENTAL HEALTH
e.g. depressive symptoms, well-being and life satisfaction, big five personality traits

### BIOMARKERS
e.g. grip strength, body-mass index, peak flow, accelerometry-data

### SOCIAL NETWORKS AND SUPPORT
e.g. assistance within families, transfers of income and assets, social networks, volunteer activities

### DEMOGRAPHICS
e.g. marital status, children, housing, education

A detailed overview of the variables is documented on our website: **www.share-eric.eu**

## SHARE'S ADVANTAGES

**CROSS-NATIONAL COMPARABILITY**
The ex-ante harmonised cross-national design follows rigorous procedural guidelines and programs for sampling, questionnaire design and data collection, so that researchers are able to compare countries.

**LONGITUDINAL DESIGN**
The biennial panel design grasps the dynamic character of the ageing process. Furthermore, life history information (**SHARELIFE**) collected in Waves 3 and 7 links individual micro data over the respondents' entire life (early childhood until now) with institutional macro data on the welfare state.
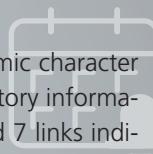
**INTERNATIONALITY**
Even beyond the **SHARE** member countries, the data is harmonized with the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and has become a role model for several ageing surveys worldwide.

**MULTIDISCIPLINARITY**
Delivers the full picture of the ageing process of e.g. relations between economic, social and medical variables.
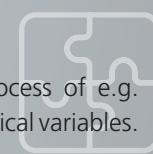
## SPECIAL DATASETS

*easy*SHARE is a simplified (HRS-adapted) dataset for student training and for researchers with little experience in quantitative analyses of complex survey data.

**SHARE-data linkage** links **SHARE** survey data with administrative records. Linked data is available in: Germany (SHARE-RV), Denmark (REGLINK-SHAREDK) and the Netherlands (Linkage SHARE-NL).

The **Job Episodes Panel** is a ready-to-use long panel that allows to identify the labour market status throughout the respondent's life.