SOEP
The Socio-Economic Panel

2019

SOEP Annual Report

The SOEP Group

DIW SOEP

SOEP
The Socio-Economic Panel

2019

SOEP Annual Report

The SOEP Group

Contents

Editorial

We are pleased to present our new SOEP Annual Report, which replaces the SOEP Wave Report with a fresh, concise look at key developments in the SOEP over the last year. This relaunch is aimed at offering a targeted overview of our work, focusing on the most important developments and innovations in the SOEP survey. We hope the new format will make it easier for you to find the information that is important to you.

This SOEP Annual Report gives you a glimpse of our work in 2019. Every year, the SOEP team works on multiple waves of the SOEP survey simultaneously. Processing and releasing the data from the previous year's survey takes place simultaneously with current fieldwork and preparations for the coming year and beyond. Throughout these processes, the SOEP team works closely with Kantar, the survey research institute responsible for SOEP fieldwork. To find out more about the SOEP team's work on the 34th wave of the data, which went out to SOEP data users in March of 2019, and the data preparation of the 35th wave of SOEP, see the Report from the SOEP Research Data Center in Chapter 4. To find out more about SOEP fieldwork in 2019, see Kantar's report in Chapter 3.

The SOEP Annual Report focuses on the dataset we refer to as SOEP-Core. This consists of the original SOEP sample that was launched in 1984 and all of the subsamples and refresher samples that have been added to it over the years. When the SOEP survey first started, its aim was to provide a representative picture of private households in Germany from both a cross-sectional and a longitudinal perspective. This remains the objective of SOEP-Core to this day. In 2019, two important new SOEP-Core samples were fielded. The first of these is the new SOEP top-wealth sample, comprising around 2,000 households at the upper end of the wealth distribution in Germany. The second is the new LGB sample, comprising around 1,000 households of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in Germany. Both of these new samples provide information on populations that were represented by only a few households, if any, in population surveys to date.

A number of changes took place on the SOEP team in 2019. Sabine Zinn joined the SOEP Board of Directors as Head of the Division of Survey Methodology and Management. Markus Grabka—a member of the SOEP team for over 25 years—joined the SOEP Board of Directors as Head of the Division of Knowledge Transfer. Jürgen Schupp left the SOEP Board of Directors in October 2019 and has been conducting research as a Senior Research Fellow in the SOEP at DIW Berlin since then. Jürgen Schupp was Director of the SOEP from 2011 to 2017 and was succeeded by Stefan Liebig in 2018. From 2018 to 2019, Schupp served as Vice Director of the SOEP. During that time, he founded and developed the new Division of Knowledge Transfer.

In the area of user services, the SOEP launched several innovative new tools in 2019. These included the new SOEPcompanion, providing assistance to SOEP users in numerous aspects of data analysis, and a series of online SOEPtutorials, making the SOEP more accessible to researchers all over the world. For more on our user services, see Chapter 4.

From left to right: Anja Bahr (Project Management), Carsten Schröder, Sabine Zinn, Markus M. Grabka, Jan Goebel, Stefan Liebig

Finally, Chapter 1 of this SOEP Annual Report tells you about several new projects that were launched in 2019 by the SOEP, in some cases in cooperation with other research institutions and universities with outside funding. One of these is a project on migrant health funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG); another is a project on mental health in the GDR funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

One important event that took place in May of 2019 was the Leibniz Association evaluation of DIW Berlin and the SOEP department. The evaluators' report, released in April 2020, gives the SOEP the highest possible rating of "excellent".

We hope you enjoy this new format. Happy reading!

Jan Goebel Markus M. Grabka Stefan Liebig Carsten Schröder Sabine Zinn

SOEP 2019: THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

35 new research projects at the SOEP

4 completed dissertations by SOEP team members

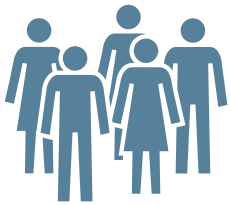
22 doctoral students on the SOEP team

50 members of the SOEP team

9,378 registered SOEP data users from 54 countries

1,526 new SOEP data users

~5.9 million euros
in outside project funding



respondents
SOEP Core ~22,000
SOEP IS ~7,000

papers by SOEP staff in DIW/SOEP publications
208

31
papers by SOEP staff in S(SCI) publications

72
guest researchers at the SOEP

302
papers published worldwide using SOEP data

wave of SOEP data in the field
36th

PART 1

SOEP 2019: The Year in Review

SOEP 2019: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2.

Marco Giesselmann recipient of ALCR Young Scholar Award

In February, Marco Giesselmann received the Advances in Life Course Research (ALCR) Young Scholar Award for his paper "Motherhood and mental well-being in Germany: Linking a longitudinal life course design and the gender perspective on motherhood", coauthored by Marina Hagen and Reinhard Schunck.

Latest SOEP data release in new user-friendly format

In March, wave 34 of the SOEP-Core data, covering the years 1984–2018, went out to users in the innovative new format SOEPlong, which pools the year-specific datasets into a single dataset to make the data easier to analyze—especially for new data users.

3.

SOEPcompanion published online

In March, the new SOEPcompanion went online. It presents a comprehensive overview of the SOEP study; describes the main topics and variables, the questionnaires, composition of samples, and data structure; and includes detailed instructions for analysis of the data and use of generated variables. It is part of a toolbox of services designed to assist new and returning data users, called "Getting Started".

New reference article on the SOEP

In April, a new reference work on the SOEP was published in the *Journal of Economics and Statistics*. "The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP)" by Jan Goebel, Markus Grabka, Stefan Liebig, Martin Kroh, David Richter, Carsten Schröder, and Jürgen Schupp is available online free of charge. DOI: 10.1515/jbnst-2018-0022

New project on the dynamics of mental health in migrant populations

The new project "Dynamics of Mental Health of Migrants" (DMHM), launched in April, will use data collected worldwide to study how migration affects mental health. The data will provide the basis for research to improve health services to migrant populations, including more appropriate and efficient therapies. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and is being carried out by the SOEP in cooperation with the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz.

New project on the mental health effects of growing up in the GDR

The new project DDR-PSYCH, launched in April, will examine how specific experiences associated with growing up in the GDR and aspects of the social and political system have affected mental health outcomes. It will use data from five large-scale population studies to compare East and West Germans' mental health, identifying both protective and risk factors for mental health. The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and is being conducted by the SOEP in cooperation with the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, the University of Greifswald, and the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin.

SOEP rated "excellent" in latest Leibniz evaluation

An independent team of international experts representing the Leibniz Association visited the SOEP in May as part of a detailed evaluation conducted once every seven years. The evaluators' report, released on April 4, 2020, gives the SOEP the highest possible rating of "excellent". The report notes the SOEP's outstanding progress in diverse areas since the last evaluation, including methodological advances, improvements in the overall quality of the data infrastructure, and the introduction of innovative survey designs.

Leibniz Association

SOEPtutorials

New SOEPtutorials series released

In May, the SOEP launched its new video tutorial series. SOEPtutorials allow new users to learn how to use the SOEP data without attending a class. The series has a modular structure, and the short videos can either be viewed successively for a comprehensive step-by-step introduction to SOEP data analysis, or individually for help with specific issues. Topics range from the basic structure of the data to weighting and methods of panel data analysis. All videos are in English.

New project on domain data protocols for educational research

In June, a new project was launched to develop domain data protocols (DDPs) for empirical educational research. The aim is to improve the quality of data management and ensure the ongoing use of the data. DDPs describe all relevant aspects of research data management, and will enable more effective management of research funds and more efficient monitoring and evaluation processes. The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Survey of refugees extended for another three years with a new sample of families with children

Since 2016, the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees has been interviewing people who came to Germany seeking protection from violence and persecution. In July, this survey was extended with the project GeFam 2, adding an additional sample of refugees who came to Germany with children or adolescent family members. This will add data on more than 5,900 children to the refugee survey.

SOEP welcomes its 5,000th data user

Prof. Leonardo Becchetti of the University of Rome signed his SOEP data use contract in August, becoming the SOEP's 5,000th data user. He will be using the SOEP data to compare heterogeneity in beliefs in East and West Germany. SOEP data are provided solely for scientific research and only on the basis of a data use contract between the data user and DIW Berlin.

New project to develop innovative survey statistical methodologies

Starting in September, the project "Web-Based Non-Probability Surveys" was launched in cooperation between the SOEP and the survey research institute Civey. Experts on the research team will analyze and compare advantages and disadvantages of "traditional" methods of sample selection used by the SOEP and the new web-based approaches used by Civey for possible synergies.

SOEP IS

New study on the connections between genes, environment, behavior, and well-being

Launched in September, the project "How genes influence us" will collect saliva samples from respondents in the SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS) to study how genes, environmental conditions, behavior, and well-being are connected. Genetic analyses of the saliva samples will be merged with data from the SOEP-IS and made available to the scientific community starting in 2022. This project maintains the highest standards of data protection and privacy: respondents provide written consent, and the genetic data are stored separately from any information that could be used to identify individual respondents. The genetic data are provided solely for scientific research at non-commercial research institutes. The project partners are the University of Texas, Austin, Columbia University, the University of Basel, the University of Zurich, and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

New study on the interactions between personality and social relationships

The study "Personality and social relationship dynamics: Short- and medium-term processes in daily life" (DIPS) started in October as part of the SOEP Innovation Sample in cooperation between the SOEP and the University of Heidelberg. The project uses smartphone technologies and innovative survey methods such as mobile sensing, experience sampling, and day reconstruction to study the quality and number of social interactions in people's everyday lives. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

SOEP IS

New project to develop indicators of refugees' health

The project "Longitudinal Aspects of the Interaction between Health and Integration of Refugees in Germany" (LARGE) began work in October based on data from the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Sample of Refugees. LARGE will examine aspects of refugees' physical and mental health. It is a subproject of the research unit "Refugee Migration to Germany: A Magnifying Glass for Broader Public Health Challenges", funded by the German Research Foundation.

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Further evaluations of the minimum wage in Germany

SOEP researchers began conducting special evaluations in November for the third Report of the German Minimum Wage Commission. In their analyses, they examine how different concepts of wage measurement used in measuring gross hourly wages influence the level of non-compliance. The aim of the project is to better understand how and to what extent employers avoid paying the minimum wage.

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New project on the effects of inheritances and other wealth transfers on retirement

The new project "Wealth Transfers and Old-Age Security—Developments and Trends among Women and Men of Different Social Backgrounds" was launched in December in cooperation between the SOEP, the German Center for Gerontology (DZA), and the University of Vechta. The project will study how wealth is distributed through inheritances and other transfers, how this affects people's financial security in retirement, and what kinds of gender differences and inequalities emerge as a result. The project is funded by the Research Network on Old-Age Security (FNA) of the German Federal Pension Insurance.

PART 2

Overview of the SOEP Research Infrastructure at DIW Berlin

Research Areas and Structure

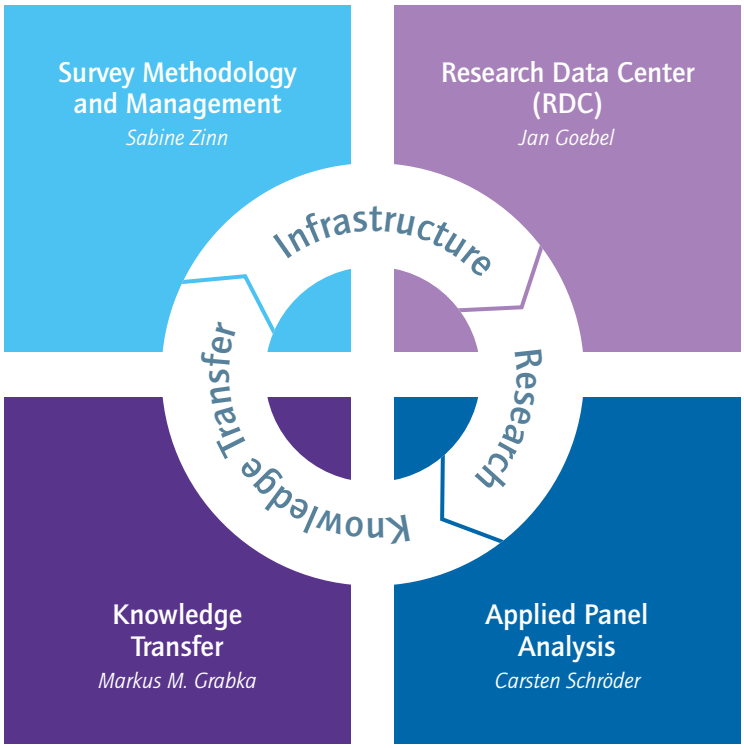
SOEP team

The Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) is an independent research-driven infrastructure. Data from the SOEP survey are made available to researchers worldwide and are also used in research carried out at DIW Berlin.

Tasks and Structure

Researchers on the SOEP team use the data to study processes of transformation and change in our society. A first key topic of research at the SOEP deals with the question of how equally or unequally societal resources such as income and wealth are distributed, and how differences in access to education and the labor market create risks and opportunities. A second topic of research examines how living conditions affect health and well-being, and what role personality plays across the life course. A third research topic investigates the living situations of migrants (Migration and Social Transformation). On the fourth key research topic at the SOEP, experts in survey methodology and data science are working to develop and further improve the study. These four key topics of research are joined by a newly founded Junior Research Group "Social and Psychological Determinants of Mental Health in the Life Course" (SocPsych-MH) which aims to strengthen research on mental health at the SOEP, taking an interdisciplinary perspective.

SOEP Research Division Structure



These topics of SOEP research correspond to the following four research areas:

1. Social Inequalities and Distribution
2. Subjective Well-Being, Personality, and Health
3. Migration and Integration
4. Survey Methodology and Data Science

A list of contacts who can provide more information on questions in each of these areas can be found under **SOEP Research** on our website.

SOEP staff also carry out a range of infrastructural tasks: conceptualizing studies and samples **(Survey Methodology and Management)**, preparing SOEP data for user-friendly analysis and distributing the data to researchers **(Research Data Center)**, and analyzing the data **(Applied Panel Analysis)**. They provide training in the use of the SOEP data and disseminate SOEP-based research findings to both the policy community and the broader public **(Knowledge Transfer)**.

The SOEP infrastructure is managed by a Board of Directors. These include the Director of the SOEP (Stefan Liebig, who is also a member of the DIW Executive Board) and the four Division Heads. The SOEP Survey Committee, which is comprised of up to nine researchers appointed by the DIW Board of Trustees, serves as an advisory board to the SOEP.
The SOEP is one of Germany's most important research data infrastructures in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences and is part of the National Roadmap for Infrastructures of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). As part of the Leibniz Association, the SOEP receives funding from the BMBF and federal state governments.

SOEP Administration and Management

Prof. Dr. Stefan Liebig
Director of SOEP and DIW Berlin
Executive Board Member

Dr. Sabine Zinn
SOEP Board of Directors and Head of the Division Survey Methodology and Management

Dr. Jan Goebel
SOEP Board of Directors and Head of the Division Research Data Center

Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder
Vice-Director of SOEP and Head of the Division Applied Panel Analysis

Dr. Markus M. Grabka
SOEP Board of Directors and Head of the Division Knowledge Transfer

Jule Adriaans
BGHS Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Harmonization of International Household Panels
Research Project: Perceptions of Inequalities and Justice in Europe (PIJE)

Patricia Axt
Team Assistance

Anja Bahr
Project Management

Philipp Eisnecker
Doctoral Student BGSS
Research Focus: Record Linkage, Migration, Survey Methodology and Data Science, Inequality
Research Project: Perceptions of Inequalities and Justice in Europe (PIJE)

Maximilan Müller
Team Assistance

Monika Wimmer
SOEP Communications Management

In 2019, the SOEP Administration and Management team was responsible for around 65 staff members, as well as trainees, doctoral students, grant holders, and about 35 student assistants. The team provides a range of research and administrative support services as well as research and project management to the entire SOEP team. Administrative support activities include liaising with the SOEP Survey Committee and coordinating and facilitating administrative processes between the SOEP unit and DIW Berlin's financial and human resources units.

The SOEP's management team is comprised of the SOEP director and the heads of the four divisions: Survey Methods and Management, Research Data Center, Applied Panel Analysis, and Knowledge Transfer. The members of this team set the direction for the diverse activities of the SOEP, ranging from independent research to infrastructure provision, and define strategic goals for the future development of the SOEP.

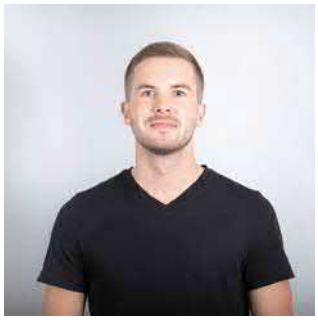
In 2018, the Social Inequality and Justice Project Group was established under the supervision of SOEP Director Stefan Liebig to intensify research on attitudes and perceptions related to social inequalities in the SOEP. One of the research questions the group is currently pursuing is whether and how an individual's ideas about social justice change over the life course and how individual living conditions affect these changes.











Survey Methodology and Management

Dr. Sabine Zinn
SOEP Board of Directors and Head of the Division Survey Methodology and Management

Luise Burkhardt
Doctoral Student BGSS
Research Focus: Well-Being, Civic Engagement, and Quantitative Panel Data Analysis

Mirjam Fischer
Research Focus: Sexual Minorities, Same-Sex Families, Social Inequality and Well-Being
Research Project: SOEP-LGB

Martin Gerike
Research Project: Junior Research Group SocPsych-MH

Florian Griese
Survey Management

Angelina Hammon
Doctoral Student BAGGS
Research Focus: Survey Statistics
Research Project: Non-probability Internet Surveys (Civey)

Jannes Jacobsen
Doctoral Student BGSS, Research Project: GeFam

David Kasprowski
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Sexual Minorities and Gender Diversity, Inequality, Well-Being

Michael D. Krämer
Doctoral Student LIFE
Research Project: Personality and Social Relationship Dynamics: Short- and Medium-Term Processes in Daily Life

Magdalena Krieger
Doctoral Student BGSS
Research Project: GeFam

Dr. Elisabeth Liebau
Survey Management
Research Focus: Migration

Lisa Pagel
Doctoral Student BGSS
Research Project: GeFam

Dr. David Richter
SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)
Research Focus: Psychology

Katja Schmidt
Doctoral Student BGSS
Research Project: AFFIN
Research Focus: Migration/Refugees, Quantitative Data Analysis, Opinion Research

Rainer Siegers
Sampling, Weighting, and Imputation

Hans Walter Steinhauer
Sampling, Weighting, and Imputation
Research Focus: Survey Statistics

The team of the Survey Methodology and Management division is responsible for all aspects of data collection, ranging from sampling design for the individual subsamples and questionnaire development to research on selectiveness and measurement error in the data. Experts from the team work closely with the SOEP Survey Committee and with Kantar, the institute that conducts the fieldwork for the SOEP survey.

The team is also responsible for the SOEP Innovation Sample, which provides a framework for testing new and innovative concepts, questions, and survey instruments for potential inclusion in the main SOEP-Core study. A further area of the team's work is in weighting and data documentation.

The team's research focuses, on the one hand, on innovative topics in the field of survey statistics, such as new methods of sample selection, and the generation of appropriate weighting factors and imputation methods. On the other hand, researchers on the team study current social issues ranging from immigration and refugee integration to the mental health and life satisfaction of people in Germany.

SOEP Research Data Center

Dr. Jan Goebel
SOEP Board of Directors and Head of Division SOEP Research Data Center, Research Focus: Income and Regional Inequality

Andreas Franken
Data Management

Dominique Hansen
Metadata and Data Documentation

Philipp Kaminsky
SOEPhotline, Contract Management

Dr. Peter Krause
Data Management
Research Focus: Quality of Life

Janine Napieraj
SOEPhotline, Contract Management, Data Generation and Testing

Jana Nebelin
Research Project: GeFam

Marvin Petrenz
Data Generation and Testing

Dr. Paul Schmelzer
Data Generation and Testing
Research Focus: Employment

Dr. Christian Schmitt
Data Generation and Testing
Research Focus: Demography

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Daniel Schnitzlein
Data Generation and Testing
Research Focus: Intergenerational Mobility

Ingo Sieber
Metadata and Data Documentation

Knut Wenzig
(Meta-)Data Management, Trainer

Stefan Zimmermann
Data Generation and Testing

Experts from the Research Data Center of the SOEP (RDC) prepare the survey data for both longitudinal and cross-sectional scientific analysis. They generate numerous user-friendly variables and impute missing data—for instance, in cases where respondents failed to provide complete answers to income questions. They also provide access to small-scale regional codes through a variety of secure data channels.

The team provides SOEP data to researchers worldwide in the form of scientific use files, based on a data use contract. Researchers can analyze datasets that are subject to stricter data protection regulations either through remote data access or at a secure guest work station at the SOEP.

Comprehensive documentation on all of the SOEP data is published online either as downloadable PDF files or on **paneldata.org**, the open-source documentation system developed by the SOEP staff. An overview of the SOEP-Core data can be found in the **SOEPcompanion**.

Specialists in market and social research complete their vocational training in the RDC and support the experts on the team.

The RDC is accredited as a research data center by the German Data Forum and is active on the Standing Committee Research Data Infrastructure (FDI) in promoting exchange among the various research data centers.











Applied Panel Analysis

Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder
Vice-Director of SOEP and Head of the Division Applied Panel Analysis
Research Focus: Public Economics and Social Policy

Dr. Charlotte Bartels
Harmonization of International Household Panels
Research Focus: Inequalities

Patrick Burauel
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Distribution

Dr. Alexandra Fedorets
Data Generation and Testing
Research Focus: Labor Markets

Daniel Graeber
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Intergenerational Mobility, Applied Microeconometrics

Christoph Halbmeier
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Inequalities

Dr. Johannes König
Research Project: Improvement of the Research Data Infrastructure in the Area of High Worth Individuals with the Socio-Economic Panel
Research Focus: Labor and Employment, Public Finances, Inequality

Dr. Holger Lüthen
Research Project: Record Linkage of SOEP with Social Security Data
Research Focus: Public Economics, Inequalities

Dr. Maria Metzing
Doctoral Student
Research Project: InGRID II
Research Focus: Inequalities, Migration, Well-Being

Dr. Levent Neyse
Research Focus: Behavioral and Experimental Economics

Felicitas Schikora
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Migration, Labor Markets and Education

Johannes Seebauer
Doctoral Student
Research Project: MLK-E005
Research Focus: Labor and Employment, Education, Inequality

Matteo Targa
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Labor Economics and Inequality

The Applied Panel Analysis division is made up of senior researchers as well as graduate students from a variety of doctoral programs. Key areas of the team's empirical and methodological research include distributional analysis, policy evaluation, education and health, and integration and migration. Their research is based primarily on SOEP data but also on other international datasets such as the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF), to which the team contributes.
Their ongoing research with these datasets ensures that the quality of the data is being monitored regularly, systematically, and meticulously—from the questionnaire modules to the survey data. The team works closely with colleagues in different departments at DIW Berlin and is part of interdisciplinary networks worldwide.

Knowledge Transfer

Dr. Markus M. Grabka
SOEP Board of Directors and Acting Head of the Division Knowledge Transfer
Research Focus: Income and Wealth Inequality

Sandra Bohmann
Doctoral Student BGSS
SOEPcampus Knowledge Transfer

Deborah Anne Bowen
German-English Translation and Editing

Janina Britzke
Documentation, Editing, Event Management, and Social Media

Zbignev Gricevic
Doctoral Student BGSS
Research Focus: Pro-Social Behavior, Social Inequalities, Ethnic Diversity, and Inequality

Selin Kara
Documentation, Reporting, and Web Content

Christine Kurka
Guest Program and Event Management

Uta Rahmann
Documentation, Reporting, and Web Content

The Knowledge Transfer division has two key tasks: First, it provides diverse services to researchers. **SOEPcampus workshops** and **SOEPtutorials** offer young researchers an introduction to the SOEP data. A range of information and documentation materials are published online to assist researchers in their work with SOEP data (e.g., SOEP Survey Papers). And the SOEP in Residence guest program enables visiting researchers to analyze the SOEP data on site at DIW Berlin with support and advice from experts on the SOEP team.
Second, the Knowledge Transfer team disseminates findings from research based on SOEP data to provide a solid empirical basis for public debate and political decision making. Findings from SOEP research appear not only in international journals but also in the DIW Berlin Weekly Report as well as in the Data Report that is published jointly by the German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), the Federal Agency for Political Education (bpb), the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), and the SOEP. Every year, the SOEP also provides the indicators used by diverse government departments and agencies in their official reports. The aforementioned publications form the basis for the Knowledge Transfer division's press and public relations work, which ranges from traditional media relations to high-profile public events and social media activities. A program launched in 2018 allows journalists to work directly with the SOEP data in the framework of a special cooperation agreement.







Junior Research Group

Social and Psychological Determinants of Mental Health in the Life Course (SocPsych-MH)

Dr. Hannes Kröger
Group Director,
Research Focus:
Health Inequalities

Laura Buchinger
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Health,
Personality, Well-Being

Dr. Theresa Entringer
Research Associate
Research Focus: Health

Martin Gerike
Specialist in Market and
Social Research

Valeriia Heidemann
Doctoral Student

Ellen Heidinger
Doctoral Student

Laura Spitaleri
Doctoral Student
Research Focus:
Health, Migration

The aim of the Junior Research Group SocPsych-MH is to strengthen research on mental health at the SOEP, taking an interdisciplinary perspective. A particular focus is on the interplay between structural factors—from international, national, and regional contexts to family constellations, socio-economic life course trajectories, and individual psychological characteristics—that can create vulnerabilities or resilience to risk factors for mental health.

This focus is reflected in the three complementary themes of three research projects that Hannes Kröger is heading at the SOEP.

The first research project is "The legacy of the GDR and mental health: Risk and protective factors" (DDR-PSYCH, co-headed by David Richter), with its SOEP-based sub-project "Socio-economic trajectories after reunification in Germany—disruptions, continuity, and consequences for mental health". It systematically compares how socio-economic trajectories and East-West migration can help to explain both individual mental health differences and differences in mental health outcomes at the population level between East and West Germany after reunification. The project makes a unique contribution to the research by integrating the life-course perspective from sociology and theories from psychology to predict vulnerability and resilience factors for mental health.

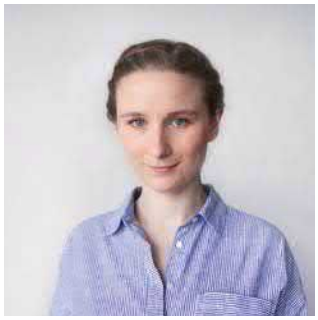
The second project, "Dynamics of Mental Health of Migrants—Analyzing dynamics of resilience and vulnerabilities using a synthesis of socio-structural and psychological approaches" (DMHM, co-headed by Ana Tibubos of the University Medical Center at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz), follows a similar approach. It takes a longitudinal perspective on the mental health of migrants in four countries (the UK, Australia, Germany, and the US). These countries host migrant communities with very different histories and structural compositions. The goal is to test under what circumstances personality characteristics and family structure can become sources of resilience or vulnerability.

The third project, "Longitudinal aspects of the interaction between health and integration of refugees in Germany" (LARGE, co-headed by Jürgen Schupp), is part of a DFG research unit in the field of public health, "Refugee migration to Germany: A magnifying glass for broader public health challenges" (PH-LENS). PH-LENS considers refugees as a particularly relevant case for the analysis of "othering". Within PH-LENS, LARGE investigates whether family constellations and regional deprivation can make refugees resilient or vulnerable to experiences of "othering".

All three research projects share the approach of identifying sources of vulnerability and resilience with respect to mental health in important demographic groups, drawing on theories from sociology, psychology, and public health.







SOEP Survey Committee

MEMBERS OF THE SOEP SURVEY COMMITTEE

Prof. Dr. Uwe Sunde (Head)
Professor of Population Economics
University of Munich (LMU)

Prof. Dr. Urs Fischbacher
Chair of Applied Research in Economics
University of Konstanz

Prof. Melissa A. Hardy, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Demography
Penn State University

Prof. Dr. Monika Jungbauer-Gans
Professor at the Institute of Sociology
Leibniz University Hannover
Scientific Director
German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW)

Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter
Professor for Statistics and Methodology
University of Mannheim

Prof. Lucinda Platt, D Phil
Professor of Social Policy and Sociology
London School of Economics and Political Science

Prof. Dr. Susann Rohwedder
Professor of Economics
Pardee RAND Graduate School

Prof. Dr. Donald Tomaskovic-Devey
Professor of Sociology
University of Massachusetts

Prof. Dr. Philippe Van Kerm
Professor of Social Inequality and Social Policy
University of Luxembourg
on a joint appointment with the
Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)

ALUMNI

Prof. Dalton Conley, PhD (2013–2019)

Prof. Dr. Simon Gächter (2010–2016)

Prof. Janet Gornick, PhD (2010–2014)

Prof. Dr. Karin Gottschall (2010–2013)

Prof. Dr. Jutta Heckhausen (2013–2019)

Prof. James Heckman, PhD (2010–2014)

Prof. Guillermina Jasso, PhD (2010–2015)

Prof. Dr. Bärbel-Maria Kurth (2012–2018)

Prof. Peter Lynn, PhD (2010–2015)

Prof. Dr. Arthur van Soest (2016–2019)

Prof. Dr. Rainer Winkelmann (2010–2016)

The SOEP Survey Committee is appointed by the DIW Berlin Board of Trustees. The nine renowned international scholars on the SOEP Survey Committee provide advice on the further development of the SOEP survey and SOEP user services. We are very grateful to this impressive group of researchers for their commitment to working with us to build and enhance the SOEP.


SOEP
The longest-running
largest
DIW

Research Fellows

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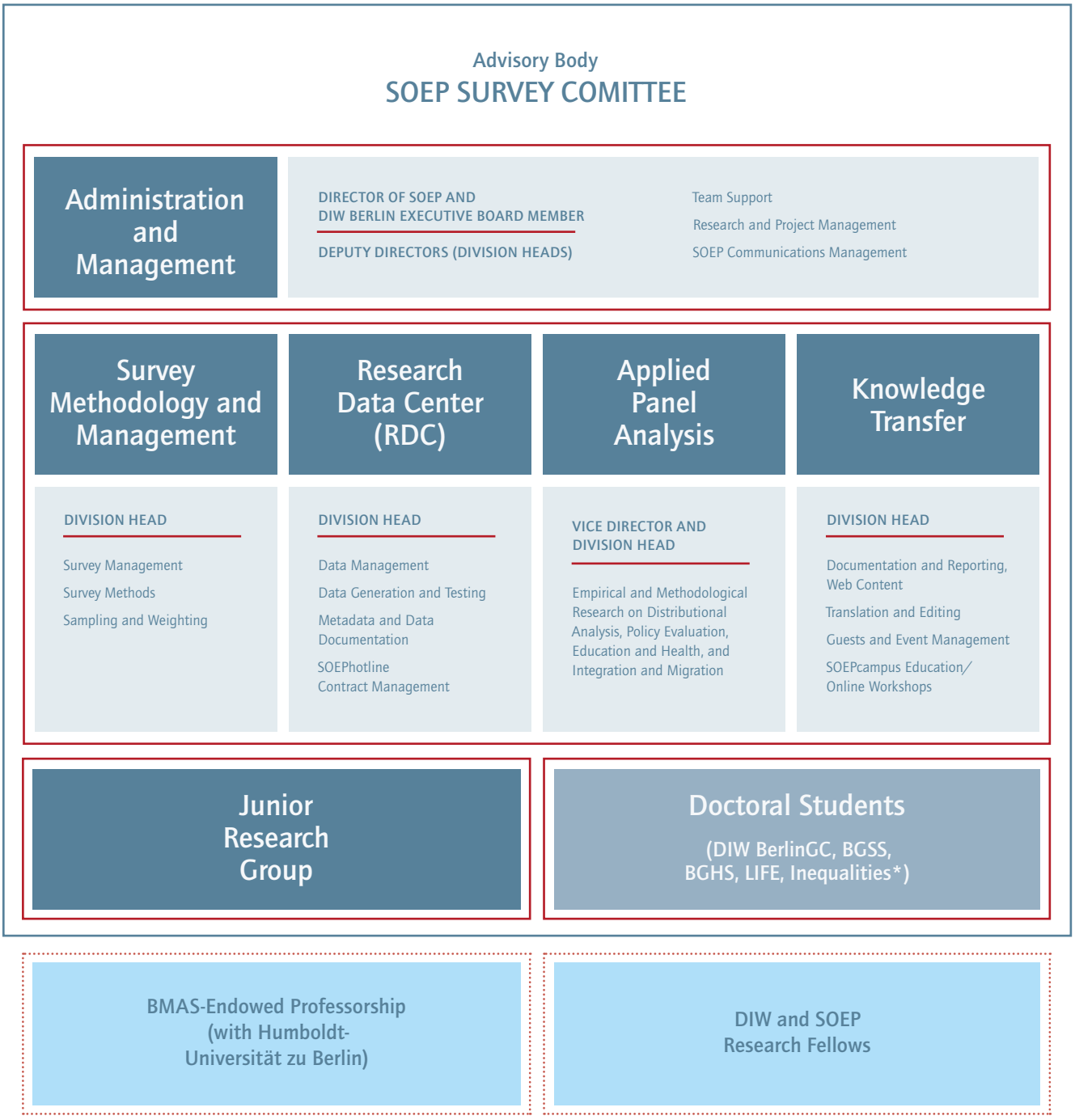
SOEP Organizational Chart



Based at the SOEP but not part of its organizational structure

* **DIW Berlin GC:** DIW Berlin Graduate Center of Economic and Social Research.
BGSS: Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.
BGHS: Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology.
LIFE: International Max Planck Research School "The Life Course: Evolutionary and Auto-genetic Dynamics".
Inequalities: Public Economics & Inequality – Doctoral Program at Freie Universität Berlin.

PART 3

SOEP Data and Fieldwork

The Portfolio of SOEP Studies

SOEP-Core

The term SOEP-Core refers to the main Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households in Germany launched in 1984 as part of a collaborative research center of the German Research Foundation. In 1990, just before German reunification, the study was expanded from West Germany to include a representative East German sample, making it unique among household panel surveys worldwide in capturing a major system change. Since the study began in 1984, survey fieldwork has been conducted by Kantar Public Germany, which now surveys around 14,000 households and 30,000 individuals every year. The data provide information on every member of every household taking part in the survey. Respondents include Germans living in both the former East and West Germany, foreign nationals residing in Germany, recent immigrants, and refugees. Some of the many topics of SOEP-Core include household composition, education, occupational biographies, employment, earnings, health, and life satisfaction.

SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)

The longitudinal SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS) was created in 2012 as a special sample for testing highly innovative research projects. It was designed primarily for the study of innovative methodologies and topics that involve too great a risk of non-response to be included over the long term in SOEP-Core, in some cases because the instruments are new and still undergoing scientific testing. SOEP-IS publishes a call every year inviting researchers at universities and research institutes worldwide to submit their own innovative proposals for questions or modules in SOEP-IS. Up to now, SOEP-IS has accepted and implemented numerous innovative proposals including economic behavioral experiments, implicit association tests (IAT), and complex procedures for measuring time use (day reconstruction method, DRM).

SOEP-Cross Country (SOEP-XC)

The SOEP team links and harmonizes SOEP survey data with household (panel) data from other countries. This enables use of the SOEP data in cross-national comparative analysis:

Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF)

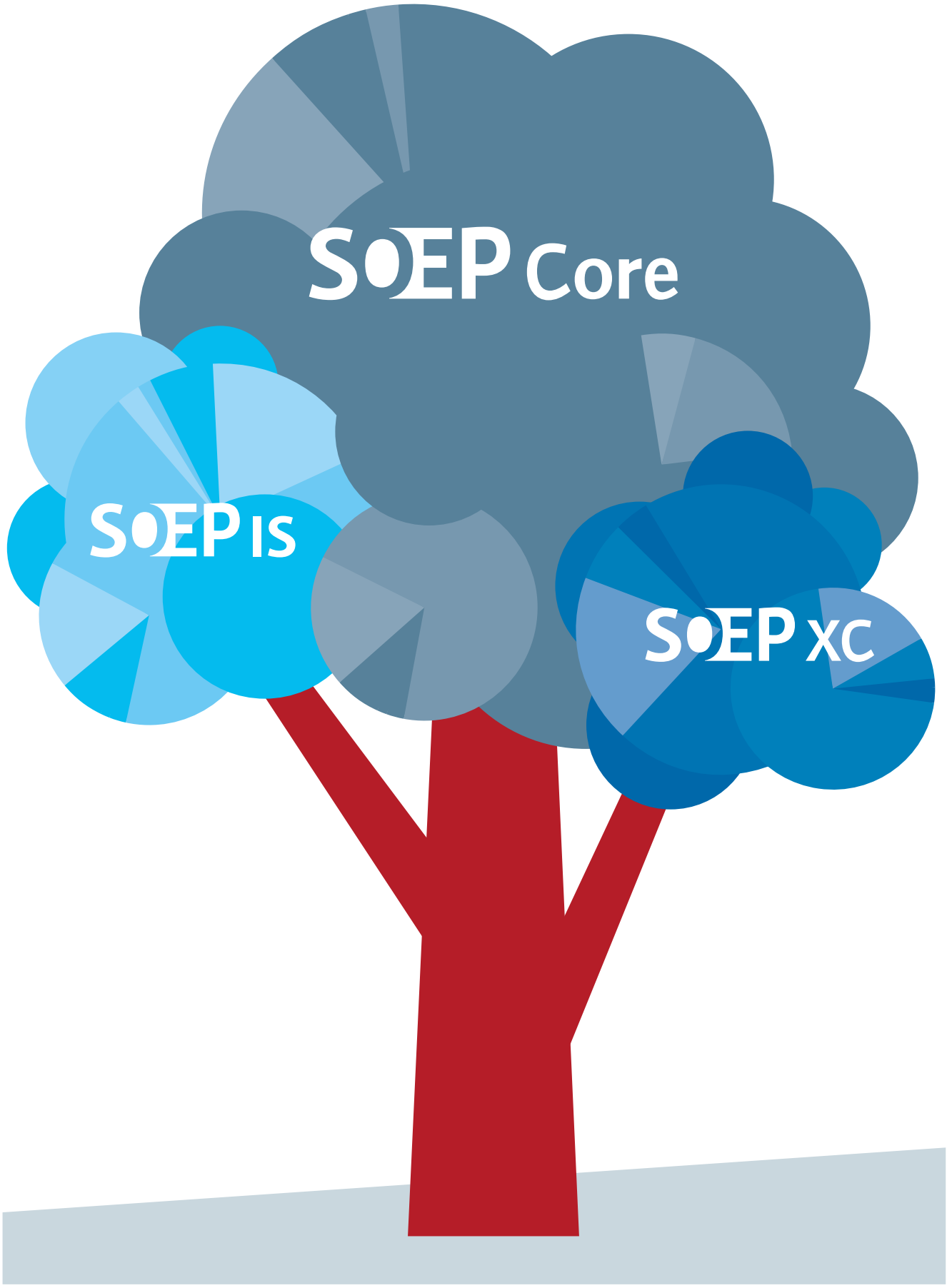
The Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) is an international panel dataset with harmonized information on education, employment, income, health, and life satisfaction. Along with SOEP data, The CNEF includes data from eight other countries in addition to Germany, including Australia, the UK, and the USA.

EU-SILC Clone

The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) aims at collecting timely and comparable cross-sectional and longitudinal multidimensional microdata on income, poverty, social exclusion, and living conditions. EU-SILC previously only contained cross-sectional data on Germany. The EU-SILC Clone now adds longitudinal information on private households in Germany based on the SOEP data.

Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) and the Luxembourg Wealth Study (LWS)

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) is a database of harmonized microdata from over 50 countries including income, employment, and demographic data. The LWS database contains comparable wealth data for nineteen countries.


SOEP Core
SOEP IS
SOEP XC

Kantar Public's Organization of SOEP Fieldwork

By Axel Glemser and Martin Rathje

Kantar – Public Division is the leading commercial research institute in the field of social science surveys in Germany today. It is part of the Kantar Group and is located at the company's headquarters in Munich. Its history stretches back to the 1950s, when its predecessor Infratest Sozialforschung (Infratest Social Research) began conducting political and social research in Germany. Kantar has been responsible for the fieldwork for the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) study, which is known to respondents under the name "Living in Germany" (LID), since the study's inception in 1984.

For the SOEP, Kantar's Public Division has created a "tailor-made" business area that reflects the specific requirements of the project in terms of its composition and structure. The tasks of the SOEP team at Kantar can be divided into three areas: first, methodological, conceptual, science-based, and science-oriented advice and guidance; second, panel management; and third, comprehensive data processing, particularly data acquisition, verification, and editing.

The SOEP team at Kantar includes 24 permanent employees (some of these part-time). Further employees are involved in the ongoing processing of the project data from several of Kantar's data production units in Germany. These include the project managers responsible for organizing face-to-face fieldwork, questionnaire programmers, as well as experts from the department of statistics, who are responsible for sampling.

Kantar conducts all face-to-face interviews for its ambitious surveys using interviewers trained and managed in-house by Kantar and does not outsource any part of the fieldwork to third-party institutions as is common practice in other institutes. In the case of the SOEP, the reasons for the exclusive use of in-house expertise are particularly obvious. Kantar's trained interviewers are fundamental for (1) effective communication between project leader and interviewer during the fieldwork phase, (2) efficient fieldwork management with a view to response-oriented processing of the sample, and (3) effective quality control of the fieldwork. For panel studies, it is especially important to use the same interviewer each year to ensure continuity in processing the sample from a longitudinal perspective. At the household level, interviewer continuity has a favorable effect on the longitudinal response rate.

Kantar has a total of approximately 1,300 interviewers in Germany, including several select groups of interviewers for special studies that do not use the modern touch-pen laptops otherwise used. Around 750 of Kantar's interviewers work with touch-pen laptops and about 600 of these interviewers are available for work on demanding scientific surveys like the SOEP. These interviewers are experienced in the implementation of sophisticated social research projects in general and also in working with the SOEP. To provide additional support in data collection for the SOEP, Kantar has around 80 interviewers on a special staff for the survey Living in Germany (LID). Most of these LID interviewers have extensive experience with this survey and work exclusively with the conventional paper-and-pencil interviewing (PAPI) method.

The large number of interviewers on Kantar's various interviewer teams guarantees a nationwide infrastructure for in-home interviews in Germany. Through its rigorous selection process with requirements for minimum length and minimum volume of work on the interviewer staff, Kantar maintains the highest professional standards in managing the recruitment and hiring of interviewers. For more information about Kantar's data security and certification, see:

https://www.kantardeutschland.de/ueber-uns/zertifizierungen/

https://www.kantardeutschland.de/datenschutz/

(in German only)

An Overview of SOEP Fieldwork in 2019

Samples A–L1, L2/3 and N–Q

By Axel Glemser and Martin Rathje

The SOEP Research Data Center is responsible for releasing each wave of SOEP data to users. To prepare the data for release, Kantar delivers the various data files (gross and net sample files, question-item-variable correspondence lists and structured metadata, and the complete documentation) to the SOEP group at DIW Berlin. The SOEP uses a complex sampling system comprised of various subsamples that have been integrated into the household panel at different times since the SOEP was launched in 1984. The various subsamples are based on different target populations and were therefore drawn using different random sampling techniques.

Table 1 provides an overview of sizes of the various SOEP-Core subsamples for the year 2019.

Table 1

Sample Sizes in the 2019 Subsamples A–L1,L2/3 and N–Q

Sample	Households	Adults	Youths[1]	Children[2]	Total individual questionnaires
A+B	1,433	2,339	31	153	2,523
C	830	1,316	20	112	1,448
D	136	227	3	17	247
E	55	84	1	5	90
F	1,652	2,599	17	163	2,779
G	509	848	3	52	903
H	491	802	12	49	863
J	1,538	2,452	24	182	2,658
K	837	1,333	9	76	1,418
L1	894	1,644	31	740	2,415
L2/3	1,592	3,007	164	443	3,614
N	1,889	2,963	37	289	3,289
O	625	869	13	106	988
P	1,960	2,440	–	–	2,440
Q	477	564	2	14	580
Total	**14,918**	**23,487**	**367**	**2,401**	**26,255**

1 16-year-olds who completed the youth questionnaire.
2 Children under the age of 16 for whom a mother-child or parent questionnaire has been completed or who completed the pre-teen questionnaire.

Interviewing modes in 2019

The methods of data collection used in the SOEP differ substantially by subsample. The primary interviewing method in the SOEP-Core samples is face-to-face with computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) and/or paper-and-pencil interviewing (PAPI) as modes, depending on the subsample and the assigned interviewer. A small percentage of households in samples A to H are interviewed with the help of self-administered mail questionnaires that were introduced as a means of converting non-respondents into respondents. In samples L2/3, the interviewing mode is a hybrid of CATI/CAWI (computer-assisted telephone interviewing/computer-assisted web interviewing), followed by CAPI. The aim in every wave is for this sub-sample, on the one hand, to recruit as many households as possible for participation by Internet, and on the other, to maintain a high panel stability rate. The gross sample is thus divided into various subgroups depending on the mode of participation in previous years. Households that participated online at least once since 2014 were processed online in 2019. These include households that participated in CAPI in 2018 but did not explicitly refuse to do the interviews online. In order to reduce both potential qualitative disadvantages and negative response rate effects of using CAWI instead of CAPI, CATI interviewers contacted each household in the CAWI population to encourage online participation, determine household composition, and act as a contact to respond to respondents' questions or problems. A CAPI interviewer is immediately sent to households that reject the CAWI mode in any wave or

Table 2

Interviewing Modes by Subsamples (as a Percentage of all Individual Interviews)

	Interviewer-based			Centrally administered	
	CAPI	PAPI	SELF	MAIL	CAWI[2]
A–D	28.5	6.7	33.1	31.7	0.0
E[1]	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
F	39.7	7.6	31.6	21.1	0.0
G	36.0	3.6	39.5	20.9	0.0
H	61.6	1.5	25.3	11.5	0.0
A–H	**35.8**	**6.1**	**32.2**	**26.0**	**0.0**
J/K	99.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0
L1	98.1	0.1	1.8	0.0	0.0
L2/L3	60.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.9
N	99.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
O	99.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Total	**68.2**	**2.4**	**13.1**	**10.3**	**5.9**

1 All households with interviewer-administered questionnaires from sample E were transferred to the SOEP-IS in 2012.
2 While CAWI is not generally a centrally administered mode, due to the CAWI process in L2/3 being flanked by CATI interviews, we consider it to be more centrally administered than interviewer-based for the purpose of this table.

in the CATI process. Households that do not answer the CAWI questionnaires during the first three months of CAWI fieldwork are sent a CAPI interviewer as well.

However, there is a second type of fieldwork processing used exclusively in core samples A–H. This is known as "central administration of fieldwork", in which around a quarter of households in samples A to H are interviewed with the help of self-administered mail questionnaires that respondents complete at home and return by mail. This approach is used as a refusal-conversion process and is focused on households that will not agree to any further visits from an interviewer or that could not be convinced by interviewers to participate for other reasons. As part of this process, households are contacted by telephone and urged to keep participating in the study. If this "conversion" is successful, basic household information is collected and the questionnaires are sent by mail. Thus, in these households, questionnaires are fully self-administered. This mode shift often leads to a conversion of soft refusals, in turn improving the stability of the long-term samples A–H.

Also, to reduce partial unit non-response (PUNR), individuals from samples A–H who were unable to provide an interview during the interviewer's visit may complete a paper questionnaire on their own (SELF). Especially for larger households, paper questionnaires can be useful for reducing the length of interviewer visits to households. Although this option is an exception, the longer a sample exists, the more frequently it is used to ensure low PUNR in larger households.

Table 2 shows the distribution of interview modes by subsample in 2019. In general, the "older" the sample, the higher the share of mail or self-interviews. In the recent samples (J, K, L1, N, and O), the options of a mail questionnaire as part of "central administration" or a self-completed paper questionnaire in the interviewer-assisted mode are no longer available.

Questionnaires and Survey Instruments in SOEP-Core Samples A–O

In 2019, 14 different questionnaires were used in the households of the SOEP-Core samples. Most of them were processed with PAPI as well as CAPI. For samples L2/3, all questionnaires from samples A–O were used with the exception of the cognitive test, which can only be carried out with an interviewer present.

The following questionnaires were used in 2019:

1. Household questionnaire answered by the household member most familiar with household matters.
2. Individual questionnaires answered by all adult household members (2019: individuals born in 2001 or earlier).
3. Supplementary "life history" questionnaire answered by all new respondents joining a panel household (2019: individuals born in 2001 or earlier).
4. Youth questionnaire answered by household members aged 16 or 17 (2019: individuals born in 2002).
5. Additional cognitive tests for all individuals who have completed a youth questionnaire (age 16 or 17; interviewer-assisted modes only).
6. Early youth questionnaire answered by household members aged 13 or 14 (2019: born in 2005).
7. Pre-teen questionnaire answered by household members aged 11 or 12 (2019: born in 2007).
8. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers of newborn children (2019: born in 2019 or 2018 if the child was born after the previous year's fieldwork was completed).

Table 3

Questionnaires Volumes and Response Rates Samples A–O and L2/L3

	Gross sample/reference value[1]	Number of interviews[1]	Response rate/coverage rate
Household questionnaire	15,339	12,481	81.4%
Individual questionnaire	22,674	20,064	88.5%
Individual and life history questionnaire	362	359	99.2%
Youth questionnaire: age 16–17	424	363	85.6%
Cognitive competency tests[2]	212	162	76.4%
Early youth questionnaire: age 13–14	430	396	92.1%
Pre-teen questionnaire: age 11–12	594	536	90.2%
Mother and child questionnaire: newborn	250	220	88.0%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 2–3	231	222	96.1%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 5–6	282	272	96.5%
Questionnaire for parents[3]: age 7–8	309/634	244/477	79.0%/75.2%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 9–10	502	475	94.6%
Questionnaire "gap"	539	512	95.0%
Questionnaire "deceased individual"[4]	147	73	49.7%

1 The numbers refer to the respective target population in participating households. For the child-related questionnaires, the reference value is the number of children in the respective age group living in participating households. Therefore the response rate for these questionnaires indicates the number of children for whom a questionnaire has been completed by one parent (in most cases by the mother).
2 The tests can be implemented only if the fieldwork is administered by an interviewer and the youth questionnaire is completed. Therefore the gross sample for the tests (n=212) is different from the sample for the youth questionnaire (n=242).
3 In contrast to the other child-related questionnaires, this questionnaire is supposed to be completed not by just one but by both parents. For 244 (79 %) of 278 children born 2011 and living in households that participated in 2019, at least one questionnaire has been completed, in total, 477 questionnaires.
4 The reference value for the questionnaire "deceased individual" refers to deceased persons in participating households. The overall number of completed interviews is much higher, however, at 406. Respondents can answer the questions in this questionnaire about any deceased family member, regardless of whether they lived in a SOEP household.

9. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers (or fathers) of children aged two or three (2019: born in 2016).
10. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers (or fathers) of children aged five or six (2019: born in 2013).
11. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers and fathers of children aged seven or eight (2019: born in 2011).
12. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers (or fathers) of children aged nine or ten (2019: born in 2009).
13. Supplementary questionnaire answered by temporary dropouts from the previous wave to minimize "gaps" in longitudinal data on panel members. This questionnaire is a short version of the previous year's questionnaire.
14. Supplementary questionnaire answered by panel members who experienced a death in their household or family in 2018 or 2019.

Table 3 provides an overview of the number of interviews for the various questionnaire types and the corresponding response or coverage rates.

The mean face-to-face interview length for the main questionnaires in 2019 was 17 minutes for the household questionnaire and 41 minutes for the individual questionnaire. The time taken for a model household consisting of two adults was therefore 99 minutes plus the time needed for any supplementary questionnaires.

In addition to the questionnaires, respondents and interviewers are given several other questionnaires. In terms of data provision, the most important of these is the household grid. It provides basic information about every household member and allows us to track whether anyone entered or left the household since the previous wave.

At the end of January, all households from samples A–O received a letter announcing the beginning of the new wave. In almost all households from samples A–H, the letter included a lottery ticket as an incentive that was not conditional on their actual participation. Participants in the newer samples, J–O, and some households from A–H received a cash incentive. The cash incentive for the individual questionnaire was €10 and participants received €5 for the shorter household questionnaire. Teenagers and children received a small gift for

completing their respective questionnaires. Interviewers also brought a small gift for the household as a whole and presented this upon arrival. This year's household gift was a tea towel with a woven logo of "LEBEN IN DEUTSCHLAND". The interviewer also presented an eight-page brochure on the project and an information sheet on data protection and security. Shipping of the fieldwork materials was postponed by one month for sample O to account for the later start of fieldwork in that sample. The fieldwork was also postponed by one month to leave a sufficient period between wave 1 and wave 2.

In samples L2/3, all households received a letter and a brochure in July announcing the upcoming start of the new survey wave. The letter was sent to respondents in CAWI along with an online access code to a personal page containing links to every questionnaire the respondent was asked to complete. For every questionnaire, a household received €5. It received an additional bonus of €10 if all questionnaires required of the household were completed. In the case of CAWI, the incentives were sent as vouchers in letters or e-mails depending on the respondent's preference. For CAPI, the incentive was given in cash by the interviewer.

Fieldwork Characteristics and Key Fieldwork Indicators in 2019

Fieldwork Progress

As indicated by the figures in **Table 4**, which shows fieldwork progress by month, over 90 percent of the households were interviewed within the first four months. The remaining months were dedicated almost exclusively to contacting difficult-to-reach households, households that had moved and whose addresses had to be traced, or households in which various refusal conversion strategies had to be used.

Due to the later start of fieldwork and the unusual mode mix in sample L2/3, we present the progress of fieldwork in this sample separately in **Table 5**. Fieldwork began in July and continued through December. Ninety percent of CAWI interviews were completed by September, but only around 73 percent of CAPI interviews had been conducted by that time. This was due to the designated mode-conversion for households that had not completed their interviews online three months after the beginning of fieldwork.

Table 4

Fieldwork Progress by Month in Samples A–O: Processing of Household Interviews[1]

	Gross sample	Net sample
January[2]	0.4%	0.0%
February	25.7%	28.2%
March	51.3%	56.4%
April	67.1%	73.0%
May	79.5%	85.2%
June	87.5%	92.1%
July	93.8%	97.0%
August	99.0%	99.6%
September	100.0%	100.0%

1 Cumulative percentages based on the month of the last household contact.
2 Including households that refused to take part in the survey prior to the start of fieldwork.

Table 5

Sample L2/3: Fieldwork Progress by Month and Interviewing Mode

	CAWI interviews		CAPI interviews		Total	
	Abs.	In %[1]	Abs.	In %[1]	Abs.[2]	In %[1]
July	122	19.9	289	29.6	411	25.8
August	381	82.1	249	55.0	630	65.4
September	72	93.8	179	73.3	251	81.2
October	24	97.7	152	88.9	176	92.3
November	13	99.8	89	98.0	102	98.7
December	1	100.0	20	100.0	21	100.0
Total	613		978		1,591	

1 Cumulative percentages based on the month of the household interview.
2 One interview was conducted by telephone and is not included in this table.

Table 6

Composition of Gross Sample and Response Rates in Samples A–O and L1/L2 by Type of Fieldwork

	Total		Samples A–H		Sample J		Sample K		Sample L1		Sample L2/ L34		Sample N		Sample O	
	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %
(1) Gross sample compositions by types of HH	**15,339**	**100.0**	**6,063**	**100.0**	**1,818**	**100.0**	**999**	**100.0**	**1,088**	**100.0**	**2,079**	**100.0**	**2,340**	**100.0**	**952**	**100.0**
Respondents in previous wave	13,956	91.0	5,612	92.6	1,692	93.1	934	93.5	991	91.1	1,678	80.7	2,114	90.3	935	98.2
Drop-outs in previous wave	870	5.7	305	5.0	70	3.9	44	4.4	61	5.6	233	11.2	154	6.6	3	0.3
New households (split-off HHs)	513	3.3	146	2.4	56	3.1	21	2.1	36	3.3	168	8.1	72	3.1	14	1.5
(2) Gross sample composition by type of fieldwork																
No fieldwork[1]	**166**	**1.1**	**109**	**1.8**	**20**	**1.1**	**9**	**0.9**	**2**	**0.2**	**11**	**0.5**	**14**	**0.6**	**1**	**0.1**
Interviewer-based	**12,695**	**82.8**	**4,155**	**68.5**	**1,798**	**98.9**	**990**	**99.1**	**1,086**	**99.8**	**1,389**	**66.8**	**2,326**	**99.4**	**951**	**99.9**
Respondents in previous wave	11,760	76.7	4,044	66.7	1,672	92.0	925	92.6	989	90.9	1,096	52.7	2,100	89.7	934	98.1
Drop-outs in previous wave	525	3.4	9	0.1	70	3.9	44	4.4	61	5.6	184	8.9	154	6.6	3	0.3
New households	410	2.7	102	1.7	56	3.1	21	2.1	36	3.3	109	5.2	72	3.1	14	1.5
Centrally administered (mail) A–H/ CAWI L2/3	**2,830**	**18.4**	**1,799**	**29.7**	–	–	–	–	–	–	**1,031**	**49.6**	–	–	–	–
Respondents in previous wave	2,215	78.3	1,380	22.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	835	40.2	–	–	–	–
Drop-outs in previous wave	429	15.2	293	4.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	136	6.5	–	–	–	–
Drop-outs during F2F, further processed by mail	142	5.0	82	1.4	–	–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–
New households	104	3.7	44	0.7	–	–	–	–	–	–	60	2.9	–	–	–	–
(3) Response rates by type of fieldwork											–	–				
Interviewer-based	**10,508**	**82.8**	**3,745**	**90.1**	**1,538**	**85.5**	**837**	**84.5**	**894**	**82.3**	**980**	**70.6**	**1,889**	**81.2**	**625**	**65.7**
Respondents in previous wave	10,130	86.1	3,679	91.0	1,490	89.1	815	88.1	848	85.7	876	79.9	1,803	85.9	619	66.3
Drop-outs in previous wave	166	31.6	5	55.6	20	28.6	14	31.8	24	39.3	53	28.8	48	31.2	2	66.7
New households	212	51.7	61	59.8	28	50.0	8	38.1	22	61.1	51	46.8	38	52.8	4	28.6
Centrally administered/CAWI	**1,973**	**69.7**	**1,361**	**75.7**	–	–	–	–	–	–	**612**	**59.4**	–	–	–	–
Respondents in previous wave	1,813	81.9	1,249	90.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	564	67.5	–	–	–	–
Drop-outs in previous wave	119	27.7	84	28.7	–	–	–	–	–	–	35	25.7	–	–	–	–
Drop-outs during F2F, further processed by mail	26	18.3	13	15.9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
New households	28	26.9	15	34.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	21.7	–	–	–	–
(4) Panel stability[2]		**89.5**		**91.0**		**90.9**		**89.6**		**90.2**		**95.0**		**89.4**		**66.8**
(5) Partial unit non-response[3]		**26.9**		**25.1**		**25.1**		**21.5**		**13.2**		**28.4**		**39.5**		**32.4**

1 Drop-outs, deceased, or moved abroad between waves.
2 Number of participating households divided by previous wave's net sample.
3 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.
4 Households in L2/3 do not exclusively belong to one gross sample, CAPI or CAWI. Due to some households being in both gross samples, the gross samples by types of fieldwork do not add up to the overall sample.

Composition of the Gross Sample

Table 6 presents the composition of the gross sample in 2019 by type of fieldwork procedure and type of household, as well as the response rates and PUNR for samples A–H, J–L1, L2/3, and N–O. The SOEP households from each wave are differentiated into three types of households: previous-wave respondents (91.0 percent of the gross sample in 2019), previous-wave dropouts that were re-contacted (5.7 percent), and "new" households that split off from established panel households (3.3 percent). Overall 13,260 households were contacted in samples A–H, J–L1, and N–O. In these samples, 9,528 households were interviewed in the interviewer-based modes CAPI, PAPI, and SELF with another 1,361 having been processed

through so-called central administration. Table 6 also contains the gross and net samples of both the CAWI and CAPI population of sample L2/3. These gross samples are not distinct; one household could be processed in both modes through the end of fieldwork. The overall gross sample consisted of 2,079 households, 1,031 of which were given the online access data (gross sample CAWI). The overall CAPI gross sample consisted of 1,389 households. In total, 1,592 households were interviewed, 612 with CAWI and 980 with CAPI.

Response Rates and Panel Stability

Assessing the relation between the gross sample and net sample, response rates provide the most accurate reflection of cross-sectional fieldwork success. The response rate in the group of respondents from the previous wave processed by interviewers was slightly higher (84.3 percent in samples A–O, L2/3 not included) than the response rate for centrally administered households (75.7 percent). Considering that this group of households has a history of refusing further participation in the study, the response level is still relatively high. Response rates in sample L2/3 are low compared to the core samples. On the one hand, it comes as no surprise that CAWI response rates are considerably lower than CAPI response rates (59.4 percent and 70.6 percent, respectively). On the other hand, one must keep in mind that the gross samples of CAPI and CAWI overlap somewhat. However, the overall response rate of 76.6 percent is in line with the response rates in this sample in recent years. With response rates of 28.9 percent and 46.7 percent, respectively, households that declined participation in the previous wave and new households had lower response rates than established households in 2019 (85.5 percent).

Panel stability is a statistic used to monitor and predict a longitudinal sample's development by reflecting net total effects of panel mortality and panel growth. Panel stability is calculated as the number of households participating in the current year compared to the number from the previous year.

To be able to meaningfully assess panel stability rates over the years, a given subsample should be processed for at least five consecutive waves. After this period, the panel stability rates have usually consolidated and are therefore comparable. The panel stability across established SOEP samples A–H was 91.0 percent in 2019 (see **Figure 1**). Panel stability in the last two refresher samples J and K was slightly lower, at 90.9 and 89.6 percent, respectively. The cohort sample L1 performed very similarly with a panel stability of 90.2 percent in 2019. For the relatively new sample N, panel stability was 89.4 percent. Sample O is now on the path to consolidation at 66.8 percent. In sample L2/3, panel stability was 95.0 percent in 2019, slightly higher than in the previous year (94.7 percent).

One indicator of the success of the fieldwork on an individual level is PUNR. In 2019, PUNR was 25.1 percent in samples A–H and 26.9 percent overall (**Table 6**). In samples N and O, PUNR remained high at 39.5 percent and 32.4 percent, respectively. As observed in the previous years, the implementation of CAWI in samples L2/3 drove up PUNR to a comparably high and slightly increased value of 28.4 percent in this sample.

Boost Samples in 2019: Samples P and Q

The households and individuals with the longest history of (continuous) panel participation took part for the 36th time in 2019 (samples A and B). Since 1984, various subsamples have been added to the core sample. The following samples were added in 2019.

Sample P

Sample P was conceptualized as a sample of highly affluent households in Germany. Against the backdrop of increasing income and wealth inequality in Germany, despite economic growth in recent decades, a lack of data on wealthy populations has become increasingly evident in the social sciences. One of the key reasons for this lies in the fact that this is a hard-to-survey population. They are:

- hard to sample (rare populations without a specific sample frame),
- hard to identify (due to sensitive and/or stigmatizing attributes),
- hard to find/contact (populations that are highly mobile and/or difficult to reach),
- hard to persuade (are not disposed to being surveyed),
- hard to interview (are unwilling or unable to provide information).[1]

1 See: Roger Tourangeau (2014): Defining Hard-to-Survey Populations. In R. Tourangeau, B. Edwards, T.P. Johnson, K.M. Wolter, and N. Bates (eds.): Hard-to-Survey Populations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 3–20.

Figure 1

Panel Stability in SOEP Samples from 2009 to 2019 (as a Percentage of Participation in Previous Year's Survey)

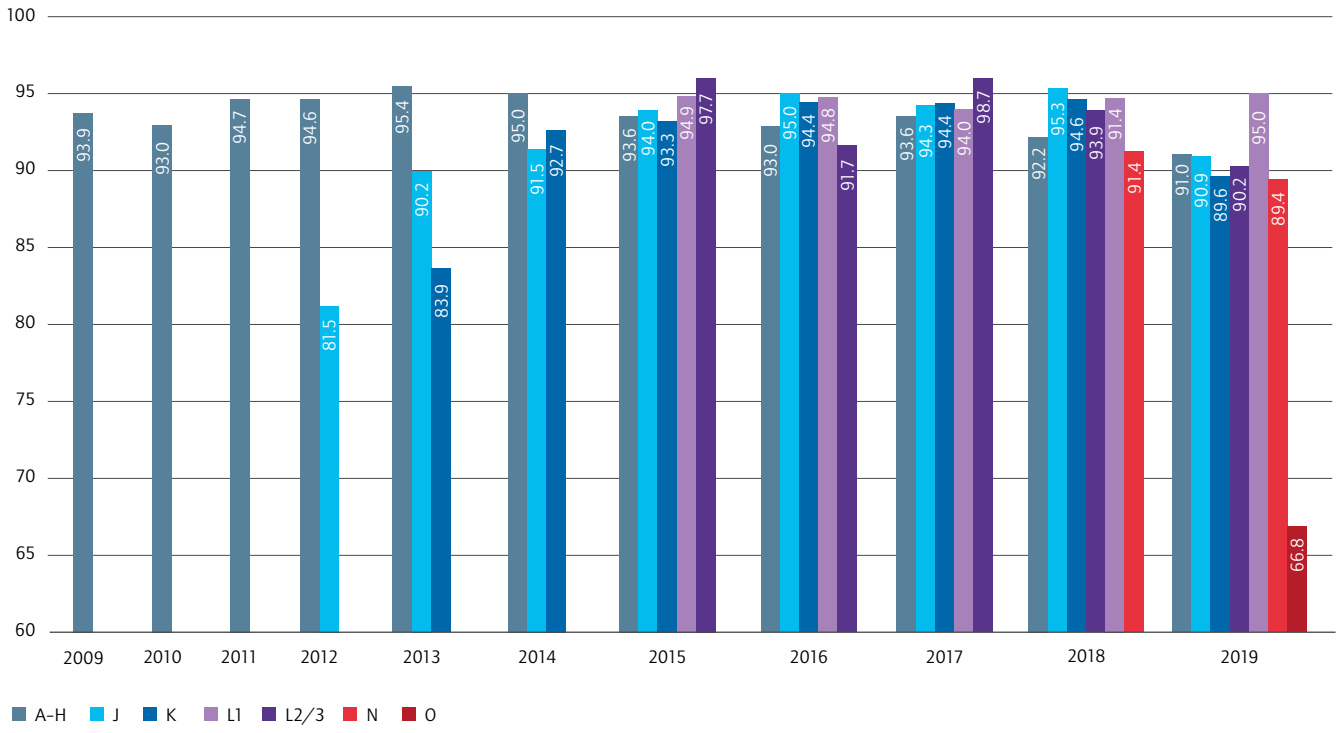


Table 7

Interviewing Modes in Sample P
(as a Percentage of all Individual Interviews)

	Interviewer-based			Centrally administered
	CAPI	PAPI	SELF	MAIL
P	85.4	0.4	14.2	0.0

In light of these attributes, an innovative approach to sampling was used for this population. Empirically, people in the top percentile of the wealth distribution are very likely to have some form of equity or shares in a company. Thus, we decided to try to reach this population through publicly accessible information regarding the ownership structures of businesses in Germany. The German trade register includes information about the owners and top managers of every business. This contact information was the foundation for the gross sample of sample P. Fieldwork began in February 2019 and continued until the end of December.

The fieldwork for the new sample P created some challenges for the SOEP team at Kantar as well as for the interviewers. To reduce contact effort and increase the likelihood of successfully interviewing this highly mobile and hard-to-reach population, the original CAPI-only mode restriction was lifted to allow for more flexibility. **Table 7** gives an overview of the modes used in sample P for the individual questionnaire. Fieldwork results are provided below in Table 9, which also highlights the aforementioned challenges: 46.2 percent of eligible households in the gross sample gave permanent refusals, with another 28.7 percent being unreachable during fieldwork. Despite these obstacles, the response rate was higher than expected at 8.5 percent. Overall 1,960 households were interviewed.[2]

2 We thank the BMAS for the financial support of the project.

Sample Q

Similarly to sample P, sample Q is a boost sample of a hard-to-survey population: lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. While the actual percentage of LGB people in the general population is unknown, this population was too scarcely represented in the SOEP to meaningfully analyze this group. To draw a representative sample, it was determined that Kantar should screen for LGB people using the Kantar CATI omnibus survey. Roughly 75,000 screening interviews (including pretest screenings) were conducted between September 2018 and August 2019, resulting in a gross sample of 835 households. While a pretest was conducted prior to the main screening process, the results proved inaccurate. Although the resulting incidence of the target group in the general population was close to the predicted value (5.3 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively), the rate of refusal to answer the very personal screening questions about sexuality and gender identity was 8.7 percentage points higher than predicted, at 28.7 percent. Furthermore, the willingness of target group members to provide their contact information and participate in the SOEP survey was considerably lower than expected (1.9 percent of those with a full screening interview). In contrast to the pretest results, which had indicated a much higher willingness to provide contact details, 38% of the positively screened persons declared their willingness to participate in the SOEP study.

Table 8 provides further details on the screening process for sample Q.

CAPI-only fieldwork began in April 2019 and ended in October. By the end of the fieldwork phase, 477 households had been interviewed. While this is a relatively low number due to the difficult screening process, the response rate was 58.3 percent.

Table 9 provides the fieldwork results for both boost samples in 2019: samples P and Q.

Table 8

Fieldwork Results of Screening Process for Sample Q

	Abs.	in % gross sample I	in % gross sample II
Total number of screening interviews (gross sample I)	74,998	100.0%	–
Unwilling to provide details	21,501	28.7%	–
Complete screening interviews (gross sample II)	53,497	71.3%	100,0%
Within parameters of target population	2,824	3.8%	5.3%
Willing to participate in SOEP interview	1,093	1.5%	2.0%
Willing to provide contact information	1,023	1.4%	1.9%
Final gross sample boost sample Q	835	1.1%	1.6%
Assumed false positive screenings	188	0.3%	0.4%

Table 9

Fieldwork Results for Samples P and Q

	Sample P			Sample Q		
	Abs.	in % gross sample	in % eligible	Abs.	in % gross sample	in % eligible
Gross sample for fieldwork	23,259	100.0%		835	100.0%	
– Not eligible	207	0.9%	0.9%	17	2.0%	2.1%
Eligible, non-interview						
Permanent refusals	10,639	45.7%	46.2%	122	14.6%	14.9%
Unable to reach during fieldwork period	6,606	28.4%	28.7%	128	15.3%	15.6%
Language problems	23	0.1%	0.1%	1	0.1%	0.1%
"Soft refusal" (currently not willing/capable)	646	2.8%	2.8%	48	5.7%	5.9%
Permanently physically or mentally unable/ incompetent	116	0.5%	0.5%	7	0.8%	0.9%
Moved abroad	99	0.4%	0.4%	3	0.4%	0.4%
Deceased	225	1.0%	1.0%	2	0.2%	0.2%
Problem with address	0	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.6%	0.6%
Permanently unlocatable	887	3.8%	3.8%	25	3.0%	3.1%
Interview						
Household interviewed	1,960	8.4%	8.5%	477	57.1%	58.3%

The SOEP Migration and Refugee Samples M1–M5

By Martin Rathje

Fieldwork Results: Migration Sample M1+M2

The two subsamples that constitute the SOEP migration survey, which was designed to improve the representation of migrants living in Germany, were established in 2013 (sample M1) and 2015 (sample M2). Fieldwork started in March and lasted until August for these two samples (see **Table 10**).

Table 11 displays the fieldwork results by subsample and type of household. In total, 2,015 addresses comprised the gross sample. 83.9 percent of all households were respondents in the previous wave, 13.1 percent were dropouts in the previous wave, and 3.0 percent were split-off households. In total, 1,421 households were interviewed, 1,030 in sample M1 and 391 in M2. The comparatively low response rates of 72.3 percent in sample M1 and 66.2 percent in M2—with the relatively high PUNR rate of 31.1 percent overall and the relatively low response rate of 86.0 percent for the individual questionnaire (see Table 12)—reflect the difficulties in processing migrant households since the first wave of sample M1 in 2013. In a migration sample, the effort required by interviewers to contact households successfully, on the one hand, and to motivate every individual to take part in an interview, on the other hand, is greater than in surveys of the general population. The contact process and the interviewing situation are more complicated and challenging as well (e.g., language problems, cultural specifics, level of education, etc.). In sample M2, panel stability decreased from 87.1 percent in 2018 to 80.3 percent in 2019, while panel stability decreased from 89.1 percent to 85.6 percent for sample M1.

Table 10

Fieldwork Progress by Month in Samples M1 and M2: Processing of Household Interviews[1]

	Gross sample	Net sample
March	18.3%	21.6%
April	39.1%	45.1%
May	59.8%	68.5%
June	73.4%	82.3%
July	89.1%	93.7%
August	100.0%	100.0%

1 Cumulative percentages based on the month of the last household contact.

Questionnaires and Survey Instruments

For data collection in the SOEP migration samples in 2018, all the questionnaires from SOEP-Core were used. In 2019, the migration-specific biographical questionnaire was replaced by a biographical module in the individual questionnaire that was also introduced in the SOEP-Core samples. Table 12 shows the gross samples and net volumes of the various questionnaires. All questionnaires were conducted using CAPI, except for the cognitive test, which is a paper questionnaire. The median interview length for the main questionnaires was 15 minutes for the household questionnaire and 35 minutes for the individual questionnaire.

As the target population consists of people of (mostly) foreign origin, the main questionnaires (household and individual) were translated into five languages: English, Russian, Turkish, Romanian, and Polish. Apart from English, these are the languages of the nationalities that were overrepresented in the first wave's gross sample. The translated versions were not implemented in

Table 11

Fieldwork Results for Samples M1 and M2

	Sample M1		Sample M2		Total	
	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %
(1) Gross sample compositions by types of HH	**1,424**	**100.0**	**591**	**100.0**	**2,015**	**100.0**
Respondents from previous wave	1,203	84.5	487	82.4	1,690	83.9
Drop-outs from previous wave	174	12.2	89	15.1	263	13.1
New households (split-off HHs)	45	3.2	15	2.5	60	3.0
(2) Net sample composition by type of HH	**1,030**	**100.0**	**391**	**100.0**	**1,421**	**100.0**
Respondents from previous wave	962	93.4	364	93.1	1,326	93.3
Drop-outs from previous wave	44	4.3	22	5.6	66	4.6
New households (split-off HH)	24	2.3	5	1.3	29	2.0
(3) Response rates by type of HH		**72.3**		**66.2**		**70.5**
Respondents from previous wave		80.0		74.7		78.5
Drop-outs from previous wave		25.3		24.7		25.1
New households		53.3		33.3		48.3
(4) Panel stability[1]		**85.6**		**80.3**		**84.1**
(5) Partial unit non-response[2]		**30.8**		**31.8**		**31.1**

1 Number of participating households divided by previous wave's net sample.
2 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.

Table 12

Questionnaires: Volume and Response Rates for Samples M1 and M2

	Gross sample/ reference value[1]	Number of interviews[1]	Response rate/ coverage rate
Individual questionnaire[2]	**2,921**	**2,511**	**86.0%**
Individual and life-history questionnaire	45	45	100.0%
Youth questionnaire: age 16–17	47	38	80.9%
Cognitive test	47	36	76.6%
Early youth questionnaire: age 13–14	**71**	**63**	**88.7%**
Pre-teen questionnaire: age 11–12	81	70	86.4%
Mother and child questionnaire: newborn	83	71	85.5%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 2–3	92	84	91.3%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 5–6	**68**	**63**	**92.6%**
Questionnaire for parents[3] of children aged 7–8	88/176	80/171	90.9%/97.2%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 9–10	70	64	91.4%
Questionnaire "gap"	138	133	96.4%
Questionnaire "deceased individual"[4]	**10**	**10**	**100.0%**

1 Number of participating households divided by previous wave's net sample.
2 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.
3 In contrast to the other child-related questionnaires, this questionnaire is supposed to be completed not by just one but by both parents in samples M1 and M2.
4 The reference value for the questionnaire "deceased individual" refers to deceased persons in participating households. There were 11 interviews for deceased persons in the household in M1 and M2 2019, because in one household two respondents answered the questionnaire for the same deceased person. The overall number of conducted "deceased individual" interviews is much higer, however, at 33. Respondents complete this questionnaire after the death of a family member, regardless of whether they were a member of the household.

Table 13

Language Problems and Use of Translated Paper Questionnaires in Samples M1 and M2

	Total[1]	In % net sample
Net sample (individual questionnaire)	**2,511**	**100.0**
No language problems occurred/ no need for assistance with language problems	2,178	86.7
Assistance with language problems needed[2]	330	13.1
Of that number:		
German-speaking person in the same household	**147**	**5.9**
German-speaking person from outside the household	22	0.9
Professional interpreter	6	0.2
Translated paper questionnaire	159	6.3
Of that number:		
Russian	65	2.6
Turkish	22	0.9
Romanian	31	1.2
Polish	**26**	**1.0**
English	**15**	**0.6**

1 Including all individual questionnaires, even if the households in which they were administered are classified as non-participating households.
2 Of 330 total cases that needed asistance with language problems, three cases used translated paper questionnaires and had a German-speaking person in the same household, and one used assistance from a person in the same household and from outside the household.

CAPI but printed on paper and given to the interviewers as an additional support tool to overcome language problems during the interview. Table 13 displays different kinds of aids the interviewers used if language problems arose during the interview situation.

A special feature of the migration sample's survey design is the linkage of respondents' survey data to register data from the Integrated Employment Biographies Sample (IEBS). As in the previous waves, a portion of the sample of M1 and M2 was asked to give their written consent to the record linkage at the end of the individual interview. In 2018, the target group designated for record linkage consisted of 45 participants, of whom 53.3 percent consented to data linkage.

Table 14

Consent to Record Linkage in Samples M1 and M2

	M1/M2	
	Abs.[1]	In %
Record Linkage IEBS		
Approved	24	53.3
Declined	21	46.7
Did not understand the issue	0	0,0
Total	**45**	**100.0**

1 Only first-time respondents were asked to give their consent to the record linkage.

The SOEP Refugee Samples (M3–5)

To implement an innovative sampling procedure for mapping recent migration and integration dynamics, the SOEP partnered with the Institute for Employment Research (IAB Nuremberg) and the Research Centre of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF-FZ) in 2016. M3 is the acronym for the first boost sample of households of adult refugees who entered Germany from January 1, 2013, to January 31, 2016, and applied for asylum in Germany. M4 is the second refugee boost sample. It consists of two tranches. The first one is a household boost of the M3 sample. For the second tranche, underage children of refugee families were sampled as key informants, but only the adults in the respective households were invited to participate. M5 is the third boost sample of refugee households and was established in 2017. The population covers adult refugees who have applied for asylum in Germany since January 1, 2013, and are currently living in Germany. For all three samples, the Central Register of Foreign Nationals (AZR) was utilized as a sampling frame.[3] In 2018, the second wave of sample M5 and the third wave of samples M3 and M4 were fielded.

Table 15

Cumulative Fieldwork Progress by Month for Samples M3–5

	Gross sample in %	Net sample in %
August 2019	22.9	26.5
September 2019	43.4	48.6
October 2019	59.6	64.9
November 2019	73.4	80.2
December 2019	93.0	97.3
January 2020	100.0	100.0

Fieldwork progress

Table 15 shows the progress of fieldwork for the three refugee samples. For all three refugee samples, face-to-face interviewing started in the beginning of September 2019 and was completed in January 2020.

3 The sampling design of the refugee samples M3 and M4 is described in: SOEP Wave Report 2016; the sampling design for M5 in: SOEP Wave Report 2017.

Table 16

Samples M3–5: Composition of Gross and Net Sample and Outcome Rates by Type of Household (HH)

	Sample M3		Sample M4		Sample M5		Total	
	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %
(1) Gross sample compositions by types of HH	**1,272**	**100.0**	**1,359**	**100.0**	**1,502**	**100.0**	**4,133**	**100.0**
Respondents from previous wave	979	77.0	1,050	77.3	1.006	67.0	3.035	73.4
Drop-outs from previous wave	258	20.3	267	19.6	441	29.4	966	23.4
New households (split-off HH.s)	35	2.8	33	2.4	55	3.7	123	3.0
(2) Net sample composition by type of HH	**823**	**100.0**	**941**	**100.0**	**929**	**100.0**	**2,693**	**100.0**
Respondents from previous wave	700	85.1	798	84.8	733	78.9	2.231	82.8
Drop-outs from previous wave	107	13.0	129	13.7	175	18.8	411	15.3
New households (split-off HH)	16	1.9	14	1.5	21	2.3	51	1.9
(3) Response rates by type of HH		**64.7**		**69.2**		**61.9**		**65.2**
Respondents from previous wave		71.5		76.0		72.9		73.5
Drop-outs from previous wave		41.5		48.3		39.7		42.5
New households		45.7		42.4		38.2		41.5
(4) Panel stability[1]		**84.1**		**88.9**		**92.4**		**88.5**
(5) Partial unit non-response[2]		**60.9**		**52.3**		**56.7**		**56.2**

1 Number of participating households divided by previous wave's net sample.
2 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.

Fieldwork Results

Table 16 displays the fieldwork results by subsample and type of household in the samples M3, M4, and M5. In total, the gross sample comprised 4,133 addresses. 73.4 percent of all households were respondents in the previous wave, 16.4 percent were dropouts in the previous wave, and 3.0 percent were split-off households. In total, 2,693 households were interviewed, 823 in sample M3, 941 in M4, and 929 in M5. As in the prior wave, the challenging characteristics in terms of surveying this segment of the population are reflected in the moderate response rate of 73.5 percent for respondents of the previous wave. The high regional mobility of respondents poses a particular problem and requires considerable additional efforts in address research. Meanwhile, panel stability for the two older samples is relatively high at 84.1 percent (M3) and 88.9 percent (M4) and even higher in sample M5 at 92.5 because of the high share of converted/re-activated drop-outs from the previous wave in the gross sample (23.4 percent overall). One major cause of concern in all of the SOEP samples is the growing rate of partial unit nonresponse (PUNR). Rates are exceptionally high in the refugee samples, at a total of 56.2 percent in this year's wave. According to reports from our interviewers, respondents are increasingly difficult to reach at home due to rising employment among respondents or other activities like job search, participating in language and integration courses, and appointments at public authorities. Consequently, it is becoming a difficult task for interviewers to complete all interviews in a household consisting of multiple adult members. Additional complications in contacting respondents and conducting interviews arise due to communication and language difficulties, which can only partially be addressed through preliminary measures.

Fieldwork Approach with Foreign Languages

Especially with refugees who entered Germany rather recently, language problems pose a major challenge in the interviewing process. Although some of the interviewers conducting interviews in M3–5 speak Arabic, Farsi, or Pashto, it is generally not feasible to match interviewers with special language skills with respondents in such a large, nationwide survey. As implemented successfully in the first wave of samples M3 and M4, a bilingual CAPI program was used for all three refugee samples in 2019. The translation was scripted into the CAPI, so that German and another language were shown on the screen at the same time. The language to be displayed was selected at the beginning of the interview. The survey languages offered besides German were English, Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Urdu, and Kurmanji. Use of the different language versions is shown in **Table 17**.

Table 17

Use of Bilingual CAPI Language Versions[1]

	Gross sample in %	Net sample in %
Total	3,857	100.0%
German/English	108	2.8%
German/Arabic	3,119	80.9%
German/Farsi	373	9.7%
German/Pashto	28	0.7%
German/Urdu	30	0.8%
German/Kurmanji	51	1.3%
No language version used	148	3.8%

1 Individual questionnaire for wave II respondents and individual questionnaire for new respondents.

Questionnaires and Survey Instruments

Table 18 displays the types and volumes of questionnaires implemented in the three refugee samples. Again, many different questionnaires were used in 2019. On the household level, in addition to the standard household questionnaire, a mother-child questionnaire was used that merged the SOEP standard questionnaires for parents of children in different age groups. Additionally, a questionnaire for teenagers was fielded. For adults, two different kinds of questionnaires were used. First-time respondents answered a questionnaire including additional biographical questions. Adults who had already taken part in at least one SOEP survey had already provided this information and thus received a shorter questionnaire. For both groups, we distinguished between refugees, on the one hand, and migrants or Germans, on the other hand, with tailored questionnaires.

One notable feature of this year's questionnaire was the map of refugees' travel route to Germany, which had already been used in previous years. In 2019, it was integrated into the questionnaires for first-time respondents. The map is a tool to reconstruct a refugee's travel route from their home country to Germany. The tool is integrated into

Table 18

Questionnaires: Types and Volumes for Samples M3–5

	Gross sample/ reference value[1]	Number of interviews	Response rate/ coverage rate
Individual questionnaires[2]	5,416	3,900	72.0
Youth questionnaire: age 16–17	206	87	42.2
Early youth questionnaire: age 13–14	252	117	46.4
Pre-teen questionnaire: age 11–12	287	131	45.6
Mother and child questionnaire: newborn	413	406	98.3
Mother and child questionnaire: age 2–3	300	295	98.3
Mother and child questionnaire: age 5–6	298	292	98.0
Mother and child questionnaire: age 7–8	270	267	98.9
Mother and child questionnaire: age 9–10	267	261	97.8

1 The numbers refer to the respective target population in participating households. For the child-related questionnaires, the reference value is the number of children in the respective age group living in participating households. Therefore the response rate for these questionnaires indicates the number of children for whom a questionnaire has been completed by one parent (in most cases by the mother).

Table 19

Consent to Record Linkage in Samples M3–5

	Abs.	In %
Record Linkage IEBS		
Consented	495	87.0
Declined	50	8.8
Did not understand the issue	24	4.2
Total	569	100.0
Record Linkage BAMF		
Consented	2,543	90.1
Declined	43	1.5
Did not understand the issue	235	8.3
Total	2,821	100.0

1 Only first-time respondents were asked to give their consent to the record linkage.

the CAPI questionnaire. A world map is presented to the respondents and by clicking on the screen, they can select their home country and then mark all stops along their route. They are urged to not only select countries but mark all important cities and border crossing points as well.

As with every previous subsample of the migration population in the SOEP, the content of questionnaires was based on the SOEP-Core questionnaires. However, there were several deviations from SOEP standard questionnaire to reflect the special characteristics of the target group. These include several additional questions on migration and integration. The mean interview length for refugees who took part in one of the previous waves was about 43 minutes for the individual questionnaire. The interview duration was therefore significantly longer than in other SOEP samples (e.g., M1/2: 35 minutes), adding to issues of response rates and PUNR.

In recent years, it has become standard in the SOEP to link respondents' survey data with register data from the Integrated Employment Biographies Sample (IEBS). All first-time refugee respondents as well as those who did not provide consent in the previous waves were asked to provide consent in the CAPI questionnaire in 2019. Additionally, respondents who stated in 2019 or in a previous wave that they had participated in an integration course offered by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) were asked for their consent to BAMF register data linkage. **Table 19** shows the results for record linkage consents and refusals.

SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)

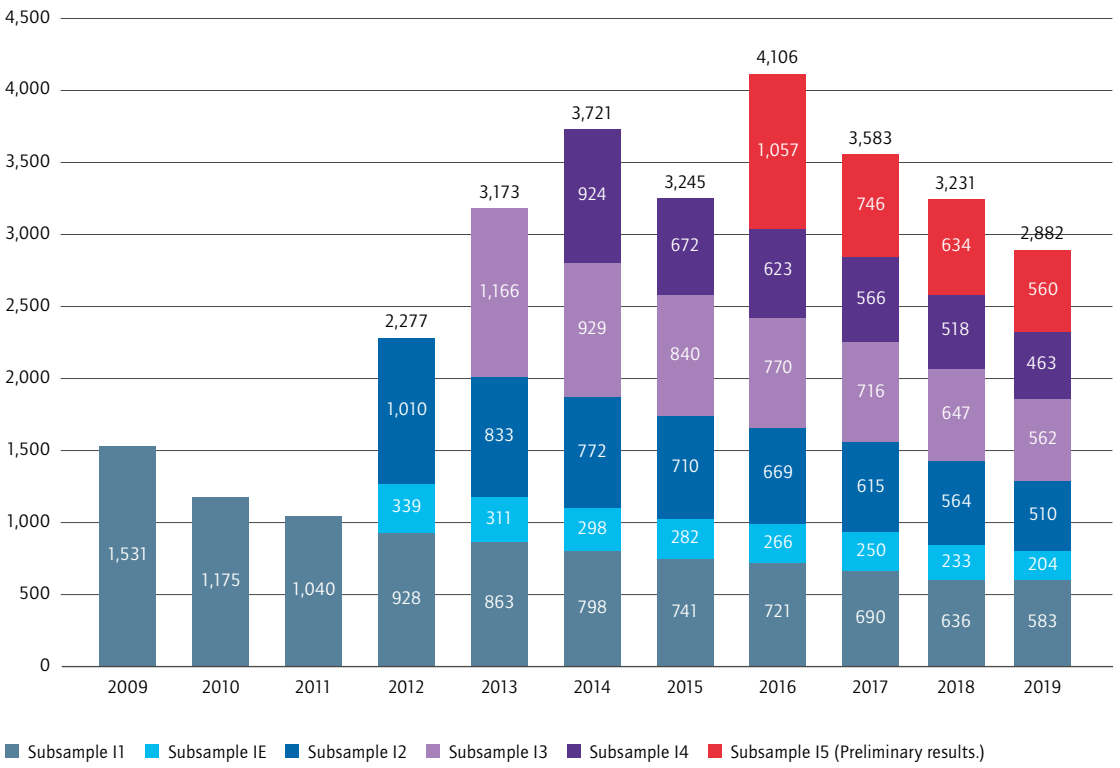
By Bettina Zweck

Overview

The SOEP-IS (SOEP Innovation Sample) is a longitudinal household survey with a special design that makes it possible to conduct highly innovative and ambitious research projects in many disciplines. Important features of the sample design and core fieldwork procedures are consistent with the SOEP-Core samples. But since its launch in 2009, SOEP-IS also offers a unique framework that facilitates the testing of innovative survey modules and pretesting of questions before integrating them in the SOEP-Core surveys. SOEP-IS has been expanded regularly with refresher samples, which now include subsamples IE/I1, I2, I3, I4, and I5. **Figure 2** provides more details about the development of sample size (net sample) at the household level since 2009.

Figure 2

Development of SOEP-IS Subsample since 2009: Number of Households



Questionnaires

The framework for SOEP-IS data collection consists of an integrated core questionnaire based on elements from the SOEP-Core household and individual questionnaires, core questions from the biography questionnaire for new panel members, and three mother-child modules. **Table 20** shows the gross samples and net volumes of the different questionnaire modules in 2019 (preliminary results). In addition to the core elements, the questionnaire includes pretest questions and innovative modules. The "main" part of the SOEP-IS questionnaire focuses on these different innovative modules. To consider as many different research interests as possible in a limited interview time, the individuals in the different subsamples were given different sets of innovative modules. In 2019, 23 innovative modules were included in the SOEP-IS questionnaire. **Table 21** presents an overview of the distribution of the 23 innovative modules across subsamples IE/I1–I5, which are described in the next section.

Modules in SOEP-IS 2019

There were two modules in SOEP-IS 2019 that we would categorize as **special modules:**

- The **Genes** module was conducted to test the use of gene analysis in the social sciences. For this module, saliva samples were collected from the respondents who had signed a consent form. Respondents were provided with additional information for this part of the survey and interviewers had completed special training and received a handbook on how to collect the samples correctly. Interviewers received 5 euros per saliva sample, and 50 of the respondents who had provided a saliva sample were selected in a raffle after the end of the fieldwork to win 50 euros each. For the first time in SOEP-IS, saliva samples were collected from children as well to provide data on "trios" (father, mother, child), which are of special interest in genetic research.
- The module **Wage Vignettes** was the second vignette module to be conducted in SOEP-IS (the first was in 2013). In this module, respondents were offered one of 3,000 possible scenarios involving people with diverse characteristics in terms of gender, job position and performance, region, age, marital status, and gross monthly income. After that, respondents had to decide whether they considered the gross income to be unrealistically or unfairly low or high. The module was self-administered.

The following nine modules of these interactive modules were (partially) **repetition modules:**

- The module **Favorite Food**, adapted from the 2015 survey, aimed to assess the dietary preferences of respondents and partners living in the same household. Respondents were asked to rate personal preferences for a variety of foods and those of their partner. The module was self-administered.
- The repetition module **Financial Decisions** built on the surveys in the 2017 and 2018 waves of SOEP-IS. Topics of this module were "dishonest behavior" and "taxes". A split of the respondents received further information on tax evasion, while the other split did not. The questions on tax evasion were self-administered.
- The repetition module **Language III** was modified from the modules in 2016 and 2017. It aims to explore the use of dialect in daily life. Respondents were asked whether they could speak a dialect, whether and why they avoid using it, and about the use of dialect and language colored by dialect at their workplace. Additionally, interviewers were also surveyed: They were asked to assess the language of the respondents at the start of the interview and to answer some of the module questions themselves once fieldwork had ended. This entailed a separate interviewer survey.
- The module **Redistribution** is a repetition module from the year 2014. It examined opinions on the reasons for income differences as well as attitudes about taxes on high-income groups and social welfare low-income groups.
- The module **DAX**, building on the **Expectations of the Financial Market** module from 2017 and 2018, asked interviewees to estimate the future development of the German Stock Index. Based on a random split, respondents were asked to consider different time frames for their estimate, ranging from the next five to ten years.
- The module **Leasing and Credits** is a modified repetition module from 2017 that deals with car leasing and loans and whether they are affordable. Like the repetition modules **Full-Time/Part-Time, Real Estate, Expectations of the Financial Market**

Table 20

Questionnaires: Volume and Response Rates for SOEP-IS in 2019[1]

	Gross sample/ reference value[2]	Interviews	Response/ coverage rate
Individual questionnaire	**4,969**	**4,280**[3]	**86.1%**
Mother and child module: children up to the age of 23 months	89	82	92.1%
Mother and child module: children between the ages of 24 and 47 months	100	98	98.0%
Mother and child module: children older than 48 months	679	446	65.7%

1 Preliminary results.
2 The numbers refer to the respective target population in participating households. For the child-related questionnaires, the reference value is the number of children in the respective age group living in participating households. Therefore, the response rate for these questionnaires indicates the number of children for whom a questionnaire has been completed by one parent (in most cases by the mother).
3 The number considers only individual interviews for the cases in which a household questionnaire was also completed. In two cases, an individual questionnaire was completed without a household questinnaire being completed. Thus, the actual sum of individual questionnaires including these two cases is 4,282.

Table 21

Distribution of the Innovative Modules in Subsamples IE/I1–I5 in 2019

	IE/I1	I2	I3	I4	I5
Redistribution	X	X	X	X	
Favorite Food	X	X	X	X	
Language III			X	X	X
Financial Decisions	X				
DAX	X	X			
Salary Limit	X	X	X	X	
Hourly Wage	X	X	X	X	
Earnings	X	X			X
Fair Wages	X	X	X	X	
Wage Vignettes	X	X			
Labor Law			X	X	
Injustice & Populism	X	X			
Compromises			X	X	
Digitization			X	X	
Brochure	X	X	X	X	X
Genes	X	X	X	X	X
Self-Assessment					X
Leasing and Credits					X
Full-Time/Part-Time					X
Compensation, Workload					X
Real Estate					X
Expectations of the Financial Market					X
Reviews					X

and the new modules **Self-Assessment, Compensation**, **Workload**, and **Reviews**, this module was designed by a German research group composed primarily of economists who have been responsible for the content of this module, administered to subsample I5, since 2016.

- **The module Full-Time/Part-Time** is part of the questionnaire administered to subsample I5 for the third time (in modified form). Respondents employed either full-time or part-time were asked to estimate their hourly wages if they changed from full-time to part-time or the other way around. They were also asked to estimate other employed people's salaries.
- **Real Estate**: Respondents in subsample I5 have been asked questions about real estate since 2016. As in previous years, respondents were asked to estimate the future development of real estate prices. One group was shown the price development of residential properties in 14 different countries, whereas the other group did not receive any information. After that, both groups were asked to estimate the price development of real estate over the next two, and over the next 30 years. As in the previous year, respondents were asked how they would distribute a certain amount of money among different investment opportunities such as gold, real estate, and shares.
- **Expectations of the Financial Market**: In the third modified version of the module for subsample I5 (the first one was conducted in 2017), respondents had to estimate how a DAX investment of 1,000 euros would develop in the next two and thirty years.

The subsamples IE/I1–I5 received the following twelve **new modules:**

- The questions in the **Brochure** module were designed to evaluate the household brochure that is distributed by mail to SOEP-IS survey respondents each year before fieldwork begins. The brochure contains information about the study, including exemplary research results. In 2019, there were two different versions of the brochure with different examples of research results. One concerned social activities and the other the sleeping behavior of parents. In the SOEP-IS survey, respondents were asked whether they had read the brochure and remembered certain topics. They were also encouraged to give feedback on how to improve the brochure.
- In the module **Salary Limit**, respondents were presented with different hypothetical job scenarios that were adapted to the respective respondent's current job. They were then asked to state the minimum salary they would consider appropriate for the given scenario. For instance, in the scenario of a pay cut due to a reduction in demand, respondents were asked to identify the pay threshold at which they would choose to continue working rather than take unpaid leave.
- In the **Hourly Wage** module, respondents were asked to estimate the gross hourly wages for their position if it changed to either part-time or full-time work. Furthermore, some of the respondents received a treatment with an altered framing on wage differences between full- and part-time work.
- The **Earnings** module asked respondents how they estimate their earnings compared to those of other people in the same profession. There was a split into two groups: One group of respondents was shown the average earnings in their profession; the other group was not.
- The **Fair Wages** module aimed to assess response variance in how fair respondents considered their own wages. Therefore, respondents were randomly split into several groups. Depending on the group, either the order of questions on fair net wages or fair gross wages was altered, or they were asked about the fairness of wages in general.
- The **Labor Law** module related to the Wage Transparency Act introduced in Germany in 2017. Respondents were asked whether they knew what their co-workers of the opposite sex earned and whether they knew about the Wage Transparency Act.
- The **Injustice & Populism** module aimed to measure populism affinity, e.g., by agreement to statements such as "Politicians talk too much and act too little". Furthermore, respondents were asked to compare their income with that of other people in Germany and to define at what threshold a person in Germany can be considered "rich".
- The Compromises module was divided into two parts, one addressing how consumption is distributed among household members and the other part dealing with the role of family in career decisions. It included questions about how the respondent's professional situation has changed since a variety of changes within the family, e.g., since becoming a parent or moving in together with a partner.

Table 22

Fieldwork Progress by Month: Processing of Household Interviews[1]

	2018		2019[2]	
	Gross sample (in %)	Net sample (in %)	Gross sample (in %)	Net sample (in %)
September[3]	18.6	19.7	13.4	13.4
October	54.5	59.7	46.3	49.3
November	73.6	80.0	69.5	75.2
December	81.3	87.6	76.2	82.5
January	90.8	95.4	87.5	91.6
February	98.1	99.4	95.8	97.6
March	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1 Cumulative percentages based on the month of the last household contact.
2 Preliminary results.
3 Including households that refused to take part in the survey prior to start of fieldwork.

The module ended with questions about how well the current job matched respondents' professional or career goals.

- **Digitization** was a new module aiming to gain insight into how digitization is changing the workplace and social structures through the use of different technologies. It also deals with the impacts of these changes on the individual level and in terms of family and leisure time.
- In the **Self-Assessment** module, respondents rated their agreement with different statements such as "All in all I am satisfied with myself" and "I feel really useless from time to time".
- In the short **Compensation, Workload** module, employees were asked how much they would have to receive in severance pay to voluntarily leave the company where they were currently employed. Respondents were also asked whether organizational changes had taken place in the last few years that affected their workload.
- The **Reviews** module consists of two questions on the extent to which respondents rely on Internet reviews in deciding which doctor or hotel to choose.

Record Linkage in SOEP-IS 2019

In addition to the innovative modules and pretest questions, SOEP-IS included questions on record linkage for the first time in 2019. Respondents were asked for their consent to record linkage for two different datasets: account data from the German pension insurance agencies, and selected social data from the Institute for Employment Research (IAB). Respondents were split into two groups and asked for consent to record linkage by presenting the two datasets in different orders: In one group, record linkage with IAB data was presented first, and in the other group record linkage with pension insurance data was presented first.

Preliminary Fieldwork Results of SOEP-IS 2019 Overall

Data collection for SOEP-IS is conducted in a main phase (September to late December/early January) and followed by an additional phase (up to the beginning of March). If a household cannot be contacted in the main phase, it is assigned to the additional fieldwork phase. This also applies to individuals who are unwilling or unable to participate, or if an interview for one household member is missing. As shown in **Table 22**, for the 2019 survey, fieldwork was completed for 82.5 percent of the households (net sample) by the end of December 2019. In the remaining households, some or all interviews were completed by early March 2020.

Table 23

Composition of Gross and Net Sample and Response Rates in SOEP-IS 2019[1]

	Total		Sample I1/E		Sample I2		Sample I3		Sample I4		Sample I5	
	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %
(1) Gross sample composition by type of HH	**3,553**	**100.0**	**945**	**100.0**	**618**	**100.0**	**716**	**100.0**	**562**	**100.0**	**712**	**100.0**
Respondents in previous wave	3.231	90.9	870	92.1	565	91.4	647	90.4	515	91.6	634	89.0
Dropouts in previous wave	235	6.6	43	4.6	36	5.8	50	7.0	37	6.6	69	9.7
New households	87	2.4	32	3.4	17	2.8	19	2.7	10	1.8	9	1.3
(2) Net sample composition by type of HH	**2,882**	**100.0**	**787**	**100.0**	**510**	**100.0**	**562**	**100.0**	**463**	**100.0**	**560**	**100.0**
Respondents in previous wave	2.754	95.6	757	96.2	490	96.1	535	95.2	441	95.2	531	94.8
Dropouts in previous wave	76	2.6	12	1.5	14	2.7	11	2.0	14	3.0	25	4.5
New households	52	1.8	18	2.3	6	1.2	16	2.8	8	1.7	4	0.7
(3) Response rates by type of HH[2]												
Respondents in previous wave	2,754	85.2	757	87.0	490	86.7	535	82.7	441	85.6	531	83.8
Dropouts in previous wave	76	32.3	12	27.9	14	38.9	11	22.0	14	37.8	25	36.2
New households	52	59.8	18	56.3	6	35.3	16	84.2	8	80.0	4	44.4
(4) Panel stability[3]		**89.3**		**90.6**		**90.4**		**86.9**		**89.9**		**88.3**
(5) Partial unit non-response[4]		**34.2**		**29.5**		**33.4**		**28.7**		**32.6**		**48.8**

1 Preliminary results.
2 Adjusted by deceased persons and expatriates.
3 Number of participating households divided by net sample from previous wave.
4 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.

Table 23 presents the composition of the gross and net sample and response rates at the household level. It should be noted that these figures are preliminary. The total gross sample includes previous-wave respondents as well as temporary dropouts from the previous wave and new households. In 2019, the gross sample consisted of 3,553 households. Overall, the net sample consisted of 2,882 households, meaning that in these households, at least one person answered the individual and the household questionnaire.

Table 23 shows overall panel stability and response rates to measure panel data quality for all relevant subsamples. Panel stability is the decisive indicator of a household panel survey's successful development from a long-term perspective. This measure takes into account panel mortality and growth (through split-off households and regrowth, i.e., rejoining dropouts from the previous wave), as it is calculated as the number of participating households in the current wave divided by the corresponding number from the previous wave. Overall panel stability is slightly lower than in 2018 (2018: 90.2 percent; 2019: 89.3 percent) with the highest panel stability in subsample IE/I1 (90.6 percent) and the lowest panel stability in subsample I3 (86.9 percent). Five years after its start, the "youngest" subsample, I5, shows a panel stability of 88.3 percent, which is close to that in the older samples. Partial unit non-response (PUNR), the number of households in which at least one questionnaire is missing, is still highest in subsample I5 (48.8 percent).

For the response rates, which indicate the ratio between the number of interviews and the number of units in the gross samples, the subsamples show similar patterns of panel stability. The overall response rate of 85.2 percent among respondents in previous waves is slightly lower than in 2018 (86.7 percent). The highest response rate in 2019 was 87.0 percent in subsample IE/I1, and the lowest was 82.7 percent in subsample I3.

Preliminary Fieldwork Results of Selected Modules and Record Linkage

In the following, we present preliminary results from the **Genes** module, results on the consent to record linkage, and the interviewer survey conducted as part of the module Language III.

Module "Genes"

A total of 4,282 adults were asked if they would like to take part in the **Genes** module. Of these, 60.3 percent indicated interest in taking part, and 58.6 percent actually took part and provided a saliva sample. Reasons for not taking part included a lack of interest and data security concerns.
As mentioned above, saliva samples were collected from children and babies (starting with those born in 2019). Each respondent was asked whether they had children. If they answered yes, they were asked whether they would permit the child to take part in the **Genes** module. If both guardians agreed and if the child consented, a saliva sample was collected from the child in addition to the parents. There were a total of 879 children living in SOEP-IS households in 2019. Of these, 226 took part in the **Genes** module, resulting in a response rate of 25.7 percent.

Record Linkage

The results for record linkage with IAB social data are presented in **Table 24 a** and for record linkage with pension insurance account data in **Table 24 b**.
In sum, slightly more respondents provided consent (in electronic or paper form) to record linkage with IAB data (62.5 percent) than to record linkage with pension insurance data (61.6 percent).
The highest rate of consent to record linkage for the IAB data was observed when IAB record linkage was presented first (1,394 total consents) as compared to when it was presented second (1,281 total consents).
For the pension insurance data, the rate of consent to record linkage was the other way around: More people agreed to record linkage when consent to record linkage with pension insurance data was requested after linkage with IAB data (1,372). Fewer respondents agreed when the order was reversed (1,262).
These results suggest that if both requests for record linkage are to be placed in one questionnaire, record linkage with IAB data should be requested first followed by record linkage with pension insurance data. In both splits, consent was provided mainly in electronic form.

Table 24 a

Consent to Record Linkage with IAB Data[1]

	Total		Split 1 (pension insurance data first)		Split 2 (IAB data first)	
	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %
Electronic consent (respondents who filled out the electronic form)	2,599	59.8	1,225	56.1	1,334	63.6
Written consent (respondents who filled out the paper form)	116	2.7	56	2.6	60	2.9
Refusal[2]	1,607	37.5	903	41.3	704	33.6
Total	4,282	100.0	2,184	100.0	2,098	100.0

1 Preliminary results.
2 Prior or during interview, or form was not received.

Table 24 b

Consent to Record Linkage with Pension Insurance Data[1]

	Total		Split 1 (pension insurance data first)		Split 2 (IAB data first)	
	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %
Electronic consent (respondents who filled out the electronic form)	2,520	58.9	1,206	55.2	1,314	62.6
Written consent (respondents who filled out the paper form)	114	2.7	56	2.6	58	2.8
Refusal[2]	1,648	38.5	922	42.2	726	34.6
Total	4,282	100.0	2,184	100.0	2,098	100.0

1 Preliminary results.
2 Prior or during interview, or form was not received.

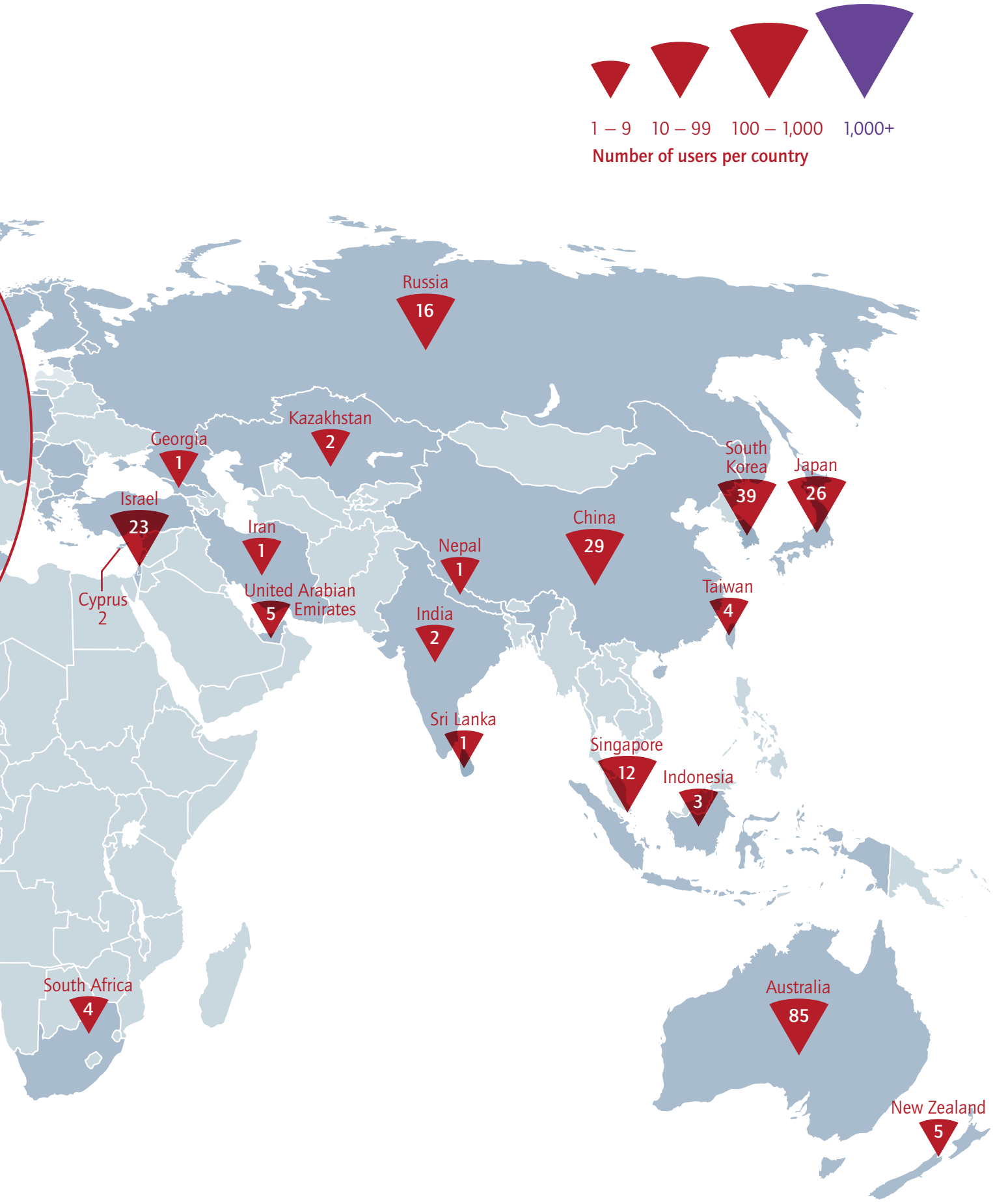
Module "Language III" – Interviewer Survey

The interviewer survey, which is an addition to the module **Language III**, was conducted after the field phase from March 20–27, 2019. Each interviewer who had conducted at least one interview during the SOEP-IS 2019 was invited to take part in this interviewer survey. The interviewer survey was designed to take approximately five minutes. Of the total of 234 interviewers invited, 214 took part. This results in a response rate of 91.5 percent. The interviewers received 5 euros for taking part in the interviewer survey.

PART 4

SOEP Data Service

SOEP Users Around the World


1 – 9
10 – 99
100 – 1,000
1,000+
Number of users per country
Russia
16
Kazakhstan
2
Georgia
1
Israel
23
Cyprus
2
Iran
1
United Arabian Emirates
5
Nepal
1
India
2
Sri Lanka
1
China
29
South Korea
39
Japan
26
Taiwan
4
Singapore
12
Indonesia
3
South Africa
4
Australia
85
New Zealand
5

Report from the SOEP Research Data Center

By Jan Goebel

Thirty-fifth SOEP data release with additional resources

Version 35 of the SOEP-Core data (1984–2018, 10.5684/soep.v35) was released with numerous additional datasets and resources for data users. Along with our "classic" SOEP-Core data, it included data from the SOEP Innovation Sample (10.5684/soep.is.2017; see p. 53 for more on the SOEP-IS).

New refresher sample

A new refresher sample, Subsample O, was added in SOEPv35 containing 1,000 new households. These were selected in cooperation with BBSR using a new sampling design based on regional data in areas where the "Soziale Stadt" (social city) urban development project is being carried out. Based on the digital data available on the boundaries of the "Soziale Stadt" areas, we were able to create a new variable going back to the year 2000 that shows whether or not a household's address is within an area covered by this urban development project.

Improved data documentation tools

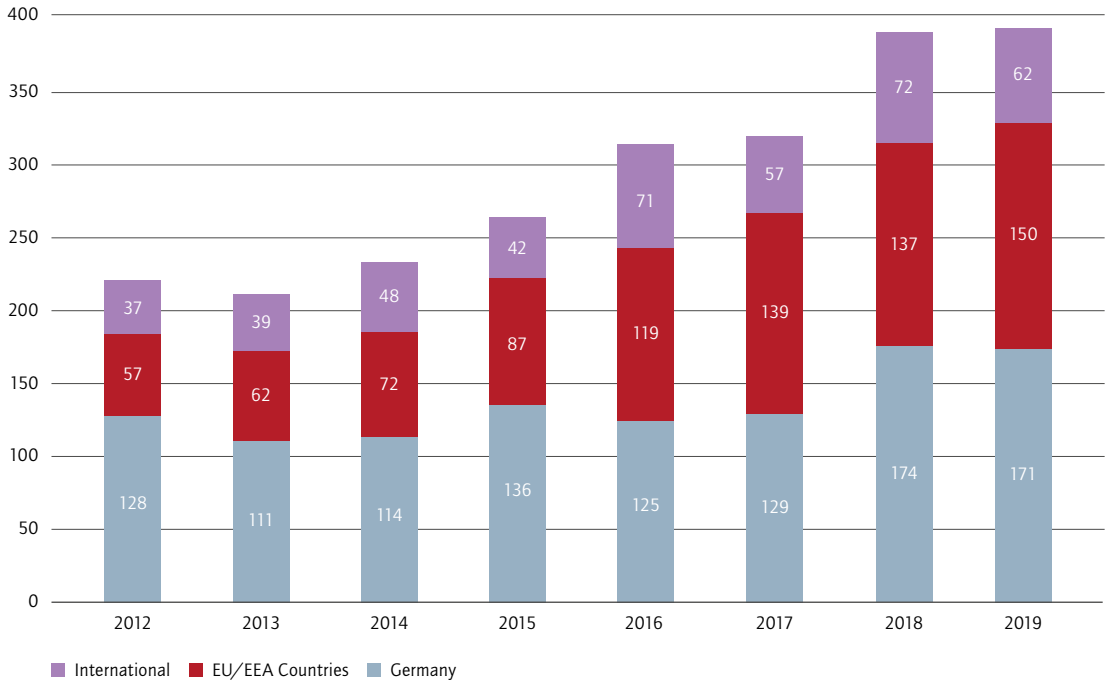
In 2019, we made significant improvements to both **paneldata.org** and **SOEPhelp**. The search function in paneldata.org was completely redesigned to support such functions as auto-completion. Our other documentation tool SOEPhelp makes it possible to display metadata directly in Stata, including links between topics and variables as well as a search function within Stata. Instructions are provided in the SOEPcompanion.

Further improvements to paneldata.org:

- The SOEPlong metadata were integrated into the SOEP-Core metadata.
- Improved presentation of topics makes it even easier to search for variables that are relevant to a particular research topic.
- All questionnaires from 2016 and 2017 are now available on paneldata.org, along with the corresponding variables in both German and English. We are currently working to include previous years' questionnaires.
- The SOEPlit database is now available on paneldata.org and can be used to search for papers on a variety of topics. We ask users to send us a copy of all their publications using SOEP data (**soeplit@diw.de**) for our archives to keep this database up to date.
- Metadata from the German Internet Panel (GIP), a further panel study in addition to TwinLife and pairfam, are now available on paneldata.org.

Figure 3

Number of Data Distribution Contracts



Increasing data use

The SOEP Research Data Center (SOEP-RDC), which is accredited by the German Data Forum (RatSWD), provides the international research community with access to anonymous microdata, Figure 3 presents an overview of the number of data distribution contracts signed since 2012. In 2019, more than 380 users outside DIW Berlin signed data distribution contracts.
It should be kept in mind that there are often several data users or even an entire research team behind a single data use contract. The breakdown for 2019 in Table 25 shows that more than 1,450 individual researchers were given access to the SOEP data that year.

Table 25

New Contracts 2019

Region	Contracts	Researchers
Germany	171	970
EU/EEA (not incl. Germany)	150	342
International	62	144
Total	383	1,456

Local SOEPremote Clients in Bielefeld and Konstanz

Prior to 2019, sensitive, small-scale local data could only be used at the SOEP Research Data Center. As of 2019, two additional SOEPremote clients opened in secure locations at cooperating institutions: one in "The Politics of Inequality" Cluster of Excellence at the University of Konstanz, and the other at the University of Bielefeld. These highly secure SOEPremote clients provide access to sensitive geo-referenced data that were previously only accessible in Berlin.

Results of the 2019 SOEP User Survey

By Martin Gerike, Selin Kara, Stefan Zimmermann

Introduction

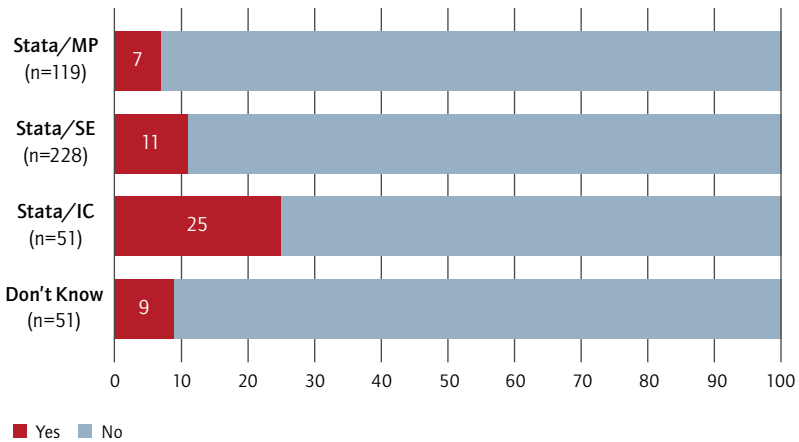
The 2019 SOEP User Survey, conducted from mid-December 2019 to early January 2020, marked both the start of a new decade and the ten-year anniversary of the SOEP User Survey. Every year, the SOEP User Survey gives data users the opportunity to tell us about their experiences working with the SOEP data. Our 2019 survey focused on three topics: the technical preconditions for data analysis, the quality of the SOEP data, and our Getting Started services. We are grateful to the 812 respondents, whose valuable input will help us to continue developing and improving the SOEP further.

Technical Preconditions

In this section of the survey, we asked data users what technical problems they had experienced, if any, and what hardware and software they needed to be able to work well with the SOEP data. The majority of users had no problems opening the SOEP datasets, but some had difficulties, for instance, processing the numerous variables in our individual long-format dataset in Stata/IC (**Figure 4**). Based on this feedback, we developed several recommendations for data users. We recommend the use of Stata/MP or Stata/SE on a computer with an internal memory of 16GB. Users can still work with the data in Stata/IC or on less powerful computers, but some modifications, such as the commands "describe using pl.dta" and "use pid syear plVARS using pl.dta", allow users work effectively with even our largest datasets while placing low demands on their hard- and software.

Figure 4

Problems Opening a Dataset in Different Versions of Stata (in %)



Data Quality

In the second section of the survey, we asked users what they thought about various aspects of SOEP data quality. The results show strengths in the areas of reliability and punctuality. Users saw the greatest potential for improvement in the areas of documentation and user-friendliness. Based on this feedback, we have introduced improvements in these areas—for instance, in our Getting Started toolbox of services for new and returning data users. On a Likert scale, the means are displayed as a blue line and the medians by status of researchers as red dots (**Figure 5**).

Figure 5

Surveyed Using a 10-Point Likert Scale and Grouped by Status of Researchers (10 = completely satisfied, 0 = not at all satisfied)

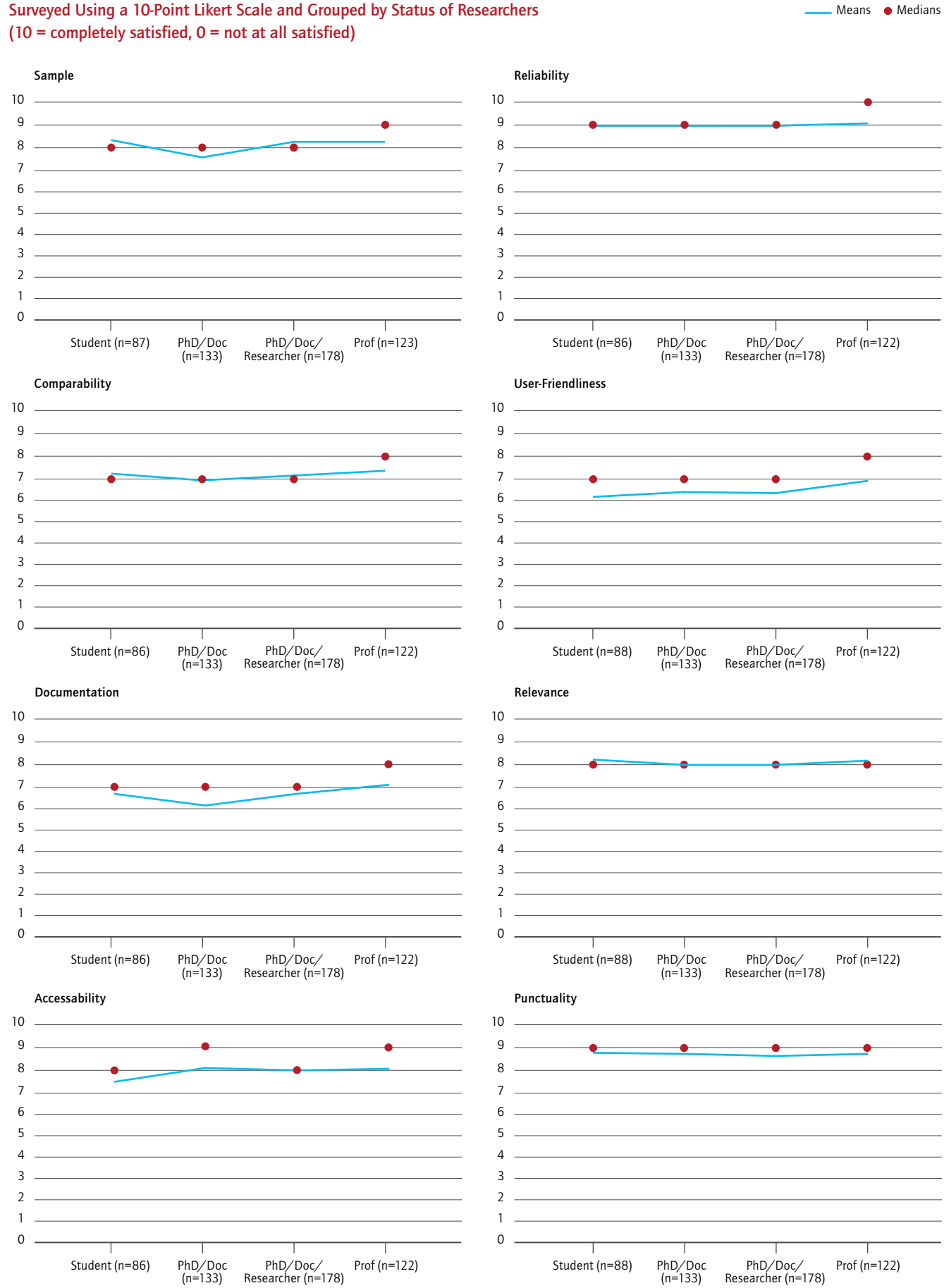
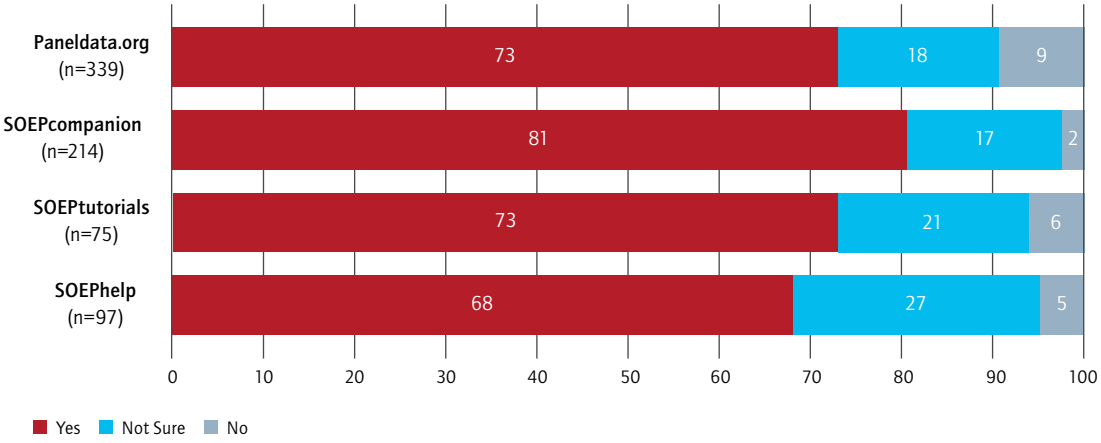


Figure 6

Users' Recommendations of SOEP Services to Others



Getting Started

The results of our 2018 User Survey showed a need for improvements in user-friendliness of the data, so over the course of 2019, the SOEP continued developing Getting Started, a toolbox of services designed to facilitate data use for new and returning users. These services include Paneldata.org, SOEPcompanion, SOEPtutorials, and SOEPhelp. In our 2019 User Survey, we invited users to rate these services. We asked whether they knew of each service, whether they had ever used it, and if so, whether they used it regularly or just occasionally. We then asked whether they would recommend each service to others. We only included answers from respondents who had used a service at least once. The survey results show that a large majority of SOEP data users would recommend our Getting Started services to others (**Figure 6**).

We are grateful to all of the users who took part in our User Survey and look forward to the next ten years of working together with the SOEP research community.

Record Linkage with Administrative Pension Data (SOEP-RV)

By Holger Lüthen

A Combined Dataset for Life Course Research

SOEP Record Linkage with Administrative Pension Data (SOEP-RV) links SOEP data with high-quality social security data from administrative pension records. The project is being carried out in partnership with the Research Data Centre of the German Pension Insurance (FDZ-RV).

Every time a person participates in the German social security system starting at the age of 14, the German Pension Insurance records data on their employment biographies, pensions, pension prospects, social security earnings, and other topics. Linking SOEP data with these high-quality, long-term monthly data on people's entire work histories offers an invaluable enhancement to the SOEP study. The long time frame of the social security data provides unique possibilities for research combining administrative and survey information, such as studies addressing new questions of long-term inequality or policy reform effects. In particular, SOEP-RV offers significant potential for research on pensions and old age, and for research on methodological questions such as the consistency of self-reported versus administrative information.

A crucial condition for inclusion of SOEP data in SOEP-RV is that record linkage is only carried out with the expressed written consent of the SOEP respondents. After providing consent, the respondents give their social security number or allow the German pension insurance to provide this information from their pension records. Up to now, about 10,000 SOEP-Core and SOEP-IS respondents have consented to record linkage, which corresponds to 55% of all SOEP-Core respondents. In 2020, SOEP-RV will add further subsamples such as migrants and greatly enhance the number of observations. The next step is to obtain the individual pensions and earnings histories and from the individuals' pension records. Then, this data can be matched to the SOEP data.

SOEP-RV is a work in progress. We are currently working to solve several data security and formatting issues. After we resolve these issues, both the SOEP and the pension insurance will provide a dataset that can be merged by the user. The final product, SOEP-RV, will not require online access. More information can be found online at:
http://www.diw.de/soep-rv_en

Development of a German EU-SILC Clone

By Charlotte Bartels

The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) contains data from across Europe on individual and household income, household living conditions, individual health, aspects of child care, employment, and self-assessed financial situation. EU-SILC offers both cross-sectional and longitudinal data. The official German EU-SILC is provided only as a cross-sectional dataset by the German Federal Statistical Office. A panel dataset is expected to become available in 2020. As a consequence, Germany is excluded from cross-country studies exploiting the longitudinal dimension of EU-SILC. In 2019, the SOEP made progress toward the goal of providing an EU-SILC-like panel dataset for Germany from the year 2005 onwards so that Germany can be included in cross-country studies using EU-SILC panel data. The EU-SILC clone is based on the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) and, therefore, includes all EU-SILC panel variables for which the required information is recorded in the SOEP. Only a few EU-SILC variables cannot be replicated by the SOEP data due to a lack of information. The personal and household IDs of SOEP respondents remain the same in the EU-SILC clone, allowing users to merge the data with additional information from SOEP that is not part of the official EU-SILC data.

EU-SILC provides cross-country comparative statistics on income distribution and social exclusion at the European level. It also covers topics related to housing, labor, education, and health. By providing high-quality comparable micro-data, EU-SILC is designed to facilitate the identification of effective methods of fighting poverty as well as the implementation of measures to achieve social convergence across Europe. It provides both cross-sectional and longitudinal data in four sub-datasets: The household register (D-File), the personal register (R-File), personal data (P-File), and household data (H-File).

The EU-SILC clone data conform almost entirely to the official EU-SILC guidelines. However, there are a few deviations, the main being related to the panel design and the underlying population. In contrast to the official EU-SILC panel, the EU-SILC clone is not required to take the form of a four-year rotating panel, but keeps survey participants in the dataset for as long as they participate. In order to adjust the EU-SILC clone to a four-year rotating panel, data users may drop respondents accordingly. It is worth noting that several EU countries including France deviate from the four-year rotating panel requirement. While the original EU-SILC survey population must, according to the official guidelines, include all household members aged 16 and above, the EU-SILC clone includes all household members aged 18 and above (and those members who turn 18 in the survey year).

All variables are listed individually in the EU-SILC clone codebook, which is available on the SOEP/DIW webpage. It includes the following information: first, the description of each EU-SILC variable as in the official EU-SILC guidelines; second, an explanation of the technicalities and contents of each equivalent clone variable. Third, for most variables, it includes a comparison between the original EU-SILC variable and the respective EU-SILC clone variable to illustrate any deviation of the EU-SILC clone variable from the official EU-SILC requirement. Fourth, in the cases of the P- and the H-File variables, the codebook includes a graphical comparison between the EU-SILC clone data and the official German EU-SILC cross-sectional data. More cross-country dataset information can be found on the SOEP website at: **www.diw.de/soep_silc-clone**

PART 5

SOEP-Based Publications in 2019

DIW Weekly Report 4

2019

Language skills and employment rate of refugees in Germany improving with time

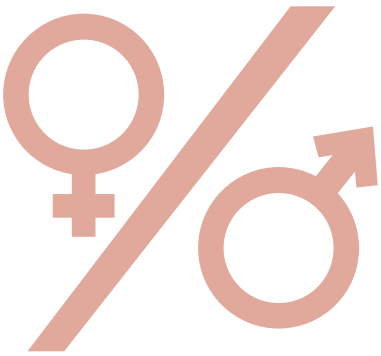
By Herbert Brücker, Johannes Croisier, Yuliya Kosyakova, Hannes Kröger, Giuseppe Pietrantuono, Nina Rother, and Jürgen Schupp

Mental and physical health of refugees differ greatly

The index for **depression** and anxiety is

96%

higher for 45-to-54-year-old refugee women than for the women the same age in the average population.



The index for **physical well-being** is

6%

higher for young male refugees aged 18 to 24 than for men the same age in the average population.

Abstract

Asylum seekers migrating to Germany remains a hotly debated topic. The second wave of a longitudinal survey of refugees shows that their integration has progressed significantly, even though some refugees came to Germany in poor health and with little formal education. Compared to the previous year, refugees' German skills have improved, as have their participation rates in the workforce, education, and training.

From the Authors

"Refugees in Germany have a much higher risk of suffering from mental problems than the average population, and these problems can lead to difficulties in social integration and on the job market. We need targeted measures aimed at helping refugees cope with their health problems."

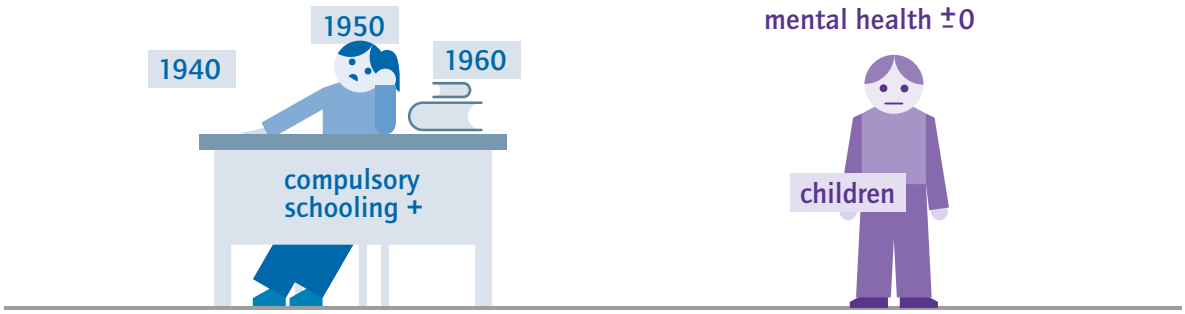
Hannes Kröger

DIW Weekly Report 12 2019

Increased attendance of compulsory schooling by mothers shows little impact on adult children's mental health

By Daniel Graeber and Daniel D. Schnitzlein

Compulsory schooling reform in the middle of the last century had some positive effects, but it did not improve the mental health of adult children of the affected mothers



In West Germany, compulsory schooling was increased **from eight to nine years** between the 1940s and the 1960s.

This had little positive effect on the **mental health of the adult children** of mothers subject to the reform, and in the case of daughters, it even a **slightly negative effect**.

Source: author's depiction.

Abstract

Mental illnesses such as depression have increased worldwide in recent decades. Since these illnesses not only impose significant burdens on those affected but also imply high costs to taxpayers, there is increasing interest in identifying the factors that influence these illnesses. Based on data from the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), this study examined the role of maternal schooling on children's mental health in adulthood. The study focused on the effect of a one-year increase in compulsory schooling in West Germany from the 1940s to the 1960s. The findings: daughters showed a slight decrease in mental health in adulthood. Neither sons alone, nor sons and daughters as a group showed any effect. It is important to note that as other studies have shown, the school reform also had positive effects, for example, on maternal health and children's education.

From the Authors

"The results are surprising in that the higher maternal employment and increased income resulting from the school reform should show positive effects on children's mental health, but it appears that other mechanisms are working against this."

Daniel D. Schnitzlein

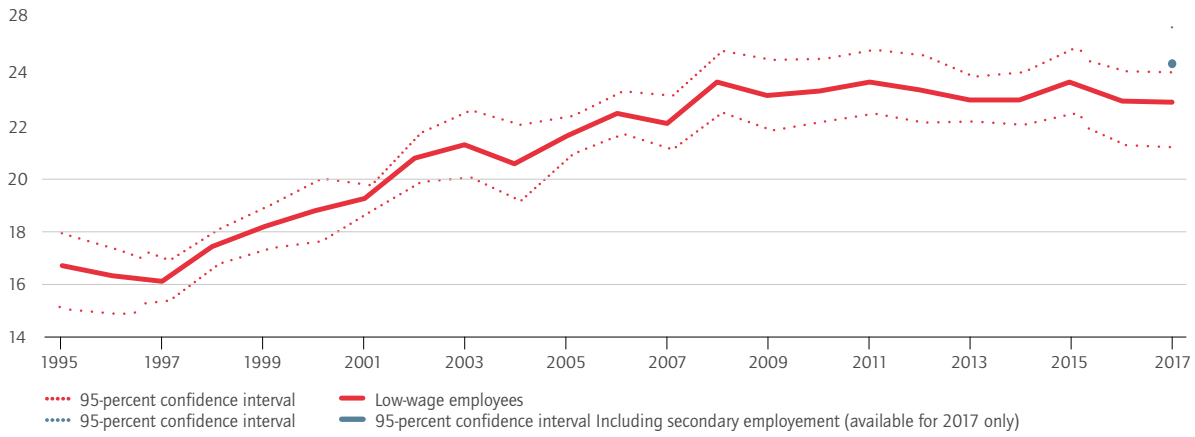
DIW Weekly Report 14

2019

The low-wage sector in Germany is larger than previously assumed

By Markus M. Grabka and Carsten Schröder

The share of employees receiving low wages rose until 2008, since then it has been stable at around one quarter. Share of dependent employees receiving low wages, in percent



Abstract

The total number of dependent employees in Germany has increased by more than four million since the financial crisis. Part of this growth took place in the low-wage sector. Analyses based on data from the Socio-Economic Panel, which in 2017 for the first time include detailed information on secondary employment, show that there were around nine million low-wage employment contracts in Germany that year, around one quarter of all contracts. Women, young adults and employees in Eastern Germany are particularly likely to receive low wages. The legal minimum wage introduced in 2015 is below the low-wage threshold, and thus did not decrease the proportion of low-wage employees, although wages at the bottom-end of the distribution did markedly increase. Wage mobility has hardly changed since the mid-1990s: almost two thirds of employees in the lowest wage category were still there three years later. In order to curtail the low-wage sector, a better and broader qualification of workers, as well as a more proactive wage policy are called for. A reform of the mini-job rules would also be helpful.

From the Authors

"The idea that working for low wages would be a transition and even a springboard into better jobs has proven to be an illusion for most. The low-wage sector is a trap and policies aimed at reining it in should be put into place."

Markus M. Grabka

DIW Weekly Report 15

2019

In Germany, younger, better educated persons, and lower income groups are more likely to be in favor of unconditional basic income

By Jule Adriaans, Stefan Liebig, and Jürgen Schupp

In a representative survey conducted in 2018 in Germany, about half the respondents expressed support for unconditional basic income

Source: SOEP-IS-BUS-Modul Soziale Ungleichheit, German-speaking population (n=2,031; weighted); own calculations.

Abstract

Representative survey results have shown a stable approval rate for implementing unconditional basic income of between 45 and 52 percent in Germany since 2016/17. In European comparison, this approval rate is low. Younger, better educated persons, and those at risk of poverty support the concept of unconditional basic income in Germany. But these demographics are not the only factors that correlate with attitudes toward unconditional basic income: subjective justice attitudes do as well. The justice norm of equity and unconditional basic income appear to be contradictory. On the other hand, people who find that there are deficits in covering the needs of society's lower income groups tend to approve of unconditional basic income. Therefore, analyses show that attitudes toward unconditional basic income follow specific patterns and social regularities; and they were relatively stable between 2016 and 2018. As long as uncertainty predominates regarding the social costs and benefits of implementing such a basic income, the relatively high proportion of those in favor must be interpreted with care. It does not indicate that society is actually ready for reforms in this direction.

From the Authors

"Obviously there is a strong interest among the population for exploring alternatives to the current social systems. Among other things, this has to do with the challenges posed by digitization and demographic change. Surely that is one reason why the idea of unconditional basic income is met favorably, not only in Germany."

Jürgen Schupp

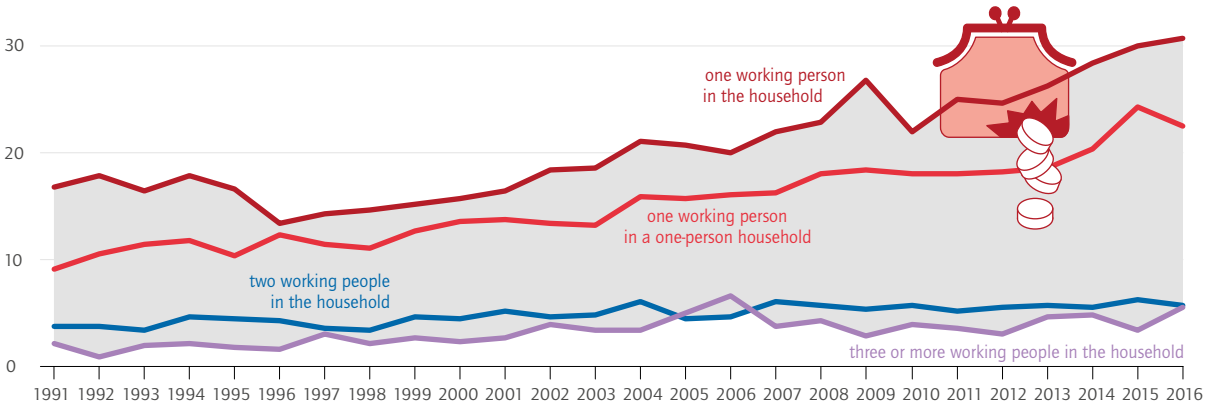
DIW Weekly Report 19

2019

Renewed growth in income inequality, but with a marked rise in real income

By Markus M. Grabka, Jan Goebel, and Stefan Liebig

Employment no longer automatically protects households against poverty
At-risk-of-poverty rate[1], percentage share



1 People with less than 60 percent of the median disposable income. Note: Population consists of members of households containing people of working age, between 20 and 65 years of age, equivalized annual household income surveyed in the following year, equivalized using the modified OECD equivalence scale.

Source: author's calculations based on the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEPv34)

Abstract

Using Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) data from 1991 to 2016, this study shows that equivalized disposable incomes of private households in Germany have increased by 18 percent on average in real terms. However, the increase varied depending on the household's position in the income distribution. As a result, there has been an increase in the inequality of disposable household incomes since the financial market crisis. The at-risk-of-poverty rate was 16.6 percent in 2016 compared with around 11 percent in the mid-1990s. Furthermore, the findings show that employment alone is no longer sufficient to protect households from income poverty. Households with only one household member working had twice the poverty risk of the same type of household in 1991. Particularly in urban areas, the number of low-income-earners has risen sharply. The results suggest the need for efforts to counteract these developments, for instance, through higher wage agreements or a reduction in marginal employment. Furthermore, to address the increasing lack of affordable housing, policies should be implemented to promote the construction of affordable housing.

From the Authors

"There are more and more people with low incomes in Germany, but at the same time, there is an increasing lack of affordable housing. Politicians should work to address this discrepancy—for instance, by building more public housing."

Markus M. Grabka

DIW Weekly Report 23

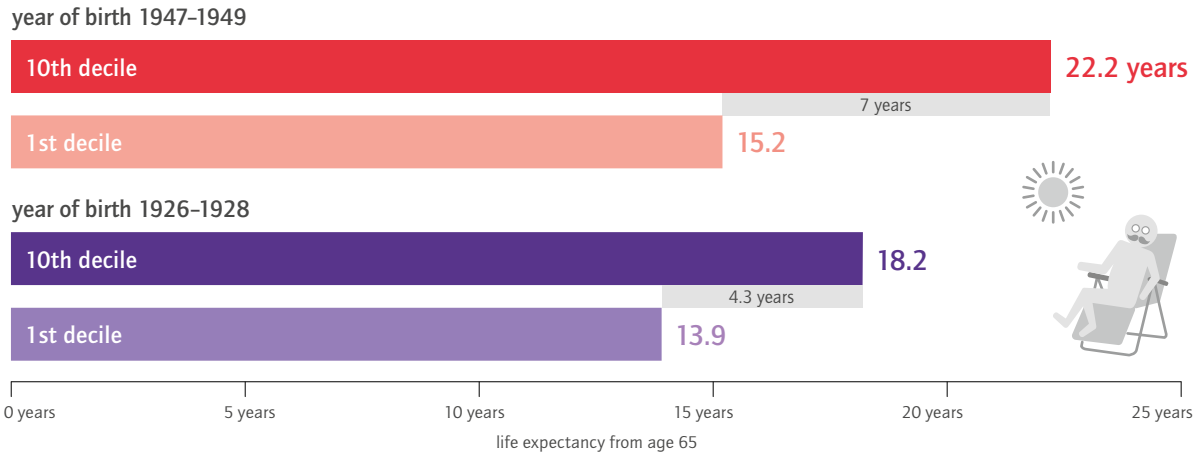
2019

Higher life expectancy means higher earners benefit more from pension insurance

By Peter Haan, Daniel Kemptner, and Holger Lüthen

Increasing heterogeneity in life expectancy by lifetime earnings

Life expectancy in years among male West German employees at age 65, life expectancy distribution by deciles



Source: authors' calculations based on administrative data of the Deutsche Rentenversicherung (German Pension Insurance).

Abstract

Life expectancy in the German population is increasing over time, but also diverging within age groups. Using administrative data from the German Pension Insurance agency on male employees in West Germany, this study shows how life expectancy has changed with lifetime earnings. Life expectancy at the age of 65 of the cohorts born between 1926 and 1928 was four years higher in the highest lifetime earnings decile than in the lowest decile. The difference was seven years in the cohorts born between 1947 and 1949. The differing expected pension entitlement periods lead to relevant distributional effects: West German men with higher lifetime earnings can expect to receive more in pension payments in proportion to their contributions. The fact that people with low wages not only receive less pensions, but also shorter duration of pension payments due to their shorter life expectancy runs counter to the principle of equivalence in the German pension insurance system. It also presents an argument for increasing pensions among those with low pension entitlements, a topic of current policy discussion.

From the Authors

"A basic pension would rectify the violation of the equivalence principle. One should keep in mind, however, that the idea of a basic pension is also about fighting poverty, which is actually a task for society as a whole. It should not be financed by the German Pension Insurance alone."

Daniel Kemptner

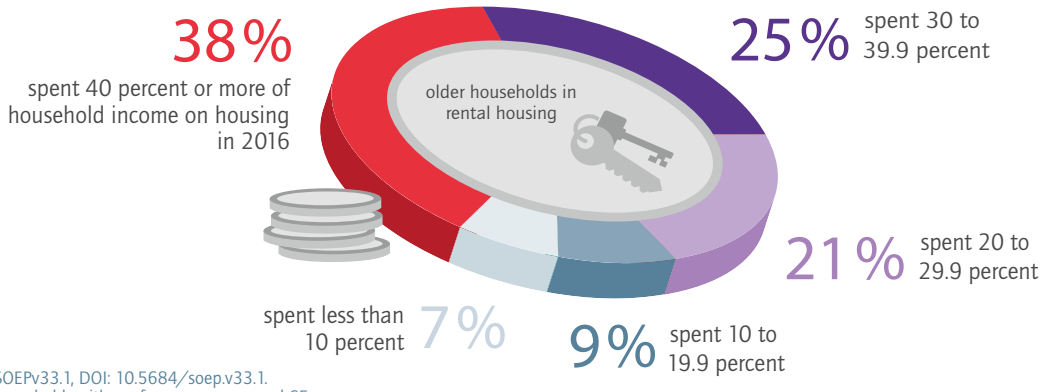
DIW Weekly Report 27

2019

Increasing numbers of older households heavily burdened by rising housing costs

By Laura Romeu Gordo, Markus M. Grabka, Alberto Lozano Alcántara, Heribert Engstler, and Claudia Voge

Two thirds of all older households in rental housing in Germany spend at least 30 percent of their income on housing



Source: SOEPv33.1, DOI: 10.5684/soep.v33.1.
Private households with a reference person aged 65 or over.

Abstract

This study examined how the burden of housing costs has changed since 1996 for households with a reference person aged 65 or over. There has been a sharp increase in housing costs for households in rental housing. The share of households in this age group in rental housing with a rent burden ratio (including all utilities) of more than 30 percent increased markedly from 38 percent in 1996 to 63 percent in 2016. The lower a household's net income, the higher its rent burden ratio. People living alone also have an above-average rent burden. At the same time, the number of owner-occupied households has increased among older people with higher incomes, who have lower housing costs than those in rental housing. In Germany, these developments have led to two forms of polarization among older people: one the one hand, there is increasing differentiation in the form of ownership (rent vs. home ownership), and on the other, there is a sharp rise in the housing cost burden, especially among households in rental housing. Policymakers should therefore work not only to improve housing benefits but also to increase support for the construction of public housing to better meet the needs of older tenants, particularly those with low incomes.

From the Authors

"More and more older people own their own homes, especially those in high-income households. Rental housing continues to predominate in the lower income segment, and the costs are increasing much more for those in rental housing than for those in owner-occupied housing."

Laura Romeu Gordo

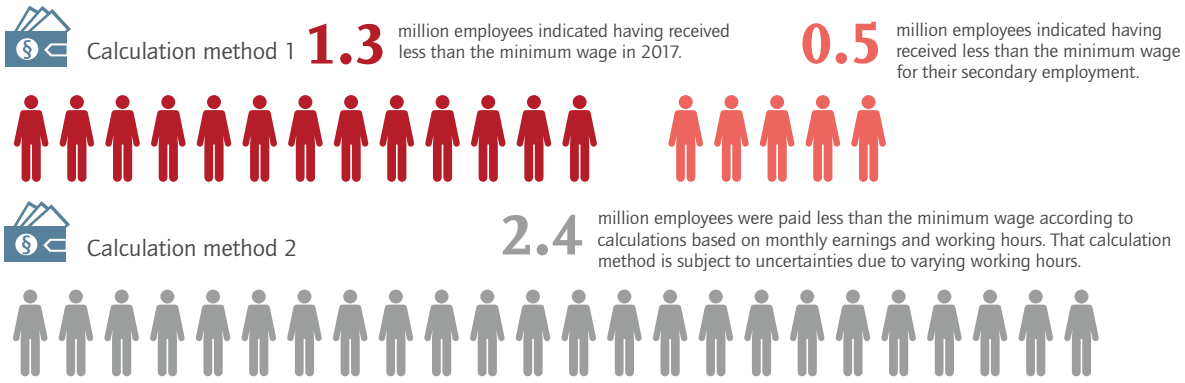
DIW Weekly Report 28

2019

Minimum wage: many entitled employees in Germany still do not receive it

By Alexandra Fedorets, Markus M. Grabka, and Carsten Schröder

According to conservative calculations, more than a million employees entitled to the minimum earnings in Germany actually got paid less than the legal minimum of 8.84 euros per hour in 2017



Abstract

There has been a universal statutory minimum wage in Germany for a good four years, but many employees still do not receive it. This is the finding of new calculations based on the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), which have updated noncompliance with the minimum wage for 2017. Even conservative calculations indicate that around 1.3 million people who are entitled to the minimum wage receive a lower wage in their main employment. And they are joined by around a half a million persons in secondary employment. The contractually agreed wages of the ten percent of employees with the lowest wages did indeed rise by around 13 percent between 2014 and 2016. But despite the first-time minimum wage hike to 8.84 euros in 2017, the positive trend did not continue. The extent to which the decision of the European Court of Justice, which obligates employers to record all of the hours worked by employees, can curb noncompliance with the minimum wage depends on how the decision is implemented in practice. Further, the implementation of a "fair-pay label" to identify companies that can provide traceable documentation of their compliance with the minimum wage is recommended. As with organic certification, such a seal would enable consumers to make conscious informed decisions about which products and services from which manufacturers and providers to buy.

From the Authors

"Companies duly paying the minimum wage to their employees should not suffer any competition disadvantage compared to those who don't. One solution would be a 'fair-pay label', similar to an organic food certification. That would allow consumers to be fully informed before making their choices."

Alexandra Fedorets

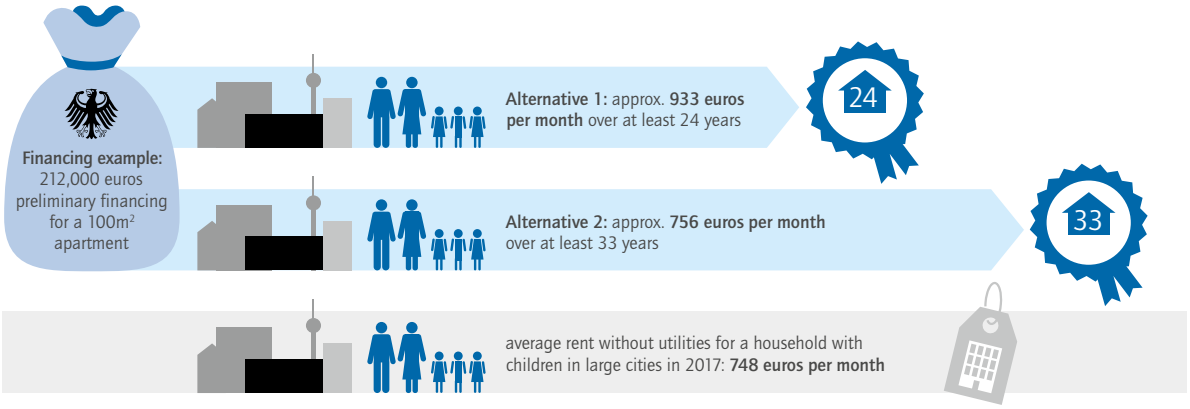
DIW Weekly Report 29

2019

Government-subsidized rent-to-buy schemes could help low-income families buy their own homes

By Peter Gründling and Markus M. Grabka

Monthly rent-to-own installment payment would be similar to rent (excluding utilities) depending on the loan term: families with children and a household head under the age of 40 are the target group



Source: authors' presentation.

Abstract

Housing is becoming more and more expensive in large parts of Germany, especially in cities and urban areas. Favorable interest rates make the purchase of real estate seem affordable at first glance. However, many households with low or middle incomes have not been able to save and accumulate sufficient equity capital to keep up with the increase in real estate prices. At the same time, the proportion of households living in owner-occupied housing in Germany is already the lowest in the European Union. This report proposes a government-subsidized rent-to-buy model that would enable more households to own their own homes. The potential advantages are manifold: not only would stable loan repayment rates protect households from rising rental costs; from a broader economic perspective, the higher home ownership rate would also reduce the relatively high level of wealth inequality in Germany. Moreover, since the envisaged government investments would flow back to the state in the form of loan repayments over the medium term, this would be an effective and low-cost means of increasing home ownership.

From the Authors

"A home, like food and clothing, is one of the basic needs of all human beings. Young families are struggling with rising rents, and even families in the middle income segment have little chance of buying their own home. A government-subsidized rent-to-own scheme would be one way of providing targeted support for these kinds of families."

Markus M. Grabka

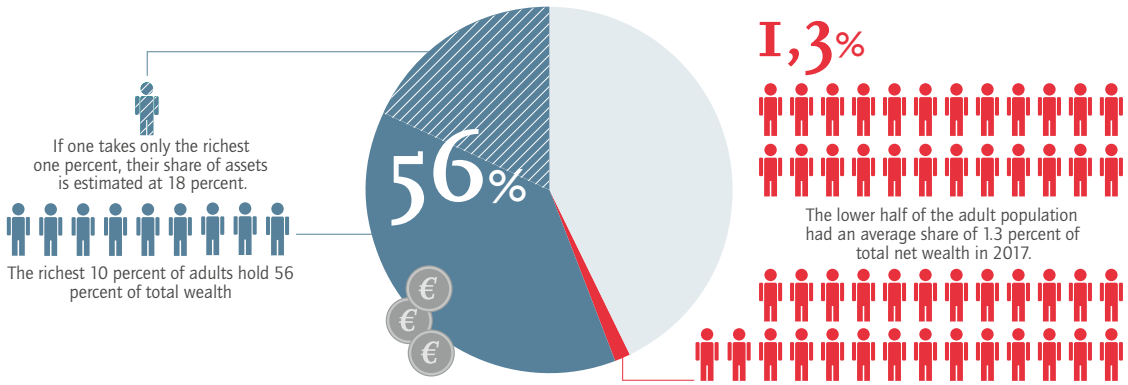
DIW Weekly Report 40

2019

Wealth inequality in Germany remains high despite significant increase in net wealth

By Markus M. Grabka and Christoph Halbmeier

The richest ten percent in Germany own more than half of the assets, the poorer half own only 1.3 percent
share of total net assets 2017



Note: Individual net wealth of persons aged 17 and over in private households, excluding persons from refugee samples M3 to M5.
Excluding the value of motor vehicles and excluding the residual debt of education loans.
Sources: SOEPv34, with 0.1 percent top coding; authors' calculations.

Abstract

Private wealth in Germany increased by an average nominal rate of 22 percent between 2012 and 2017. Individual net wealth in Germany in 2017 averaged around 108,500 euros for people aged 17 and over. In contrast, the median value separating the lower from the upper half of the wealth distribution was only 26,000 euros. The increase in assets was driven primarily by increases in the value of business assets and real estate. Wealth inequality has remained at a high level for ten years, even by international standards: the richest ten percent own more than half of all assets. In order to reduce inequality, policies to promote asset accumulation would have to be redesigned with higher subsidies and a new focus of private old-age provisions, oriented toward countries such as Sweden, or a government-funded rent-to-buy model.

From the Authors

"To reduce wealth inequality, it will not be enough to impose small taxes on large fortunes. Instead of introducing a wealth tax, it would be better to reorient wealth accumulation policies."

Markus M. Grabka

DIW Weekly Report 42

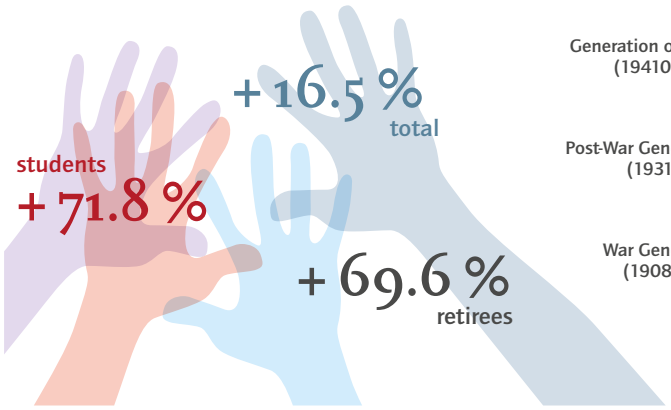
2019

Volunteering on the rise: Generation of 1968 more active even in retirement

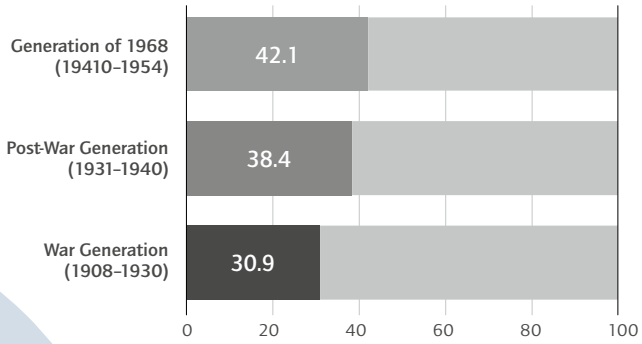
By Luise Burkhardt and Jürgen Schupp

Volunteer rates of students and retirees have increased markedly
Three years before to three years after retirement

Change in volunteer rates from 1990 to 2017
In percent, individuals aged 17 and over



Share of volunteers leading up to and after retirement From three years before to three years after retirement, in percent



Source: SOEP v.34.

Abstract

According to representative survey results of the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), volunteer rates have been continually rising in Germany over the past 30 years. Contributing factors include young adults' growing willingness to volunteer as well as an increase in the volunteer behavior of older people, who begin to volunteer more often after entering retirement. A generational comparison shows that the Generation of 1968 (born between 1941 and 1954) volunteers especially frequently during retirement. Twenty-nine percent of respondents in this generation continued volunteering into retirement and 13 percent began volunteering after retiring, making the Generation of 1968 more active volunteers than older birth cohorts. Policies should support this potential resource in the future through flexible and accessible volunteer opportunities.

From the Authors

"Retirement is likely to be an increasingly attractive phase of life for future generations to engage in volunteer work. This offers particular potential for civil society, as older individuals primarily volunteer in the social sphere."

Jürgen Schupp

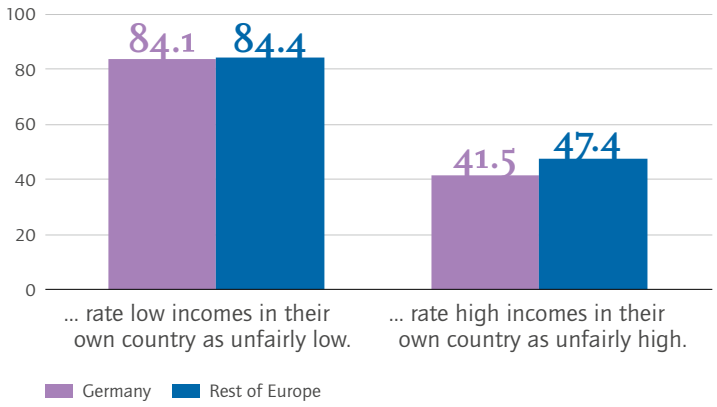
DIW Weekly Report 45(1) 2019

A comparison of earnings justice throughout Europe: Widespread approval in Germany for income distribution according to need and equity

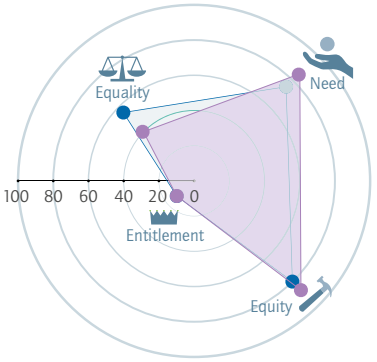
By Jule Adriaans, Philipp Eisnecker, and Stefan Liebig

Respondents in Germany rate high incomes less often as unfairly high compared to the rest of Europe; they agree on low incomes

Share of respondents who …



Agreement with distributive justice principles (in percent)



Source: European Social Survey, wave 9 (2018), weighted.

Abstract

The present study compares the perceptions of fairness of national earned incomes between the populations of Germany and the rest of Europe based on recent data from the European Social Survey (ESS). The vast majority of European respondents consider very low gross earned incomes to be unjustly low. By contrast, very high incomes are less frequently considered too high in Germany than they are in the rest of Europe. Nearly half of Europeans believe their own gross earned income is fair, whereby the higher their own income, the more likely they are to consider it fair. It is striking that this correlation is particularly strong in Germany. Respondents in Europe, and especially in Germany, generally consider it fair that goods and burdens are distributed according to need and equity. In contrast, the distributive principle of equality is more frequently rejected in Germany than in other European countries.

From the Authors

"In the opinion of Europeans and even more so of the respondents in Germany, the distribution of goods and burdens in a just society should be based on the principles of need and equity. It is therefore not only important to pay wages that meet individual needs, but also wages that value and recognize individual performance."

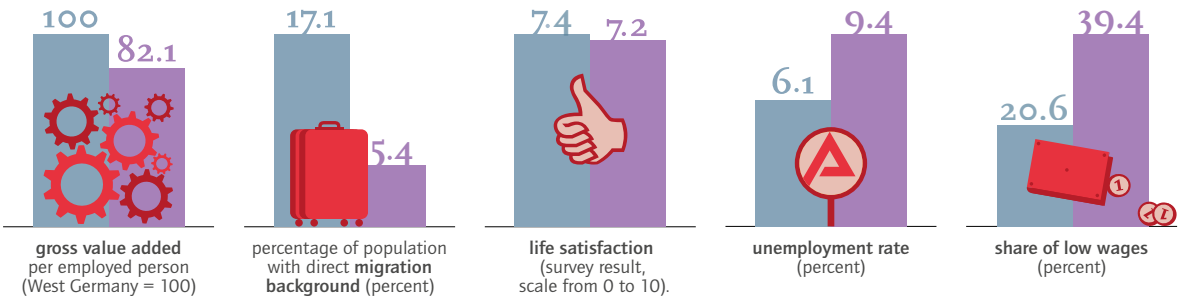
Jule Adriaans

DIW Weekly Report 45(2) 2019

Thirty years after the fall of the Wall: Progress and deficits in establishing equivalent living conditions in East and West Germany

By Peter Krause

Living conditions in East and West Germany: convergence in life satisfaction, but persistent differences in socio-economic variables (mean values for the years 2015–2017)



Sources: Gross value added: Arbeitskreis Volkswirtschaftliche Gesamtrechnung der Länder (East Germany including Berlin); all other indicators: SOEPv34 (West Germany including West Berlin).: authors' presentation.

Abstract

Since Germany's reunification, an important policy goal has been to establish equivalent living conditions in East and West Germany. This report used data from official statistical sources and the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) to compare how living conditions have developed over time in the two parts of the country. The results present a mixed picture. The East has caught up considerably in terms of income stratification and life satisfaction. This is also evident in socio-demographic factors, including the rising percentage of children in the East (after a sharp decline in the 1990s) and the now-balanced internal migration. In both parts of the country, income inequality and at-risk-of-poverty rates have risen, low-income and low-wage rates have increased, and the share of low-skilled workers in the workforce has fallen. Gaps are still evident in East Germany's lower economic power, weaker growth in the high-skilled workforce, higher shares of employees with low wages and incomes, and higher at-risk-of-poverty rates. Persistent East-West differences are also likely to be caused by the much more rural character of eastern Germany. In addition, the much lower proportions of immigrants point to persistent regional differences between East and West Germany.

From the Authors

"In the future, the objective of creating equivalent living conditions should be expanded to encompass regional diversity across all parts of the country."

Peter Krause

SOEP-Based SSCI Publications over the Last Decade

Figure 7

SOEP-Based (S)SCI Publications 2009–2019

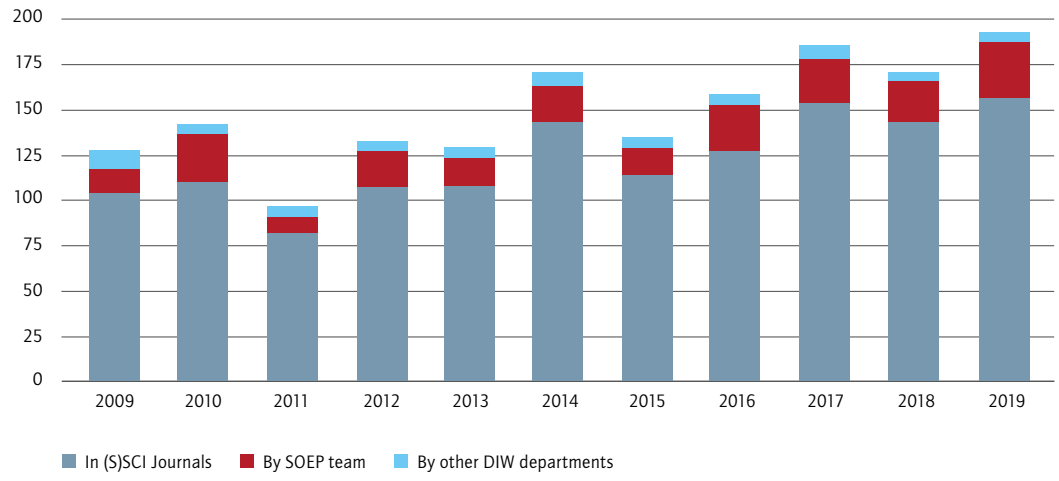
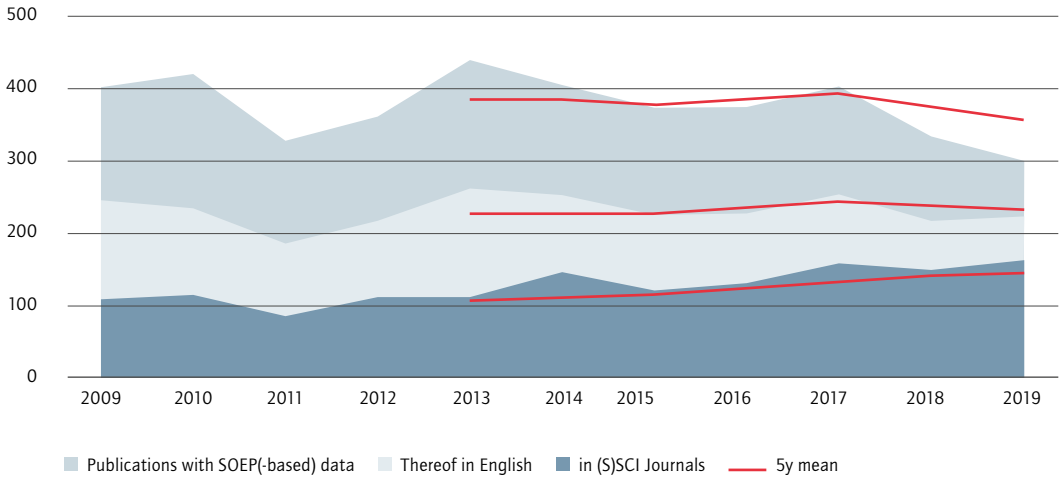


Figure 8

SOEP-Based Publications 2009–2019



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Immer mehr Privatschulen: Ein Misstrauensvotum der Eltern gegen den Staat

Spiegel online – January 8, 2019
Bildung: Zahl der Privatschulen steigt weiter

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n-tv.de – January 25, 2019
Studie zur Integration: 65 Prozent der Flüchtlinge noch ohne Job

Zeit online – January 25, 2019
Integration: Geflüchtete Mütter haben die größten Schwierigkeiten

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Gesellschaft: Ungleichheit muss nicht gleichbedeutend mit Ungerechtigkeit sein

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Welt online – February 21, 2019
Die meisten Männer sehen sich als Ernährer, nicht als Halbtagsjobber

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Fast jeder Dritte hat am Monatsende kein Geld mehr

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WSI-Studie: Das Homeoffice wird für Frauen zur Doppelbelastung

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Einkommensgewinne seit 1991: Gutverdiener hängen den Rest Deutschlands ab

Sueddeutsche Zeitung online – May 7, 2019
Studie zum Einkommen: Die Ärmsten verdienen weniger, die Reichen mehr

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Warum Arbeit nicht mehr vor Armut schützt

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Studie zur Vermögensverteilung: Die Einkommensschere in Deutschland öffnet sich weiter

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Ergebnis einer Studie: Jeder Zehnte fühlt sich in Deutschland einsam

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Wohnungsmarkt: Sie wollen doch nur vermieten

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Studie zu Migranten am Arbeitsmarkt: Politik macht Flüchtlingen das Arbeiten schwer

Handelsblatt online – July 10, 2019
Gut 1,8 Millionen Beschäftigte verdienen weniger als den Mindestlohn

Saarbrücker Zeitung online – August 20, 2019
Die Hundertjährigen sind im Kommen

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Schlafmangel durch Kinder: So viel Schlaf fehlt Eltern nach der Geburt

Welt online – October 18, 2019
Lottogewinne machen doch glücklich

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