



SHARE

SURVEY OF HEALTH, AGEING
AND RETIREMENT IN EUROPE

The Longitudinal Approach to Longevity

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Course: Research and Innovation in Ageing, Santander
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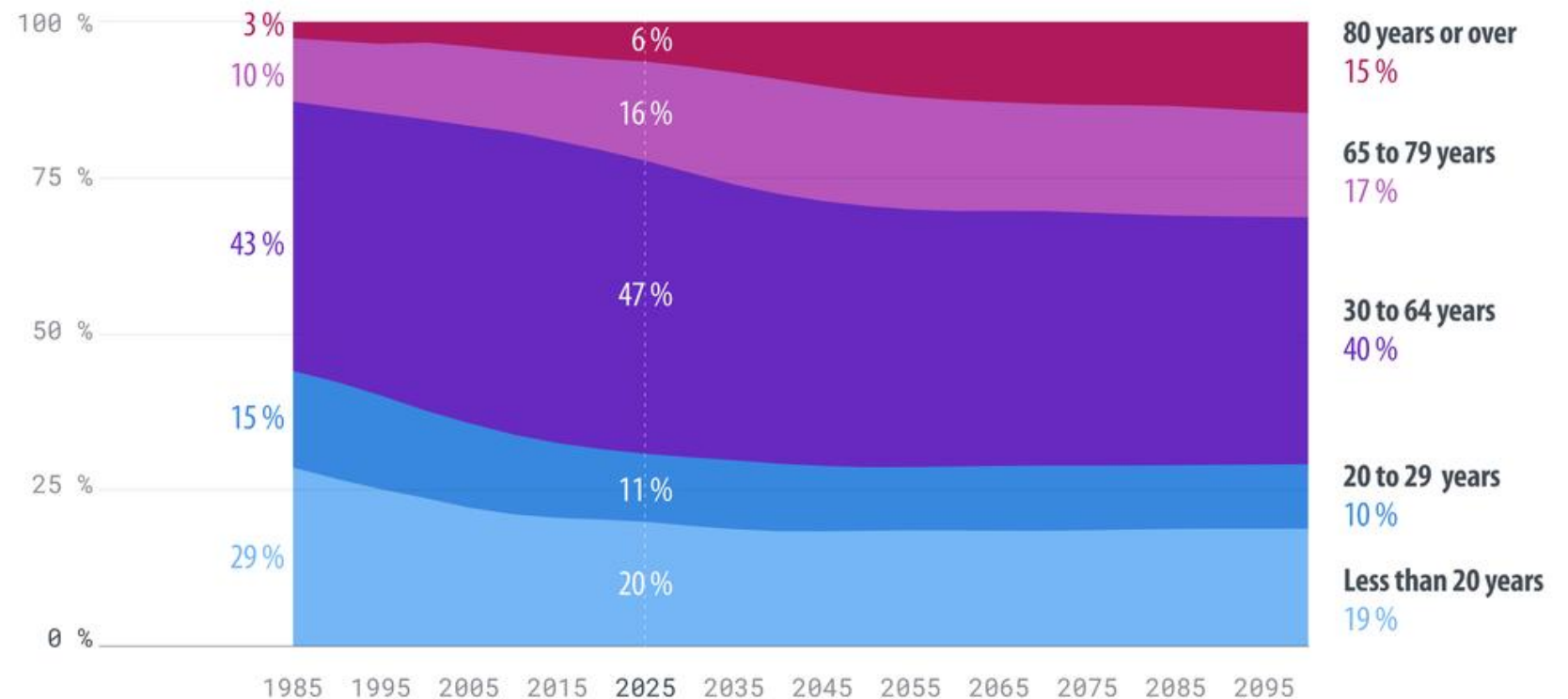
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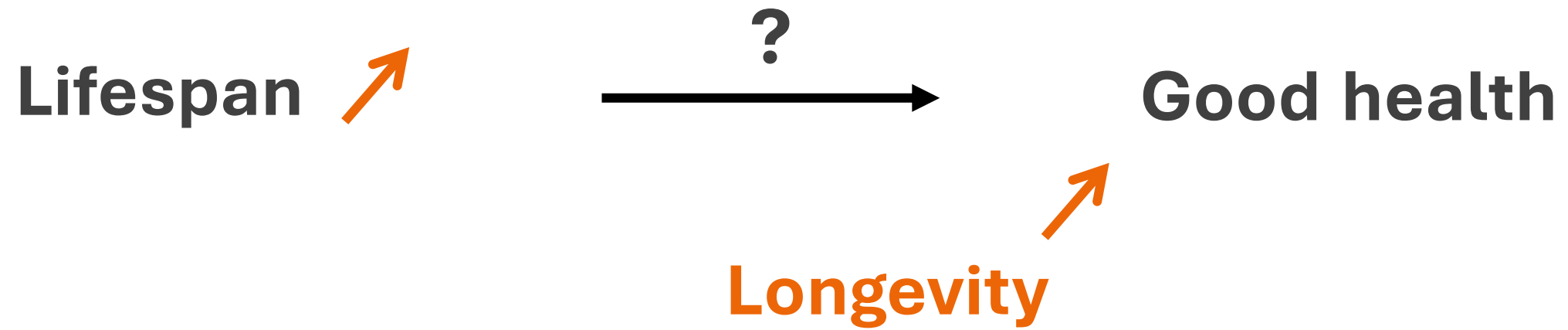
National Institute
on Aging

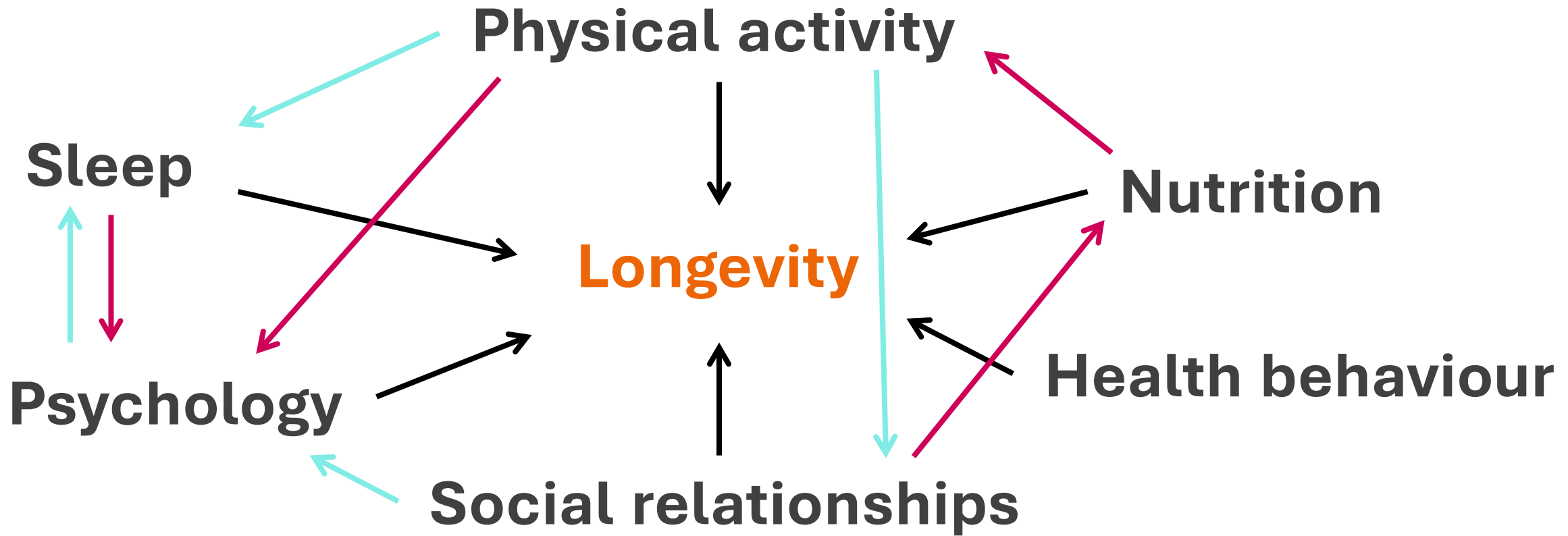
Fastest growing age group: 80+

European population by age group: 1985–2100, baseline projections
in % of all inhabitants



Source: Eurostat, „Population on 1st January by age, sex, and type of projection“, online code: proj_19np.





Longitudinal
data help
disentangle
cause and
effect



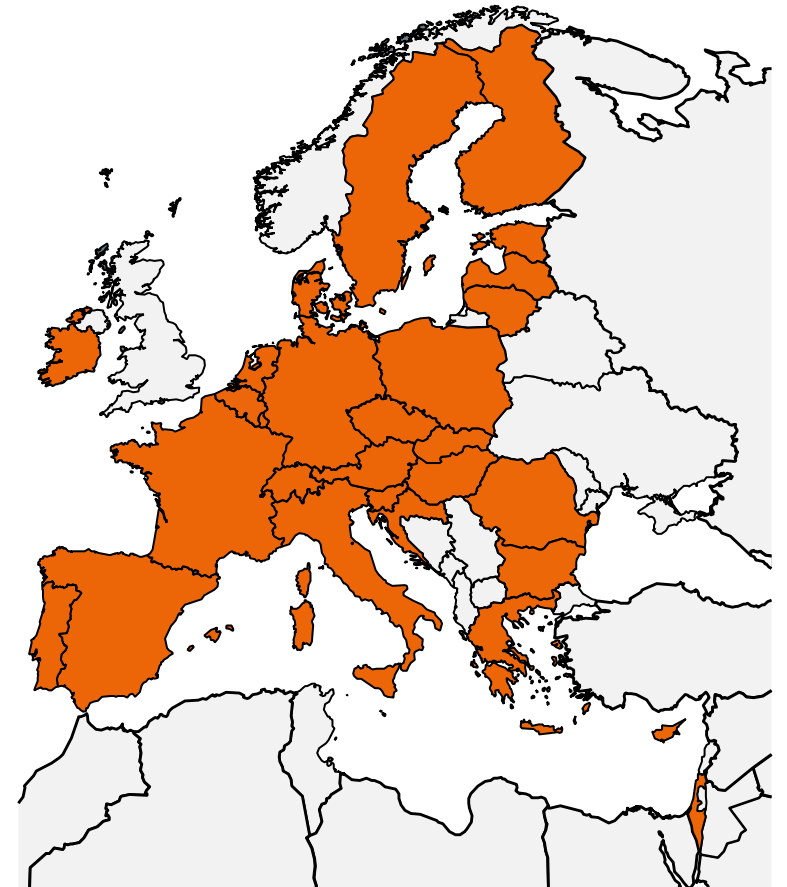
Advantages of Panel Data

- Match information from different phases of the life course
- Transitions into and out of states (e.g. poverty)
- Control for time-constant characteristics
(-> validate causal interpretations)
- Model sequentiality (we know the time-ordering of events)
- Measure trends
- Decomposition of trends
- Natural experiments

SHARE in a Nutshell

Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

- Cross-national household panel survey representative of 50+ population in 28 countries
- Every two years since 2004
- 9 waves of data released from 616.000 face-to-face interviews with over 160.000 respondents
- Ex-ante harmonisation
- Broad range of topics (health, economic and living conditions, social relationships) and (objective physical) measures
- **Free data access for researchers: <http://www.share-eric.eu>**



Comparable Over Time

COMPARABLE OVER TIME



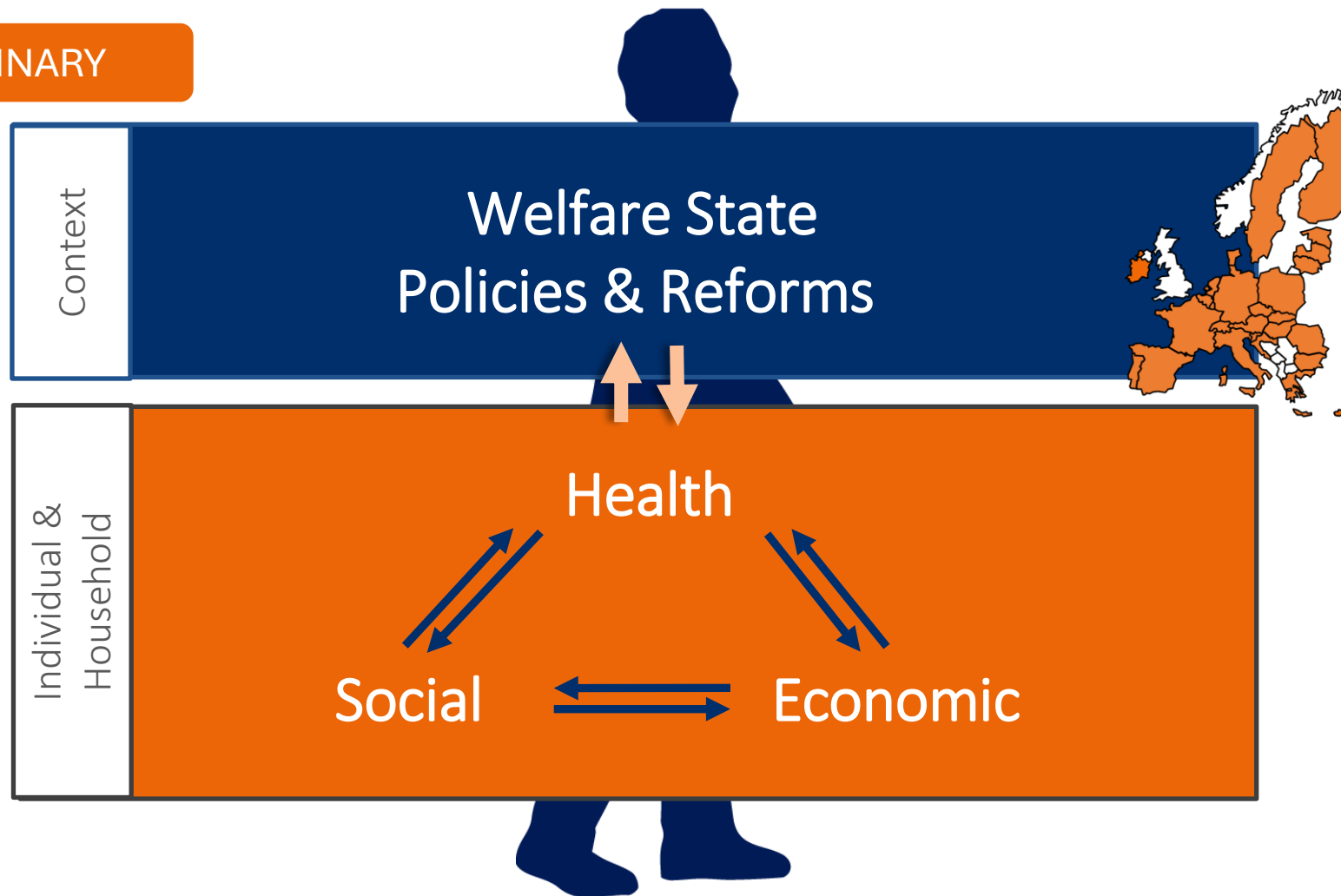
What happened
before SHARE?

- Health and Health Care History
- Children History
- Partner History
- Housing History
- Financial History
- Employment History
- Childhood Circumstances



Multidisciplinary Research

MULTIDISCIPLINARY



What SHARE measures



Health variables

Physical and
cognitive health
Biomarkers
Health behavior and
health care



Psychological variables

Mental health
Wellbeing and life
satisfaction
Personality traits



Demographic variables

Partnerships
Children and
parents
Housing



Economic variables

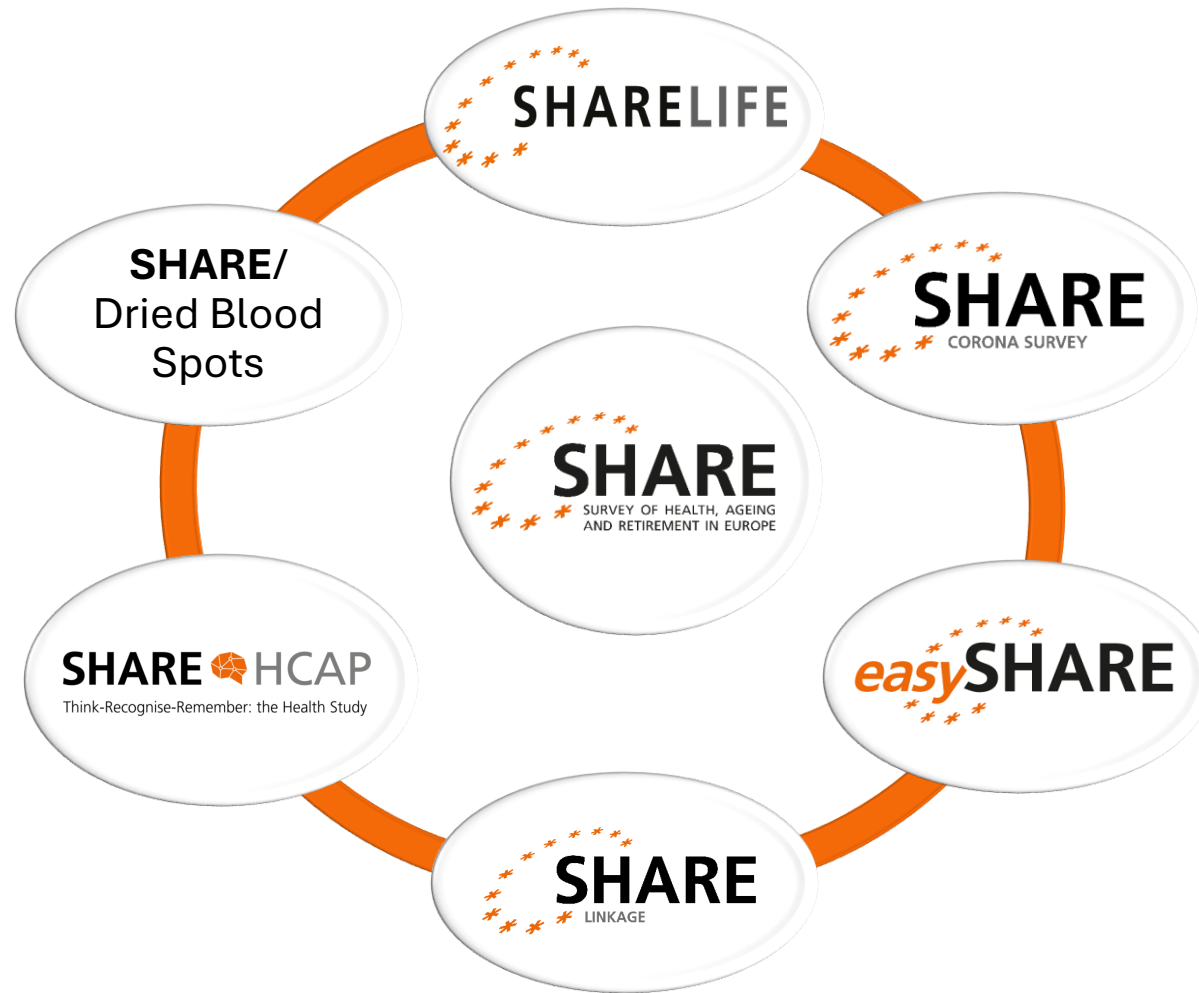
Employment and
retirement
Income,
wealth and
consumption



Social support variables

Giving and receiving
support
Social networks
Voluntary activities

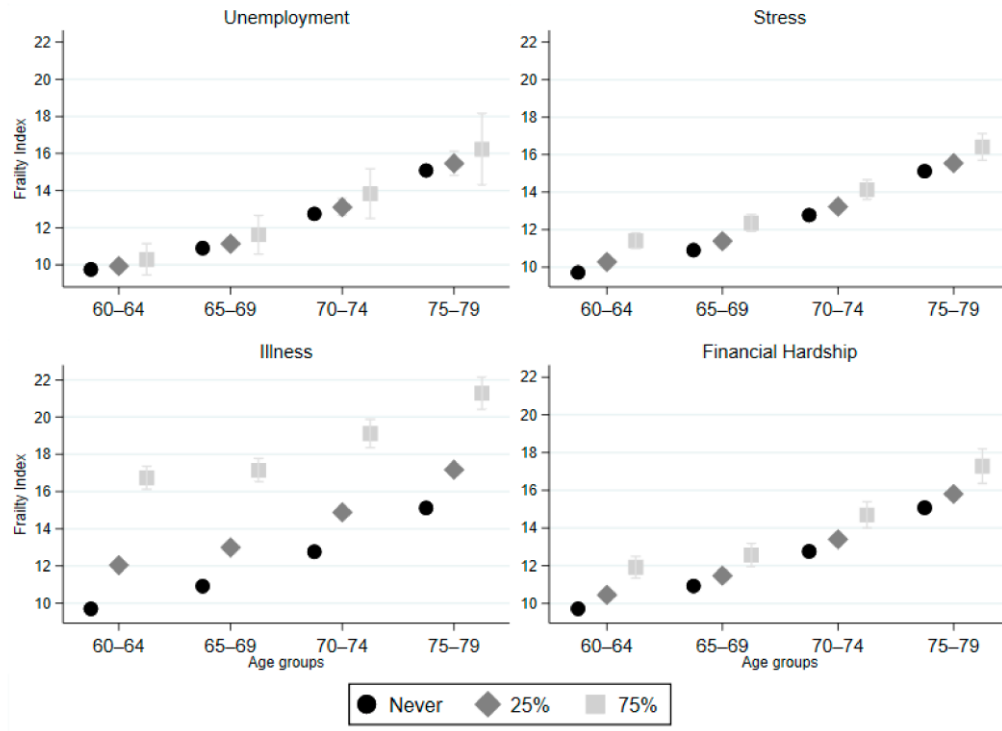
Building on the Panel: Special Datasets



What predicts who lives longer?

Functional ageing gap

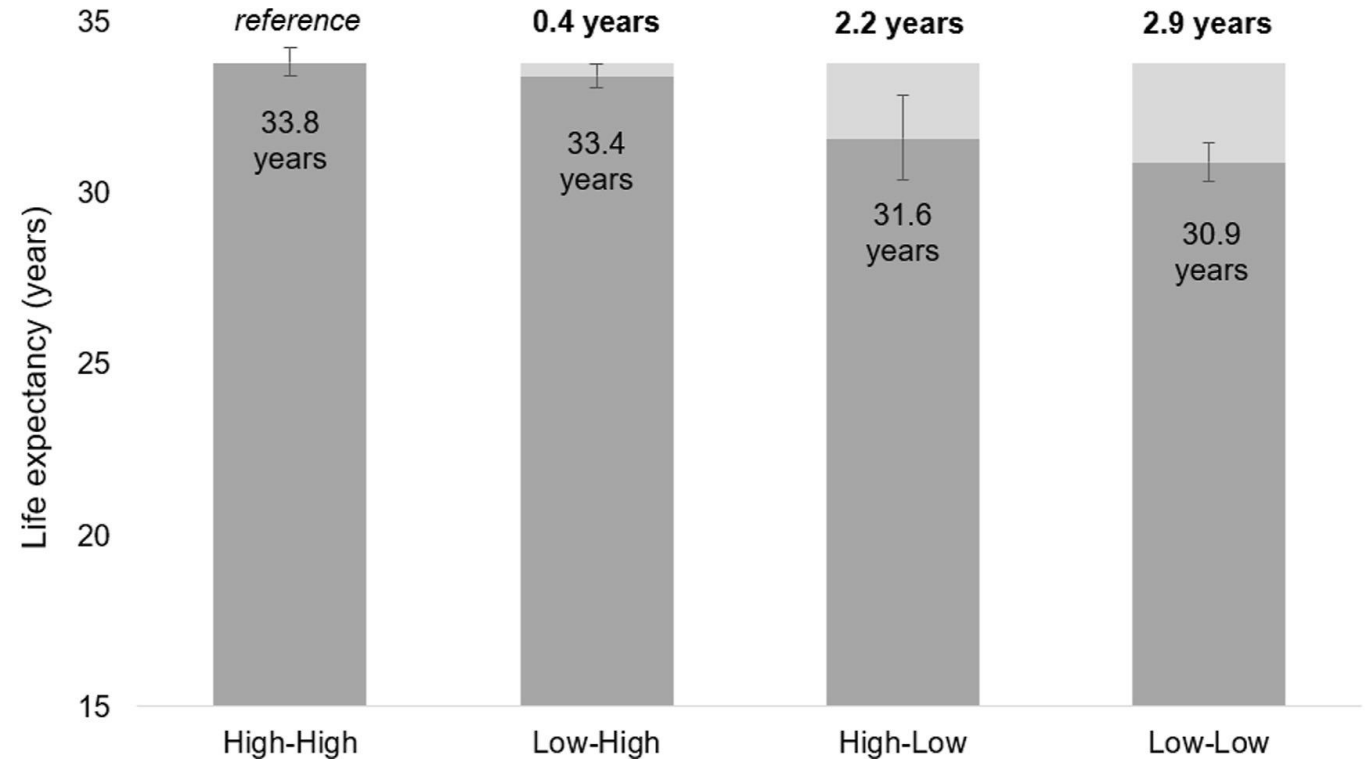
- Data from 7 waves of SHARE & SHARELIFE, 19 countries
- Longitudinal, retrospective design → makes identifying persistence or coexistence of disadvantage possible



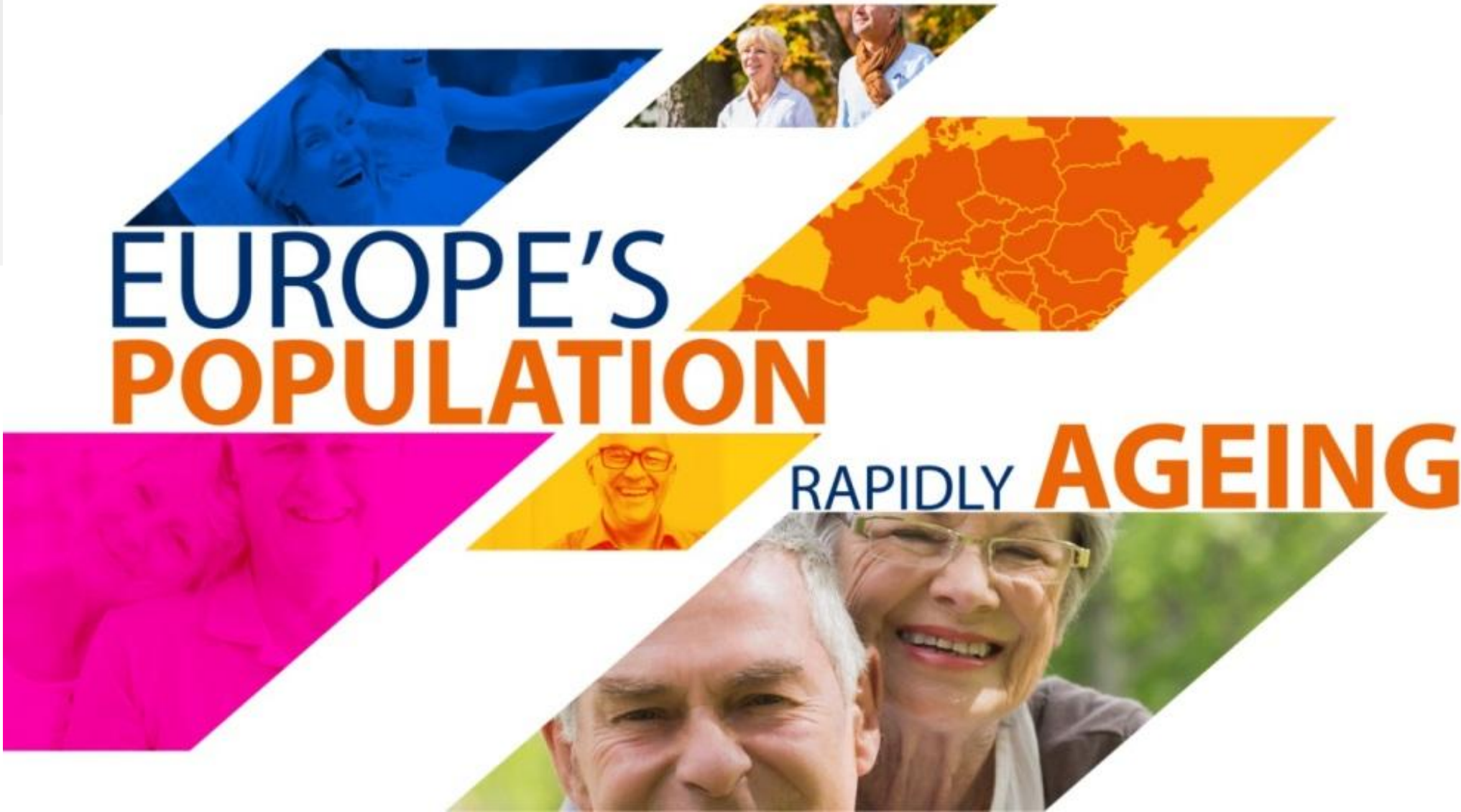
Zanasi, F., De Santis, G., & Pirani, E. (2022). Lifelong Disadvantage and Late Adulthood Frailty. *Journal of Ageing and Longevity*, 2(1).

**Individual
education
drives
inequalities
in longevity
– not the
parent's.**

Years of life lost by educational trajectories (50 - 90 years)



Wagner, C., Cullati, S., Sieber, S., Huijts, T., Chiolerio, A., & Carmeli, C. (2023). Intergenerational educational trajectories and inequalities in longevity: A population-based study of adults born before 1965 in 14 European countries. *SSM - Population Health*.



EUROPE'S POPULATION

RAPIDLY **AGEING**

Accessing SHARE Data

Data are provided free of charge after individual registration



www.share-eric.eu/data/become-a-user

- Release of Wave 10 planned end of 2026/early 2027



SHARE Data Release 9.0.0

New SHARE data release available
including data from
SHARE Wave 9



Thanks!

Have you got any questions?

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LinkedIn



<http://bit.ly/3Zulium>



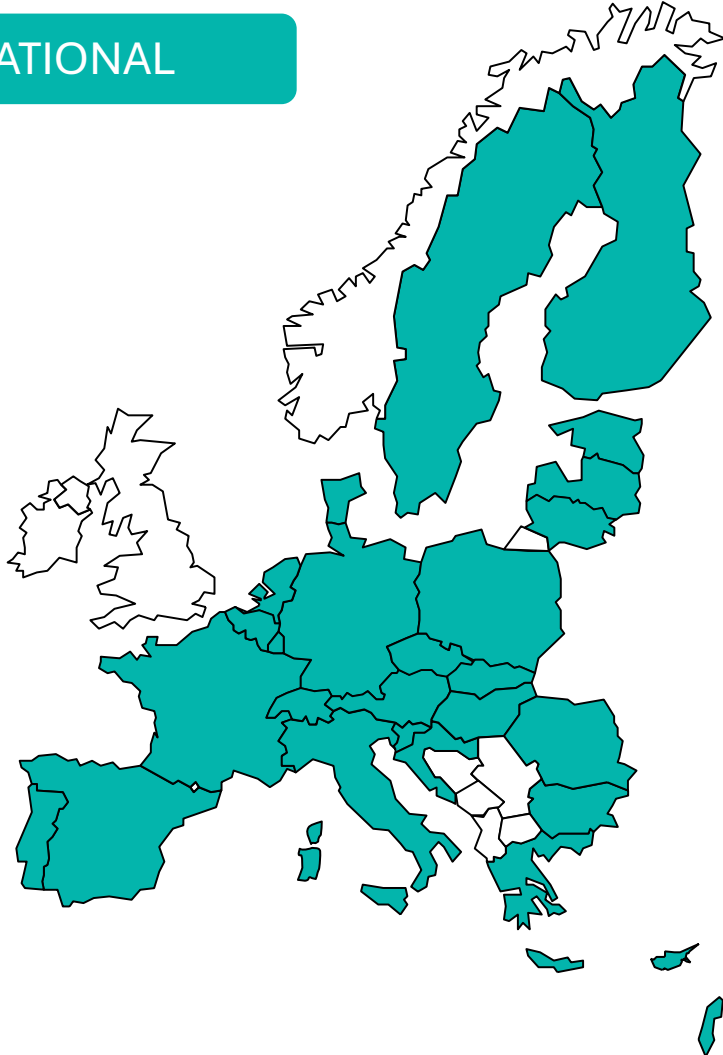
BACK-UP DETAILS ON DATASETS

SHARE conducts interviews in 28 countries

CROSS-NATIONAL

more than
160.000
respondents

approx.
616.000
interviews



Austria

Belgium

Bulgaria

Croatia

Cyprus

Czechia

Denmark

Estonia

Finland

France

Germany

Greece

Hungary

Israel

Italy

Latvia

Lithuania

Luxemburg

Malta

Netherlands

Poland

Portugal

Romania

Slovakia

Slovenia

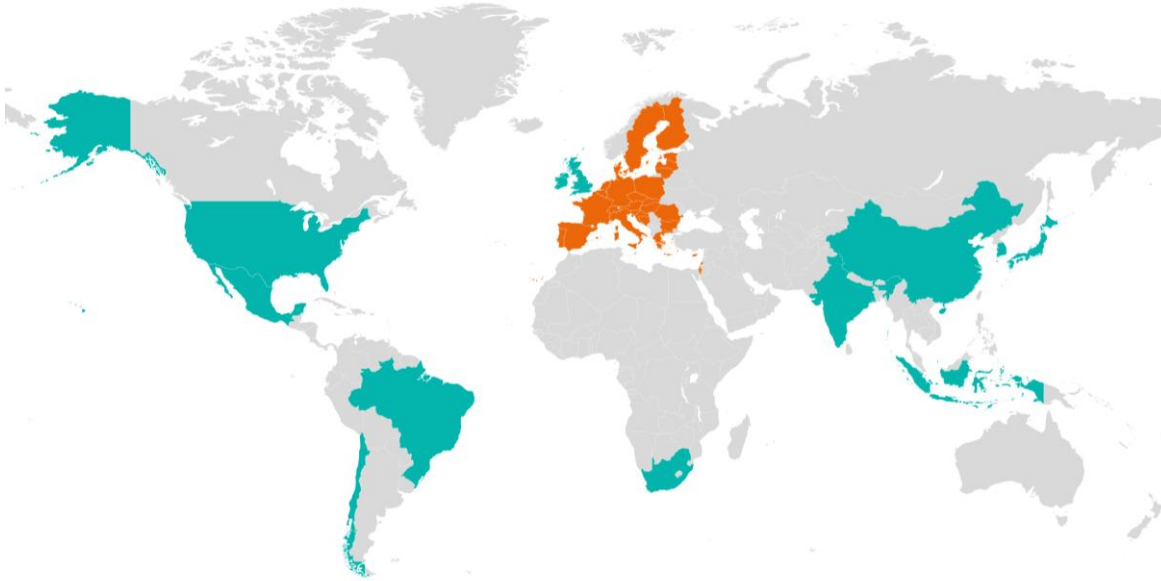
Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

SHARE & the global network of ageing studies

CROSS-NATIONAL



- **CHARLS** - Chinese Health and Retirement Survey
- **CSPS** – Chilean Social Protection Survey (EPS)
- **ELSA** - English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
- **ELSI** - The Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Aging
- **HAALSI** - Health and Aging in Africa: A Longitudinal Study in South Africa
- **HRS** - Health and Retirement Study USA
- **HAGIS** - Healthy Ageing In Scotland
- **HART** - Healthy, Aging and Retirement in Thailand
- **IFLS** - Indonesian Family Life Survey
- **JSTAR** - The Japanese Study of Aging and Retirement
- **KLoSA** - The Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging
- **LASI** - The Longitudinal Aging Study in India
- **MARS** - Malaysia Ageing and Retirement Survey
- **MHAS** - Mexican Health and Aging Study
- **NICOLA** - Northern Ireland Cohort for the Longitudinal Study of Ageing
- **TILDA** - The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing

SHARE Content

Health Variables

- Self-reported health
- Diagnosed diseases
- Cognitive health
- ADL/IADL
- Health behaviour
- Health care provision



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Psychological variables

- Mental health
- Well-being
- Life satisfaction
- Depression (EURO-D)
- BIG 5 personality traits



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Demographic variables

- Age
- Sex
- Education
- Partnership
- Children
- Parents
- Housing



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Economic variables

- Employment
- Retirement
- Income
- Wealth
- Consumption



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Biomarkers

- Grip strength (all WAVES)
- Walking speed (WAVES 1 & 2)
- Peak flow (WAVES 2 & 6)
- Chair stand (WAVES 2 & 5)
- Dried blood spots (WAVE 6)
- Accelerometry (WAVE 8)



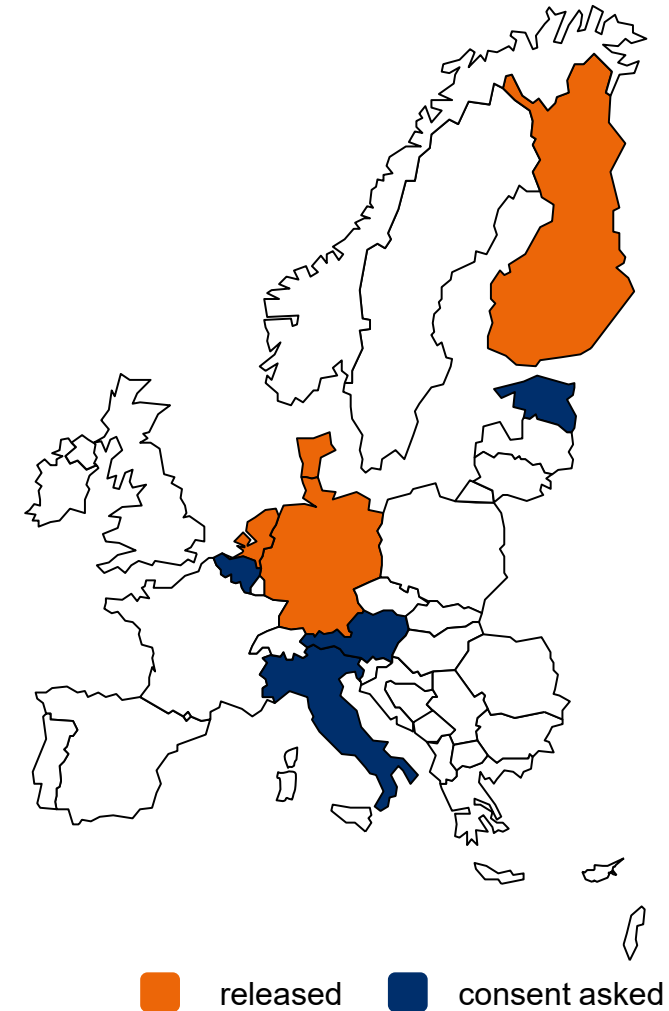
Linked data is available for four countries:



More projects in progress:

- Austria: Austrian Micro Data Centre (AMDC)
- Belgium: Belgian Statistical Office (Statbel)
- Estonia: Statistics Estonia
- Italy: Italian Social Security Institute (INPS)
- Germany: Institute for Employment Research (IAB)

Read More



Dried Blood Spot Collection



- Ca. 27,000 respondents in 12 countries
- 67% participation rate from representative samples of 50+ population
- Harmonized collection protocols, simultaneous fieldwork, centrally coordinated laboratory analysis
- Markers such as HbA1c, CRP, ApoE4, pTau217, GFAP, NfL

SHARE HCAP

Think-Recognise-Remember: the Health Study



Clinical-grade cognitive assessment
across memory, executive function,
language, and orientation



5 countries · 2,500+ interviews ·
linkable to full SHARE panel history



Part of the global HCAP Network:
harmonized with HRS, ELSA, and sister
studies worldwide