

Annual Report 2015

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At a Glance

- Big data at FORS (*p. 4-7*)
- 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users held in Lausanne (*p. 9*)
- SELECTS mixed mode surveys before and after the 2015 national elections successfully completed (*p. 15-17*)
- Intensified activities in data promotion and data management (*p. 19-22*)
- Qualitative Methods Festival held in Lausanne (*p. 22*)
- Mandate by the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) to lead data management for the Assessment of Basic Educational Competencies ÜGK (*p. 34*)
- Mandate by the Swiss Federal Chancellery to run the post-votation surveys (formerly known as “Vox”) 2016-2020, in collaboration with the Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau (ZDA) and the survey agency LINK (*p. 34*)
- Survey Management Tool SMT *light* developed by the FORS IT team successfully implemented (*p. 36*)
- New FORS director appointed, to take office on September 1, 2016 (*p. 38*)
- Acquisition Charter enacted (*p. 40*)
- FORS Bulletin, the new biannual trilingual e-newsletter, published (*p. 41*)
- SNF-Agora project granted to establish a political science related blog called “DeFacto” (www.defacto.expert), in collaboration with the University of Zurich (*p. 44*)
- New bilingual online publication series “Social Change in Switzerland” launched (www.socialchangeswitzerland.ch), in collaboration with the University of Lausanne unit LINES and the NCCR LIVES (*p. 44*)
- FORS active partner in a series of European research infrastructure projects (*p. 45-47*)
- Seed Money Grant won in collaboration with the University of Neuchatel for a joint project with a research team at the Institute for Social and Economic Change in Bengaluru/Bangalore, India, on multidimensional well-being (*p. 47*)
- Numerous international scholarly publications with data produced by FORS (*p. 60-64*)

1 “Big Data” at FORS ?

Note: This is an excerpt from the FORS Working Paper 2015-2 “Big Data for the Social Sciences” authored by Brian Kleiner, Alexandra Stam, and Nicolas Pekari. The full paper can be downloaded here: <http://forscenter.ch/en/research-publications-projects/publications/fors-working-paper-series/current-issues/>

Big data means many things to many people. Key features are repeated in the literature, most notably that this involves very large and complex datasets, and that the data are produced and diffused rapidly, often in real time. Big data, also known as “organic data”, are often created automatically by systems, and thus while rich may be unstructured and variable. The literature describes three main types of big data: 1) *administrative data*, which are provided by individuals or organisations to governments; 2) *transactional data*, which are generated as by-products of transactional activities (e.g., credit card transactions, phone records, browsing behaviour); and 3) *social media data*, which are created online by people who want to share information about themselves (e.g., Tweets, Facebook data). We would add a fourth type that seems to stand apart – *large text corpus data* in digital form that are culled from various online sources (e.g., political speeches, legislative texts, blog posts). This category does overlap to some extent with social media data and transactional data, which may also involve text, but at the same time it is different in that large text corpus data are generated with a greater diversity of purposes.

What does the “big data revolution” mean for the social sciences? Will the rapid availability of massive amounts of data from diverse sources render traditional scientific practices obsolete? Will the social sciences at some point abandon current standard research methodologies in favour of newer more powerful ones?

During 2014, FORS held periodic meetings of a working group on big data among interested staff, with the goal of understanding the scope, definition, benefits, impact, and problems concerning big data for the social sciences. We summarize the conclusions of these meetings and reflections. Further, we outline the ways that FORS will likely use big data in the near future to benefit the research community that it serves, and address the extent to which we may modify or expand our services to this effect.

Opportunities and Limitations of Big Data for Social Science Research

The large quantity of readily available data from a multitude of sources makes possible the application of new methods and insights for addressing both old and new research questions. It is no wonder then that so many social science researchers are now turning to big data sources in their work.

One might argue that various forms of big data hold the potential not only ultimately to render obsolete more traditional methods in the social sciences, but also to

revolutionize theory and the sorts of questions asked by researchers. Indeed, we are optimistic that the new and available forms of organic data will increasingly enrich research prospects and change how research is carried out in the social sciences. We fully expect that they will more and more find their way into innovative and original research methodologies that will be refined and standardized over time.

On the other hand, we believe that it is important to carefully cull the real potential from the hype around big data. Indeed, a review of the literature reveals a wide range of critiques and caveats that suggest quite significant limitations in what can be done with organic data for scientific purposes, and that present a convincing case that social scientists should not quickly abandon their traditional methods.

Analytic Utility

The usefulness of some types of organic data may be limited from an analytic point of view. First, the organic data used for social research, whether for transactional or social media data, are generated by individuals who are not necessarily representative of whole populations, and so may suffer from selection bias. For example, transactional data may be gathered from people who have credit or loyalty cards, but these people may be different from those who do not possess credit or loyalty cards. Also, Twitter analyses are based on people who have Internet access, and who actively use Twitter. Unfortunately, in many cases it is difficult to identify the social characteristics of the people included in the data, and so it is impossible to say with any certainty which sections of the population are represented.

Furthermore, organic data may be rich in nature, but may still exclude important types of information needed for analysis. For example, they generally do not include enough socio-demographic information about individuals to allow for the kinds of systematic cross-group comparisons that are typical of social scientific investigations, including multivariate analyses. Also, they can provide exhaustive information about specific behaviours, but are usually silent about the motives behind these behaviours or about people's intentions for the future.

Quality and Access Issues

There are also criticisms regarding the quality of organic data, which may compromise their value for research purposes. First, the data that end up in the hands of researchers may be incomplete, that is, without the same information on all individuals in the file. The data may also be messy, unstructured, and poorly documented. The sources of error and total error involved in organic data are currently still not well understood.

Another problem is that the sources of organic data may be relatively fleeting – online systems like Facebook come and go. This means that while such data may be useful for short-term time scales, it may not be possible to make comparisons over time, either because the system goes down, or because it changes its na-

ture and/or its clientele. Issues of confidentiality always risk at any moment to become blockers of access for the research community.

Access to organic data is also a significant obstacle for researchers. Administrative data are notoriously difficult to obtain, as well as transactional data, which are usually generated by private companies that promise data protection to their clients. Although social media data can be accessed, it is usually only under certain conditions, and rarely is everything that is of interest available to researchers.

Big Data at FORS

FORS recognizes that organic data, in the form of administrative data, social media data, transactional data, and text corpus data have significant potential for advancing social scientific research. We look forward to following and learning from new techniques and innovations that will allow such data to be accessed and used in fruitful and original ways.

However, we recognize as well that there are still severe limitations to using such data appropriately in a scientific context, notably concerning their real utility, their quality, and their accessibility. If they are used at all, we believe that a critical view should prevail, informed by current social science best practice and expertise. Analytical strategies should be suitable for particular data types, should be improved, and error sources should be better identified and tackled. Also, ethical concerns are primordial – personal data must always be treated with utmost care, even if these are openly available.

Most importantly, we believe that at this time organic data should *supplement, but not replace* traditional methods and data sources in the social sciences. Within this perspective, we see several main ways in which our institution can employ big data in the near future at the service of the research community.

First, FORS can do more to facilitate the use of *administrative data* for research purposes. For example, we plan to map the existing provision of administrative data from various sources in Switzerland, so that researchers can have an overview of possibilities. This should include information on the procedures required to gain access to such data. In addition, FORS will examine possibilities for enriching FORS datasets by linking them with administrative data from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office and other federal offices. We will continue to conduct methodological research that depends on the register frame used for FORS surveys. And we will study questions concerning particular disclosure risks associated with administrative data use.

Second, some social media and text corpus data can be used as *contextual information* for surveys. For data analysis, there are interesting examples of combining survey data and text analysis from social media or other sources where individuals can be linked. It remains to be seen how feasible this is in the context of surveys at FORS, especially in terms of getting the consent of participants. This would be much easier for elite surveys such as the Comparative Candidates Survey (see section 2.1.3), where it would be possible to link social media posts, blogs, articles, and other sources written by or about the candidates. For gen-

eral population surveys, it would also be feasible to collect contextual data, for instance in-depth analysis of different media (including television using the transcripts already available in the form of subtitles), or studying public opinion on social media, blogs, forums, comment sections of newspapers, etc. It could also be thought of as a way to explore relevant categories and questions when designing questionnaires.

Even though open-ended questions in surveys do not count as big data, expertise in automated text analysis can help make better use of open-ended questions in surveys that are often underutilized. This might overcome problems of resources to code the questions, but also improve the analysis of the questions or use them in different ways. For instance, predefined coding schemes might not capture some differences that might prove important.

Third, our data service will do more to *solicit, curate, preserve, and disseminate* rich and diverse forms of data, including organic data, which can be used on their own for secondary analyses, or in connection with traditional data sources. This might include databases of different kinds of objects, e.g., job announcements, Twitter feeds, etc. We already have the infrastructure and know-how to handle diverse types of qualitative data. It should not be a large step to be able to integrate and disseminate organic data.

To take an example, it is important to be ready to store and disseminate data that have been prepared in studies using automated text analysis. The amount of work needed to prepare these data is intensive and many researchers might be interested in using the same data. This is especially the case for data collected from publicly available documents, such as information press releases and other communications of parties or institutions for instance. Many research questions could benefit from the same material, and as the methods are rapidly improving other researchers might want to try to replicate findings with refined methods. Also, journals increasingly require data to be made public for published articles, which will augment the likelihood of having requests to archive this kind of data. It is an open question whether FORS would be allowed to offer anonymized data from social media, traditional media, blogs, and other sources due to copyright or privacy concerns. In any event, we will continue to examine these questions and to prepare for the eventuality of archiving larger and more diverse types of data.

Finally, another role that FORS can play as a centre of expertise in the social sciences is to provide *general guidance to researchers* in Switzerland for working appropriately with various sorts of organic data. Through our own experiences, and by keeping up on current developments, we will be able to advise researchers on: identifying potential non-traditional data sources; accessing them; assessing their quality and real utility in addressing specific research questions; and avoiding misinterpretation. Toward these ends we will continue to train our staff and to study the ways in which big data can benefit the social sciences.

2 FORS Core Activities

2.1 Surveys

One of the missions of FORS is to provide empirical data at the micro-level suiting the needs of social researchers. The three groups of the FORS Surveys unit carry out several surveys.

The collaborators of the Surveys unit lead the different steps of each project, from the beginning to the end. Survey design, sample definition, questionnaire construction (when not imposed by an international project), translation, questionnaire control (cognitive tests, pilot study, etc.), fieldwork follow-up, and data checking and cleaning are all conducted in-house at FORS. However, face-to-face (CAPI) and telephone (CATI) data collection is outsourced to independent private institutes, which reduces costs without compromising scientific quality. Written and online surveys, on the other hand, are carried out at FORS, given the fact that no costly infrastructure is needed, and that cheap and efficient software is available on the market. The share of surveys done – partly or totally – online is expected to grow in the near future.

Eligible FORS surveys can benefit from the possibility of using the register-based sampling frame of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. This adds considerably to the quality of the samples and helps save on costs for contact procedures.

Data collections led by FORS constitute important parts of the Swiss survey landscape. Most of them are integrated into international programmes. Different survey designs, with diversified topical focus, allow researchers to answer questions that would not be possible to address with other data sources:

- The Swiss Household Panel SHP is designed as a panel that interviews annually a sample of the general resident population drawn in 1999 (including 2004 for a first refresher sample, and 2013 for a second refresher sample). The questionnaire covers a wide range of topics from various disciplines of the social sciences, allowing pluridisciplinary longitudinal research.
- The European Social Survey ESS, the European Values Study EVS, and MOSAiCH, designed as cross-sectional repeated surveys, are mainly dedicated to the study of values and attitudes. They allow international comparisons with other countries or regions, but are also dedicated to studying aggregated change across years.
- The SHARE data collection, mainly devoted to health and ageing, is designed as a cohort study that follows persons 50 and over, allowing the study of important transitions (active life to retirement, 2nd to 3rd age, 3rd to 4th age, institutionalization, etc.) at the individual level.
- The SELECTS post-electoral survey has a repeated cross-sectional design, which enables the study of political behaviour at each federal election, but it completes a political time series initiated in 1971 as well.

The following sections present 2015 activities for these surveys.

2.1.1 Swiss Household Panel SHP

The survey: Five principal tasks were carried out during the year 2015:

1. The fieldwork for waves 16 (SHP_I), 11 (SHP_II), and 2 (SHP_III) was completed in February 2015. With regard to these waves, work related to data cleaning and preparation, variable construction, and documentation were realised from March to December 2015 in order to prepare the data diffusion. The dissemination of these waves took place at the end of December.
2. The fieldwork for waves 17 (SHP_I), 12 (SHP_II), and 3 (SHP_III) was prepared between February and August – mainly questionnaires (including a new version of the “Big Five” inventory, questions on identification and discrimination, and items on well-being at the proxy level), qualitative and quantitative pre-tests, communication to participating households, training of interviewers, implementation of incentives – and started in early September.
3. A revised version of the SHP data waves 1 to 16 (with a codebook) was provided to the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) in December 2015.
4. The collaboration with LIVES was mainly dedicated to the preparation of the diffusion of the LIVES Cohort survey wave 1 and the SHP Vaud survey wave 1. The dissemination also took place at the end of December.
5. Further steps were taken in the development of the SHP weighting scheme. First, weights were calculated that allow for the inclusion of households consisting entirely of non-original sample members. Second, weights have been created for children less than 14 years old.

Publications / Conferences / Teaching (see respective lists in the Appendix for details): The SHP staff published 6 working papers, 1 book chapter, and 7 articles. Preliminary editorial work was also conducted for the book project “Change and inertia in contemporary Switzerland”.

Further, the 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland took place at the University of Lausanne on June 1 and 2. The scientific programme contained 3 plenary sessions by Matthijs Kalmijn (University of Amsterdam), Marco Fattore (University of Milano) and Filomena Maggino (University of Firenze), and Markus Prior (Princeton University), and 11 workshop sessions with 50 contributions. The conference was attended by 90 participants.

Finally, the SHP staff presented 17 conference papers and gave 10 presentations in the framework of master courses, meetings, or seminars.

2.1.2 International Surveys

The grant funding period 2014-2016 allowed for continuing participation in the international surveys presented in this section (the European Social Survey, MOSAiCH-ISSP, SHARE, and the preparation of the European Values Study).

2.1.2.1 European Social Survey ESS

The fieldwork of the ESS 2014 (Round 7) started September 1, 2014 and finished by February 20, 2015 with 1'532 valid interviews. The final response rate of 52.7% is above that of the previous edition. The improved interviewer preparation (additional training for new interviewers and separate briefing for Italian-speaking interviewers), a newly introduced weekly progress report for each interviewer and the generalized use of a 10 CHF unconditional cash incentive are probably the reasons for the good outcome. The response rate in Ticino was improved considerably (from 30% to 46%), and the unconditional cash incentive again fostered contactability, as the field period could be reduced from 33 to 24 weeks. Also, the interviewers appreciated the additional gift handed out to respondents after the interview (USB stick or bloc-note). It made them feel more comfortable about asking people to participate and gave them the chance to end the conversation in a pleasant way.

After the thorough revision of 2013, the interviewer questionnaire was further revised based on analyses of the previous edition. The link for this online survey was communicated to the ESS 2014 interviewers in March 2015. 57 out of the 64 interviewers answered the questionnaire by the first week of May. No interviewer asked for the paper questionnaire (a limesurvey PDF export of the online version), which was available on demand.

Finally, at the end of May the non-response survey (NRS) started in the form of a short paper questionnaire addressed to all non-respondents (and 500 of the respondents). The questionnaire was based on lessons learned from previous editions (cf. Vandeplass et al. 2015), namely NR-bias optimized concepts and 3-item-batteries per concept whenever possible in order to counter the low stability of the indicators between the main survey and the NRS. As we already offered a 10 CHF cash unconditional incentive for the main survey, we did not want to give the same for this short paper follow-up, as we did in past. We therefore opted for an unconditional gift of 4 stamps (total value 4 CHF) with the ESS logo and the text "Thank you" (in three national languages). Because of this reduced incentive the response rate was the lowest we ever obtained, especially for people who previously refused to participate. Whereas in previous editions we were able to obtain through the main survey plus NRS basic attitudinal information for up to 75% of the initial sample, in 2014 we reached only 67%.

In addition to the usual NRS, in this edition we wanted to test the extent to which the low stability of the indicators between the main survey and the NRS were due to the mode-switch on the one hand, and to the different time-frame on the other. We therefore asked 500 respondents of the main survey to answer the paper NRS shortly after the face-to-face interview. First analyses of these data, compared to the NRS fielded during summer 2015, showed that the different time-frame, or the distance to the face-to-face interview, is a major problem. The results, however, reveal also that some of the most stable indicators so far proved to have a low reliability in this edition. The usefulness of these non-response surveys therefore has to be reassessed.

The cleaning and coding of the survey and contact data and the preparation of the documentation were finished by May, and timely delivered on time to the ESS data archive at NSD in Bergen, Norway, for final processing. The first edition of international

data and documentation for ESS round 6 was released on October 28, 2015, including 15 countries. The contact data were released on November 30 for the same countries, always including Switzerland. This international data release, however, does not include the new variable 'ancestry', because a unique coding, assuring comparability, could not be agreed upon. The Swiss ESS 2014 data and documentation in German and French will be published by DARIS on the FORS NESSTAR Server in early 2016.

The media reports, collected during 10 weeks starting one week before the start of fieldwork based on five newspapers in three Swiss linguistic regions, were made available to the ESS data archive in February 2015.

In addition to the already mentioned ESS 2014 data, during 2015 the ESS archive published the Austrian data for ESS R5 (2010) and various updates and corrections of previously released data.

In 2015, two ESS ERIC National Coordinators Forums took place, the first in Prague in April, and the second in Mannheim in November. The main topics of these meetings were: the new core items and the rotating modules for 2016 (a partial repetition of the Round 4 "welfare attitudes" module and the new "climate change and energy" module); the difficulties of harmonizing the ancestry data; the future of PAPI mode in ESS; the future interviewer survey; various updates; and current organizational matters.

The organizing team of the ESS 2016 conference, in which Prof. Peter Farago, Dr. Michèle Ernst Stähli and Monika Vettovaglia are involved, met twice during 2015: in January in London and in October in Lausanne. The call for sessions was published in June, and the call for paper abstracts with an attractive session programme in October. The conference will be held on July 13-15, 2016, at the University of Lausanne Amphimax building. A prize for the best paper by early career researchers was created, the "Jowell-Kaase Prize", referring to the founders of the ESS. The prize will be handed over to the winner for the first time during the Lausanne conference by Prof. Max Kaase.

Prof Dominique Joye, member of the Methods Advisory Board of the ESS ERIC, attended the MAB meeting, where it was discussed how to guarantee and control for quality of questionnaire design, translations and fieldwork. Regarding the possibility of using mixed modes, the MAB cannot see any way for the time being to adopt this without serious detriment to the survey's comparability. The ground-breaking work ESS accomplished on this topic should, however, be comprehensively published.

The ESS ERIC General Assembly, where Switzerland is represented by Prof. Peter Farago, met twice in 2015: the 5th GA Meeting (29.4.2015) in London, and the 6th GA meeting (27.10.2015) in Kaunas, Lithuania. Michael Ochsner replaced Prof. Farago in Kaunas. As of the end of 2015, the ESS ERIC counts 14 member countries, 2 observer countries (one of which is Switzerland), and 7 guest countries.

In December 2015, Dr. Michèle Ernst Stähli was nominated to the ESS ERIC Membership Development Advisory Committee. This committee will meet for the first time in London in February 2016.

FORS won a European project of the ERA.Net PLUS RUS programme, together with GESIS and partners in Russia, Belgium, United Kingdom, Austria, France, and Finland.

It is entitled “PAWCER – Public Attitudes to Welfare, Climate Change and Energy in the EU and Russia” (see section 3.3.2).

Together with the ESS, FORS is also involved in the “Synergies for Europe’s Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences” (SERISS) project, addressing some of the key challenges facing cross-national data infrastructures (see section 3.3.2).

2.1.2.2 MOSAiCH / ISSP

2015 was the year of the fieldwork for MOSAiCH, including the ISSP 2014 (Citizenship) and 2015 (Work orientation). Besides the updated Swiss Eurobarometer questions and the extended socio-demographic module, the face-to-face questionnaire also contained a series of items elaborated through the open call for questions organized in 2014, such as working conditions and attitudes toward globalisation. The main product of the open call was a paper drop-off around the topics of identity, work, and foreign economic relations.

The fieldwork of the MOSAiCH 2015 main survey started on February 12 and ended on July 10. It was one of the most effective MOSAiCH collections, achieving an AAPOR response rate of 51.7% in 21 weeks, with 1’235 valid interviews. 77% of the respondents returned a valid paper drop-off questionnaire. As none of the usual sociodemographic variables can correct for all of the detected non-response biases, we opted to document them well rather than propose inappropriate weights.

Starting in October we fielded the second ISSP 2017 pilot on “Social Networks and Resources” developed by the drafting group, which is headed by Switzerland (Dr. Marlène Sapin and Prof. Dominique Joye). In addition to electronic exchanges, this group met four times during 2015 to discuss the questionnaire: in April (Cape Town), in June (Basel), in July (Reykjavik), and in September (Mannheim). In Switzerland, the pilot survey was fielded in German and French as a 30-page paper questionnaire with a 10 CHF cash unconditional incentive, resulting in a response rate of 52%. The results, testing among several other versions of the instrument, aim at supporting the decisions about the final version of the questionnaire. The dataset, which is being analysed by the drafting group, will be made available via the FORS archive in the course of 2016.

Thanks to additional personnel, the data of the ISSP 2011 pilot on health realized in Switzerland in 2009-2010 were prepared, documented, and archived at DARIS in September 2015. Other methodological data from pretests, pilots and experiments were prepared and will soon be made available to researchers.

The ISSP 2014 data were documented and deposited for international archiving at GESIS in September. The complete MOSAiCH 2015 dataset, including ISSP 2014, ISSP 2015 and data from the drop-off questionnaire, was prepared for national publication in German and French and archived at DARIS as well as made available online on NESSTAR in December 2015. In addition, we documented media events that happened during the field period, if they appeared to be relevant to the fielded topics (mainly Eurobarometer and Citizenship).

In parallel, GESIS published the following ISSP data during 2015, all including Swiss data: ISSP 2013, National Identity III - first release (v1.0.0) and final release (v2.0.0), and ISSP 2011 Health and Health Care, third release including new countries (32 in total).

In April 2015, Prof. Dominique Joye and Dr. Marlène Sapin took part in the annual ISSP General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa. The countries present discussed and finalized the ISSP 2016 questionnaire on “Role of Government”, decided the topical priorities for the ISSP 2017 questionnaire on “Social Networks and Social Resources”, and chose the topic “Religion” for the 2018 edition. Joye and Sapin were also involved in the methodological group sessions and the Methodology Committee, where they proposed and discussed a revision of the study monitoring (as convener of the Methodology Committee Switzerland coordinates and produces a report for each study), and examined quality issues such as harmonization of sociodemographic variables, weighting, and translation.

2.1.2.3 European Values Study EVS

FORS is represented in the EVS Foundation Board by FORS Director Prof. Peter Farago. Prof. Dominique Joye is a member of the EVS Council of Programme Directors (formerly called the EVS Steering Committee), of the Executive Committee, and of the Methodology Group.

For the preparations of the fifth wave of the European Values Study, to be fielded in 2017, the Executive Committee and the Methodology Group had several meetings during 2015: in April (Tilburg, NL), in September (Cologne), and in October (Vienna).

An EVS Workshop was organized in Vienna on October 30, along with the General Assembly, where the Executive Committee and the Theory and Methodology groups reported about the activities carried out in 2015 and presented the road map for the next wave of data collection. The representatives of 28 partner institutions of EVS discussed the questionnaire and the methodology guidelines for the data collection in 2017. In addition, the Italian team of the European Values Study organized the first EVS conference hosted by the University of Trento on November 12-13.

2.1.2.4 Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe SHARE

In 2015, SHARE activities were principally related to the main data collection of the sixth wave. The year started with five interviewer training sessions of two and a half days each, which were organized in the second half of January. They took place in Zurich, Lucerne, Bern, Lausanne, and Lugano. Members of the Swiss SHARE team were present at each of these sessions managed by the survey agency LINK in order to give their own input and to answer interviewers' questions.

The main fieldwork started at the beginning of February and lasted until the end of November. There was no refresher. Only the longitudinal sample was contacted again for an interview. About 2'900 interviews were realized in total. This corresponds to a retention rate in the longitudinal sample of slightly above 85%. Compared to the other

SHARE countries, Switzerland reached a high retention rate. The long-term collaboration we have with our survey agency, which works for SHARE since 2006, and the relationship of trust that we established with them may explain our success.

Dried Blood Spot Samples (DBSS) were collected during the main data collection using a semi-automatic lancet and following a standardized procedure defined by the questionnaire board. The survey agency and the interviewers were at first very sceptical about it. They feared the respondents' reactions, the damage that may arise, and thought that it may impact retention rates. However, the collection of DBSS went very well. Interviewers were specifically trained for the collection of DBSS during half a day and under the supervision of a nurse. The majority (about 81%) of the respondents who accepted to be interviewed and who had no medical reason to refuse also accepted to do the DBSS part. The blood samples were sent to the SHARE biobank in Denmark where they will be analyzed in 2016.

Data cleaning of wave 6 and the preparation of all deliverables started during fieldwork and will last until summer 2016.

In 2015, the Swiss SHARE team decided to focus also on public relations strategy. In this context, we extended the contacts to the SHARE panel members by publishing a SHARE Newsletter intended for the SHARE respondents who participated in wave 6, and we updated and improved the SHARE Swiss website. The SHARE Swiss Newsletter was sent to our respondents of wave 6 in January 2016. Its aim was to thank respondents for their participation in the survey and inform them about the state of the scientific research using SHARE data on two topics: social determinants of cognitive health and dependent elderly people receiving informal and/or formal care. A special word by Dr. Stefan Spycher, vice director of the Federal Office of Public Health, in the editorial aimed at motivating respondents to continue to participate in the SHARE adventure.

The SHARE Swiss website was entirely reorganized. Henceforth, the website is intended for SHARE respondents only and its content was adapted to the respondents' questions that were gathered during the previous SHARE waves. The scientific community is redirected from now on to the SHARE international website, where one can find the scientific content and all the information about data use.

The Swiss SHARE team attended two meetings: 1) the mid-term meeting on May 6-8 which took place in Graz, Austria, in the middle of the main data collection, and 2) the wave 7 kick-off meeting which took place at Bol in Croatia on September 9-11. The first day of each SHARE meeting is intended for the country team operators who manage the operational part of the survey. During this meeting, the international coordination team explains the next operational tasks and shows the different deliverables that the country team operators will have to deliver. The second and third days are intended for the country team leaders and country team operators. Different topics, depending on the stage of the survey, are presented and discussed (for instance: the funding situation, the procurement procedure, questionnaire development, and fieldwork results).

Dr. Carmen Borrat-Besson, Dr. Valérie-Anne Ryser and Dr. Judite Gonçalves published a FORS working paper in September 2016 entitled: "An evaluation of the CASP-

12 scale used in the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) to measure Quality of Life among people aged 50+”.

2.1.3 Swiss Electoral Studies SELECTS

In the year of the Swiss national election SELECTS was mainly occupied with the data collection around election day in October 2015.

As part of the questionnaire development process, SELECTS had launched a call for modules in summer 2014 to open up the questionnaire to interested researchers. This call is essential to make sure that the SELECTS study content serves the interests of researchers willing to use the survey data. It also ensures that the data will be used for scientific publications. The call was successful. Of the 18 module proposals submitted by Swiss and foreign scholars, the SELECTS committee decided to include 11 fully or partially in the 2015 study.

Different components were part of the 2015 national election study. A *post-election survey* among 5'300 Swiss citizens residing in Switzerland was a standard component of national election studies for some time. About 3'500 of the interviews were part of a national sample, and the remaining were financed by the cantons of Geneva, Ticino, and Zurich. The survey was around 30 minutes long and was done mixed-mode with a combination of online and telephone interviews.

A four-wave *rolling cross-section/panel online survey* (RCS/panel) was used to capture short-term changes and campaign dynamics during the election year:

- The first wave was a pre-campaign panel wave in June/July. Around 11'100 interviews were conducted in this wave lasting around 21 minutes on average.
- The second wave was the rolling cross-section wave (RCS). During a 63-day campaign period between August and October around 120 interviews were conducted on average each day. The 7'300 interviews lasted about 16 minutes on average.
- The third wave was a post-election panel wave that started the day after the election. Around 7'600 13-minute interviews were conducted in this wave.
- Finally, a fourth wave went into the field after the Federal Council elections in December 2015. A total of 5'400 Interviews were conducted in this final wave.
- 6'500 respondents participated in the first three waves, about 5'000 in all four waves.

SELECTS not only studies voters but also candidates since 2007. An *online/paper candidate survey* of about 20 pages among all the 3'800 candidates for the National Council and the Council of States went into the field in the week after the election. Around 1'600 candidates responded to the survey. The average duration of the online version was 25 minutes.

The planning and preparation for the surveys was more extensive in 2015 than in previous elections, because SELECTS changed from CATI-only to web and mixed-mode surveys. All the questionnaires needed to be adapted for online surveys, especially taking into consideration that many respondents use their smartphone to do the interviews. This required shortening the questions and answer categories systematically to fit them to a small screen and to use a survey software that could adapt the question format to the device used to access the survey.

This change of interview mode required a major change in contacting the sampled persons. Respondents were contacted with a series of letters asking for participation in the survey. For the first time SELECTS used 10 CHF cheques systematically as an incentive. For the mixed-mode post-election survey, SELECTS started with online interviews. The CATI followed two weeks later. The result of this change was very satisfactory. The response rate (43%) was substantially higher than in the CATI-only surveys in 2011, and the overall acceptance of the surveys by the respondents was high. All the data from the surveys will be available in 2016 via the FORS data archive.

Part of SELECTS 2015 is an additional SNSF-project “Networks or good campaigns? Electoral success of Swiss candidates in the 2015 elections” (main applicant Prof. Georg Lutz, co-applicant Prof. André Mach, University of Lausanne). This project studies the impact of networks and campaigning of candidates on their electoral success, and will contribute to a better understanding of how candidates compete in elections and of what matters for them to get preference votes and to get elected. A special focus is on the candidates’ links to interest groups. Many candidates mention their membership in different organisations and interest groups in their campaigns, and interest groups endorse candidates and recommend their members and supporters to vote for specific candidates. The self-reported information from the survey will be complemented with an analysis of the party leaflets that are distributed in each canton to all voters presenting the candidates.

SELECTS participated in various international networks in 2015, such as the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES). CSES develops questionnaire modules that become part of the national election studies since 1995. SELECTS has participated in CSES since its beginning and has implemented all questionnaire modules proposed by CSES as part of the post-election surveys. The SELECTS project leader was elected to the CSES planning committee in 2014 for a five-year term and is a member of the subcommittee responsible for the next module. The CSES planning committee met several times during 2015 and decided on a new module for the next round of election surveys. SELECTS conducted a pilot study with the new module after the Swiss national election in October 2015.

The joint effort by different national election studies in the framework of the Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS) increased research on a so far neglected dimension of electoral research – the party candidates. CCS is a joint effort to collect data on candidates: their biography, their campaign activities, and their policy positions. The literature on the role of candidates in elections is growing quickly.

Until now, a total of 30 surveys in 23 countries were conducted in the first round of CCS between 2005 and 2013. Switzerland ran this survey in 2007, 2011, and 2015. The

SELECTS project leader is a member of the CCS steering committee since 2013. The data of the first round of data collections were not available publicly for some time. Therefore, FORS and the University of Mannheim took the initiative to produce a first comparative dataset and to define procedures for data integration and data access through the FORS data archive. The first module with 30 studies from 23 countries was released in December 2015. FORS is in charge of data integration and data access. The data will be made available to researchers worldwide by FORS for the next modules as well.

2.2 Data and Research Information Services DARIS

For the Data and Research Information Services (DARIS), 2015 was a year of determined concentration on and finalising of version 2.0 of the tool FORSbase, as well as the beginning of several new international projects. Our work intensified on other fronts as well, including the survey ch-x, a variety of data management activities, and preparation of the 2016 edition of the Social Report.

FORSbase 2.0 includes a new array of functionalities linked to data documentation, deposit, and access. Users will be able to directly document and share their data through an online interface, and access others' data immediately after signing an user agreement licence. DARIS is now involved in three new international projects that began in 2015. SEEDS – South-Eastern European Data Services – kicked off in May in Lausanne, with over 20 participants from 8 countries in attendance. The purpose of this Swiss-funded FORS-led project is to help six countries from southern Europe to establish new national data services for the social sciences. SERISS – Synergies for European Infrastructures in the Social Sciences – is a new Horizon 2020 project that aims to improve the methodologies and technical tools of large-scale cross-national surveys. FORS is leader of the tools work package 4, and serves as technical coordinator of the entire project, which includes over 20 European countries. The third is CESSDA-SaW – Strengthening and Widening – another H2020 project. Having kicked off in October, SaW aims to strengthen existing data infrastructures in Europe, and to help establish data services in countries where none currently exist. DARIS staff are involved in two of the work packages, and are leading one of the work package tasks concerning the development of national plans for creating new data services. See section 3.3.2 for details on these projects.

2.2.1 Data Service

Usage and workflow: The number of datasets downloaded or ordered from DARIS in 2015 was 1'955 (see table 2.1), continuing a regular fluctuation from year to year that started in 2011.

Table 2.1: Downloads and ordered datasets: 2008 to 2015

Dataset count	Year							
Studies	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Vox, Vox-it, Vox-cumulative	696	1'068	600	812	857	597	339	252
Eurobarometer/MOSAICH/ESS	209	244	352	479	473	535	140	101
SELECTS	394	431	278	374	177	174	159	204
Other studies ordered from the data service	632	632	763	531	394	147	158	71
Total	1'955	2'375	1'993	2'196	1'901	1'453	796	628

New datasets: During 2015, DARIS archived and published the following datasets:

- Point de Suisse. Befragung zur aktuellen Mentalität der Schweizer Bevölkerung - 2014
- Homicide in Switzerland over twenty years (1980-2002): Study on forensic medicine, police and court files. Erhebung zum Homizid in der Schweiz - 1980-2002
- Sicherheit 2014. Aussen-, Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitische Meinungsbildung im Trend. Meinungsbild zur Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitik der Schweiz - 2014
- Stellenmarkt-Monitor Schweiz. Erhebung von Stelleninseraten 1950 - 2014
- European Social Survey 2012 (Round 6). European Social Survey, Switzerland - 2012
- Pilote ISSP 2011: Santé. Enquête sur la santé et les politiques de santé dans le canton de Vaud - 2009-2010
- Zusammenleben in der Schweiz (Pilotprojekt). Umfrage zu Rassismus, Xenophobie, Antisemitismus und Muslimfeindlichkeit - 2010-2014
- Plant closure survey 2011. Evidence from the Swiss manufacturing sector. Situation professionnelle deux ans après des licenciements collectifs dans le secteur industriel - 2011
- Lebensstil und Religiosität. Empirische Studie zur Bedeutung und Praxis religiöser Rituale in jungen Familien der Deutschschweiz. Befragung junger deutschschweizer Familien zur Bedeutung von religiösen Ritualen - 2005

- The Comparative Candidates Survey (CCS). Survey of candidates for parliamentary elections, cumulative file 2005-2013

All of these datasets can be ordered for free from the data service.

COMPASS: In 2015, the COMPASS service was reorganised within DARIS, and is now run by the data service team. Knowledge was progressively transmitted to the new team in charge of COMPASS, with the goal of achieving better cohesion between the different data-related activities offered by DARIS. COMPASS continued its core activities in 2015, such as updating its portal (survey information and order forms), answering researchers' requests, and liaising with the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) with respect to orders that were placed through COMPASS. Since several units of the SFSO are now publishing forms for data ordering, and less orders transit via COMPASS, it has been decided to no longer report on order rates – these can no longer be compared with previous years.

2.2.2 Research Inventory

The annual survey 2014/15 for the research inventory was successful (376 new entries). During 2015, we continued to apply a more personalized and proactive approach to getting relevant research information from the researchers. For example, we used our Internet-based Strategic Watch System to monitor the personnel and research activities of hundreds of research institutes in Switzerland. By this means we are permanently updated on the evolution of the dynamic research environment in the country. Also, this allowed us to add 582 persons to our researcher database in 2015.

A data sharing agreement was concluded with the Service de la recherche en éducation (SRED) of the canton of Geneva. The already existing data sharing agreements with the research database of the University of Zurich, the Swiss Federal Administration ARAMIS, the Swiss Centre for Special Education, and the Swiss Coordination Centre for Research in Education SCCRE have continued. Other agreements with university research databases are being discussed. FORS has also consolidated its position as a major player among Swiss research information institutions by taking the lead in the ORD@CH project (see section 2.7) and other means of networking, as well as presentations at the major conferences in Switzerland in this domain.

2.2.3 Data Promotion

Formerly known as “data publication”, a new group, “data promotion”, was created in 2015. It includes the promotional activities previously contained within data publication, such as measures of direct promotion (FORS data bulletin, social networking, presentations), training activities (mainly in terms of data management and visualization), and wider activities that aim to enhance and promote FORS data (like for example the ch-x survey, see section 2.7). The group was extended to also include the Social Report (see section 2.5). In 2015 DARIS staff members intensified their work around data

management issues, acquired new projects, and launched new initiatives, such as the ÜGK project (data management for the Assessment of Basic Educational Competencies, see section 2.7), a working group on indicators, and possible future developments for the Social Report, as well as new reflections on the topic of literacy.

ch-x survey: In 2015 DARIS finalized the development of the questionnaire of the 2016-2017 Swiss Federal Surveys of Adolescents (ch-x), which will address geographical mobility (see section 2.7). DARIS staff members took the opportunity to reflect on their own practices as they developed the survey, with the end-goal of providing the research community with high-quality data in due time. DARIS staff members also started collaboration with the department of geography of the University of Lausanne, whose staff have expressed high interest in the forthcoming data. One professor in particular was regularly consulted as the questionnaire was being developed, and a side-project, subject to funding by the Swiss National Science Foundation, was set up. If granted funding, a PhD candidate will work with the ch-x quantitative data, and a complementary study will extend the project to the collection and analysis of qualitative data.

Social indicators: FORS publishes every four years the Social Report, a book containing scientific contributions and a broad range of indicators on the current situation and social developments in Switzerland (www.socialreport.ch). While progress on the forthcoming 2016 edition is described in section 2.5, a group has been constituted to reflect on future directions for the Social Report as a publication, and social indicators at FORS more generally. Various strategies are being considered, like for example changing emphasis from print to online publications of scientific contributions and indicators.

ÜGK: FORS was mandated by the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) to lead data management for the Assessment of Basic Educational Competencies (see section 2.7). DARIS staff take it as an opportunity to reinforce their expertise in data management, and to provide project-customized recommendations to third parties, as well as general recommendations to the larger public.

Visualization: Visualization activities continued in 2015, and were especially focused on internal and external consultancy in visualization. A number of FORS staff members benefited from personalized services to improve the visual presentation of data and concepts.

Contributions on the topic were made during two one-day workshops at the University of Lausanne on databases (February) and visualisation (March), the seminar “methods and research” of the University of Lausanne (May), the “doctoriales” of the University of Lausanne (May), a seminar organised by the NCCR “On the Move” in Neuchatel (June), as well as within a class taught on data management at the University of Fribourg in November.

Data management: In 2015 DARIS continued to develop its training and counselling activities related to data management, including topics related to research ethics, informed consent, data and file organization, anonymization of data, data preparation, data storage and security, data backup, and documentation. In May DARIS staff gave a two-day workshop for LIVES doctoral students entitled: “Be Ready to Tackle the Data

Deluge: Essential Skills in Quantitative and Qualitative Data Management”. DARIS also continued to provide advice to researchers on different relevant topics, and to support the Pluralistic Memories Project, coordinated by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lausanne.

In 2015 a new working group was established within DARIS, to critically reflect on our own data management practices as we develop the 2016-17 Swiss Federal Surveys of Adolescents (ch-x). These reflections will ultimately be turned into guidelines and recommendations that will offer guidance to other researchers involved in the development of questionnaire surveys. First results were presented at the IASSIST conference, held in June in Minneapolis, in the form of a paper on documentation issues in survey questionnaire construction.

In 2015 DARIS staff members started two new projects related to data-management. The first one consisted of an investigation of data-management related services within Swiss libraries, and the intentions of libraries to develop such services. A survey was conducted among library directors and librarians in Switzerland, whose results were presented during a conference that was held in St. Gallen in June, and which brought together directors from a number of European institutions. DARIS staff members also started a reflection on data management plans, and the possibility/desirability of formally implementing them at the national level, as more and more funding institutions worldwide require formal data management planning. Preliminary results were presented during a workshop in Denmark on “Open Data” (November). DARIS also engaged in reflections on data management at the international level through the FOSTER project, whereby members of five international data service institutions regularly discussed data management training issues, and exchanged know-how.

Data literacy: In 2015 DARIS staff members started a new reflection on data literacy training within secondary education institutions in Switzerland. While school pupils are usually not our main target group, we believe that FORS staff members are equipped with important skills that could and should also be transmitted to the larger public. We conducted an online survey among highschool and professional school teachers in Switzerland, as well as conducted interviews with professionals in the field of secondary-level education. Results stressed the absence of formal “data literacy” training within the Swiss education system, overall poor skills by students when it comes to critically reflecting on figures, and a strong interest by teachers for pedagogical materials for classroom use and further training to be better equipped. Based on these results DARIS staff members developed a concept for the development of pedagogical materials, and are now seeking funding to be able to pursue the project.

FORS Data Bulletin: As part of its ongoing promotional activities, DARIS issued its “FORS Data Bulletin” in April and November. Each edition included information on recently released data and other DARIS/FORS activities and events of potential interest to the research community. The FORS Data Bulletin is sent by email each time to over 9’500 social science researchers in Switzerland, in German/English and French/English versions. Since the November edition it has been integrated into the newly designed periodic FORS Bulletin (see section 2.10).

Social networking sites: Also during 2015, FORS further increased its presence on the Internet by regularly diffusing relevant research information (new datasets, events, calls for papers, etc.) to a larger audience by means of Facebook (+193% followers) and Twitter (+48% followers).

Presentations in the national context: DARIS staff members held various service-oriented presentations at several Swiss universities and research institutions during 2015, including:

“Domestiquez vos données”. Presentation at the “Journée bases de données”, University of Lausanne, February 27.

“Visualisation et sociologues”. Presentation at the “Journée Visualisations”, University of Lausanne, March 7.

“Recherche de données sur FORS Nesstar”. Presentation at the seminar “L’analyse comparative des données d’enquêtes”, University of Lausanne, March 18.

“Data sharing in an emerging research culture”. Presentation at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, April 27.

“Social science research data between data protection and open access”. Presentation at the Open Research Data Hackdays 2015, University of Lausanne, June 5.

“The emergence of data management in the Swiss research landscape and the potential role of librarians”. Presentation at the EBSLG conference, University of St-Gallen, June 6.

“Data management, why should I care?”. Presentation at the Fridays Sessions of the NCCR ‘On the move’, University of Neuchâtel, June 12.

“Exploration, selling pitch and deliverable: the promises of visualization”. Presentation at the seminar “Methods and Research”, University of Lausanne, June 26.

“La visualisation et les sociologies : un rapport contrarié mêlant illusionnisme et facteur d’impact”. Poster presentation at the Doctoriales de l’Université de Lausanne, University of Lausanne, November 5.

“Visualisierung in der Forschung”. Presentation at the seminar „Quantitative und Qualitative Datenanalyse”, University of Fribourg, November 23.

“Sekundärdaten: Zugang und Nutzung”. Presentation at the seminar “Methoden der Empirischen Sozialforschung”, University of Fribourg, December 2.

2.2.4 Other activities of DARIS

Swiss Methods Festival: DARIS organised another successful French-language Qualitative Methods Festival, held in September in Lausanne. The two-day event attracted over 100 participants, and included 15 workshops, along with a keynote presentation. The conference theme was “Qualitative Research in the Digital Era”, with focus on new technologies and tools. One third of the workshops addressed this theme in one way or another.

FORSbase: The IT project FORSbase (see section 2.9) focused on completing development of the data archive module – version 2.0 – which will replace the current outdated archiving database software. In addition, it will allow researchers to document, deposit, and access data directly online. In 2015 the number of active users grew from 1'262 to nearly 2'000.

Big data working group: Several members of the Big data working group, initiated in 2014, published a paper in spring 2015 on the topic in the FORS working paper series, entitled: “Big data for the social sciences” (see chapter 1 of this Annual Report).

Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg (LIS): In November, DARIS organized a one-day workshop in Berne to introduce interested researchers from Switzerland and abroad to the LIS databases (see section 2.4).

ORD@CH: Within the framework of the project Open Research Data Pilot Platform, Switzerland (ORD@CH), FORS (lead institution), the Digital Humanities Lab of the University of Basel, and the ETH Scientific IT Services / SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics have developed a publication platform for open research data in Switzerland (see section 2.7). The platform offers a metadata catalogue of the data available at the participating institutions. The ORD@CH project is part of the program “Scientific information: access, processing and safeguarding”, initiated by swissuniversities (Programme SUC 2013-2016 P-2), and ran from July 2014 to December 2015. A request for funding has been submitted for the period of 2016-2019 in order to maintain and extend the platform as a permanent metadata infrastructure for open research data in Switzerland.

International collaborations: In June, the head of the Data Promotion group represented FORS at the General Assembly of the International Federation of Data Organizations (IFDO), in Minneapolis. The meeting resulted in nominations, with FORS now being represented on the board of the IFDO, and taking a more active role in the promotion and development of data services worldwide.

In 2015 DARIS completed work on the European FP7 project Data without Boundaries, with specific tasks related to accreditation for transnational access to official micro-data (see section 3.3.2). Besides the three new international projects that DARIS began participating in in 2015 (see section 3.3.2 for descriptions of the projects and work covered), DARIS was active internationally in other ways as well:

- In January, the head of the Data Promotion group participated in a training event for the SNSF-funded Pluralistic Memories Project in Ramallah, West Bank.
- In March, the head of DARIS attended the European Data Access Forum EDAF in Luxembourg.
- In April, the head of DARIS attended the CESSDA Service Providers Forum meeting in Bergen.
- In June, the head of the Data Promotion group attended the IASSIST conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- In September, the head of DARIS attended the kick-off of the new Horizon 2020 project SERISS in London.
- In October, a DARIS staff member participated in a workshop at the University of Vienna to provide advice on establishing a new social science data archive in Austria.
- In October, a DARIS staff member attended the kick-off meeting of the new Horizon 2020 project CESSDA SaW – Strengthening and Widening, in Bergen, Norway.
- In October, the head of DARIS and the head of the IT group at FORS participated in a 3-day SEEDS training workshop in Belgrade, Serbia.
- In October, the head of DARIS attended the Official Representatives (OR) meeting of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research ICPSR in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- In late October, as member of the Oversight and Governance Board of the SNSF-funded Pluralistic Memories Project, the head of DARIS travelled with members of the UNIL faculty to Colombo, Sri Lanka, for several days of meetings.
- In November, the head of DARIS presented FORSbase for the GESIS seminar series and met with colleagues from GESIS to discuss work package 4 of the SERISS project, and other collaborations.
- In November, the head of the Data Promotion group represented FORS at the CESSDA Service Providers Forum meeting in Bucharest, Romania.
- In November, the head of the Data Promotion group gave a training as part of a FOSTER data management workshop in Odense, Denmark.
- In November, a DARIS staff member participated in the CESSDA Trust workshop in the Hague.

2.3 Methodological Research

FORS continued collaborative work related to its three methodological research programme modules (non-response, mixed mode interviewing, translation and equivalence issues) as in previous years. At the same time, other methodological and collaborative studies gained in importance. In addition, a number of peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and working papers were published in the methodological domain during the year (see the complete list of publications in the Appendix). Moreover, FORS staff gave scientific presentations at various conferences and workshops, notably at the 70th Annual Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) in Hollywood, Florida, the 2015 International Total Survey Error (TSE) Conference in Baltimore, USA, the 110th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in Chicago, the International Workshop on Household Survey Nonresponse, Leuven (Belgium), the 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Lausanne (SHP conference), the Swiss Statistics Meeting in Bern, the 6th ESRA Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, the Wahlstudientreffen in Vienna, the COST Action WEBDATANET in Salamanca, Spain, and the CSDI workshop in London, UK. FORS

staff devoted considerable time to reviewing papers on methodology for scientific journals on survey methods, such as *Sociological Methods and Research*; *Survey Research Methods*; *Public Opinion Quarterly*; *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*; *methods-data-analyses*; *Survey Methods: Insights from the Field*; *MZ* (*Metodološki zvezki* - *Advances in Methodology and Statistics*); as well as for the FORS and the NCCR LIVES working paper series.

2.3.1 Analysis of Non-Response

Methodological research on errors from non-response (non-contact and non-cooperation) was continued in 2015, with research on undercoverage errors becoming increasingly important. The fact that since 2010 the FORS core surveys are allowed to use the harmonized register of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) as a sampling frame gave rise to a number of papers and presentations. For example, Lipps, Pekari and Roberts published a paper entitled “Undercoverage and Nonresponse in a List-sampled Telephone Election Survey” in the peer-reviewed journal *Survey Research Methods*. The authors compared the relative contributions of the three reasons for non-observations, undercoverage, non-cooperation, and non-contact to socio-demographic bias in the landline telephone SELECTS 2011 survey. Results show that groups that are difficult to match with a landline number are also difficult to contact, while those who cooperate tend to have different characteristics. Bias due to undercoverage is of greater magnitude than non-contact bias, and non-cooperation falls between the two. As for substantive variables, both additional efforts to match missing telephone numbers and the construction of better weights are successful in closing the gap between survey estimates of voting behaviour and true values from the election results.

Related to this paper, Lipps published a working paper on “Non-observation bias in an address-register-based CATI/CAPI mixed mode survey” in the FORS Working Paper Series. Data came from the 2013 refreshment sample of the SHP, which used the landline as primary survey mode, and face-to-face for households with no matched telephone number. The fieldwork phase to recruit households and the phase to recruit persons were analysed separately. The author found that the strongest socio-demographic composition bias of the sample in the household recruitment phase is due to telephone undercoverage. In the combined telephone/face-to-face sample bias from non-cooperation is high, while bias from non-contact is small. This paper was presented at the ESRA conference in Reykjavik and is accepted for publication in *methods-data-analysis*. Still based on data from the SHP 2013 refreshment sample, Lipps presented another paper entitled “Modeling cooperation in an address-register-based telephone/face-to-face survey” at the SHP conference. The aim of this paper was to better understand effects on cooperation from the actors involved in surveys with a similar mixed-mode design and to improve the fieldwork. The actors are the households contacted to complete the survey, and the interviewers trying to obtain cooperation. Lipps presented this paper, which is now accepted for publication in “*Field Methods*”, at the ESRA conference. In addition to presenting the paper, similar to the 2013 ESRA conference, Lipps organized two sessions on “Using Paradata to Improve Survey Data

Quality” together with colleagues from the University of Mannheim, the University of Kaiserslautern, and the University of Kassel (all Germany).

As in previous years, the international surveys conducted non-response follow-up surveys, complementing the main international surveys. The primary aim of these surveys is to check for non-response bias and to evaluate possible ways of correction. Roberts and Vandenplas presented a paper at the AAPOR conference entitled “A validation of R-indicators as a measure of the risk of bias using data from a non-response follow-up survey”. The paper investigates the correlation between socio-demographic auxiliary variables used to build R-indicators to assess the risk of bias, and actual bias on substantive questionnaire variables using data from a non-response follow-up survey used in the ESS. Vandenplas, Joye, Ernst Stähli, and Pollien published a paper “Identifying Pertinent Variables for Nonresponse Follow-Up Surveys. Lessons Learned from 4 Cases in Switzerland” in *Survey Research Methods*, based on results from previous non-response surveys. It shows that while sociodemographic variables are quite measurement-invariant in that they are not or else are very little related to non-response, certain attitudinal variables are related to non-response and most often sensitive to measurement effects, such as change in mode and context. The most pertinent variables across all non-response surveys are political interest, satisfaction with democracy, and trust in institutions. They give relevant and valuable information about the process of participation and non-participation. However, they do not seem to be, so far, complete and reliable enough to propose a convincing correction weight for non-response bias.

Based on the “Living With Others – LWO” survey (see section 2.3.3), a paper was presented at the International Workshop on Household Survey Nonresponse (“Non response and social networks: Substantial consequences of survey design”), focusing on methodological consequences of survey and questionnaire design. Results show that, while there is a selection bias for less educated individuals associated with the complexity of the network instruments in the first wave, this has no effect on attrition in the second wave.

Antal was invited to give a talk on “Survey Sampling Theory” at the workshop “Programme doctoral de l’École des Sciences Criminelles” at the University of Lausanne. She presented the basic concepts and notation of sampling survey methods, the essential sampling designs and the different estimation strategies. She also discussed related problems such as the missing data problem and the definition of the sample size. In addition, Antal presented “The weighting scheme of the Swiss Household Panel” at the FORS lunch seminar and at the SHP conference. She gave a similar talk in the framework of the collaboration between FORS and ONDH (Observatoire National du Développement Humain). The aim of this intervention was to transfer know-how and improve the capacity of the ONDH’s staff in the area of survey weighting (see section 2.7). She detailed the different steps of the weighting system and discussed several related questions and also the specific problems occurring when constructing the weights for the ONDH study.

2.3.2 Mixed-Mode Interviewing

Members of the international survey group and LIVES continued to collaborate on research exploiting data from the 2012 LIVES-FORS mixed-mode experiment. At the end of the year, Roberts, Ernst Stähli, Joye, and Sanchez Tome finalised the methodological report on the experiment, which will soon appear as a LIVES Working Paper. They presented the results of their analyses at the ESRA Conference. Roberts presented a paper entitled “Combining web and mail sequentially – error and cost advantages in the Swiss context” in a session on so-called “Push2Web” survey designs, in which web is combined with a mail follow-up of non-respondents. The research uses data from the sampling register and a non-response follow-up survey to assess the extent of non-response bias in a web-plus-mail design, compared with single mode mail survey. Sanchez Tome presented a paper entitled “Mode effects on measures of wellbeing: a comparison between uni- and multi-dimensional approaches”, which explores the impact of mode effects on single item measures of wellbeing on conclusions drawn from multivariate analyses of wellbeing. Ernst Stähli gave a presentation on “Comparing estimates across survey designs – are mode effects the greatest cause for concern?”, where she links mode effects with survey context effects such as the survey topic, contact letters, or content and style of previous questions, by comparing same and similar questions fielded in comparable surveys as well as in a test-retest experiment. Finally, Ernst Stähli and Roberts organised a session at the ESRA conference on mixed-mode surveys (“Practical solutions for mixed mode survey users and producers”), with a focus on practical solutions for mixed-mode survey users and producers. They introduced the session with a presentation on “Current challenges and open questions in the field of mixed mode survey methodology”.

A related session was organized by Ernst Stähli and Berzelac at the final conference of the COST Action WEBDATANET (“Evaluation of web mode in different mixed-mode survey designs”, see section 3.3.2). At this conference, Sanchez Tome gave a presentation entitled “Evaluating the effect of mode of data collection on measures of subjective wellbeing: implications for cross-survey comparisons”. At the 2015 TSE Conference, Roberts and Vandenplas presented a paper on “Estimating components of Mean-Squared Error as a means to evaluate mixed-mode solutions to non-coverage error in telephone surveys”. The paper again uses data from the mixed mode experiment and presents an alternative way of comparing survey designs. In order to identify the impact on data quality of combining modes sequentially, it attempts to decompose errors from different sources. Roberts continued her involvement with the UK network on web surveys for the General Population (“Genpopweb”), taking part in a consultative meeting about potential design options for a UK web-based probability panel, at the Institute of Education in London in February.

In a project for Stadtentwicklung Zürich, Ochsner consulted the city of Zürich in a project which aimed to switch from CATI to mixed-mode for their general population survey (see section 2.7). With inputs by Farago, Ernst Stähli, and Lipps, he designed an experiment to evaluate different modes and mode-combinations with a special focus on keeping the time series of the survey intact. The analysis shows that the web/paper mixed-mode is probably the best choice for upcoming rounds of the survey. Together with Andrea Büchi from Stadtentwicklung Zürich and Thomas Winzer from the fieldwork

agency LINK, the experimental design of the mode-evaluation study was presented at the conference “Swiss Statistics Meeting” in Bern, including preliminary results concerning the effects of different modes on representation bias.

2.3.3 Language, Translation, and Measurement Equivalence

A number of experiments were conducted and analysed in the area of language, translation, and measurement equivalence, mostly by members of the international surveys team. Ochsner presented joint work of the international survey team entitled “Cross-cultural transferability of concepts: issues, problems, strategies” at the ESRA conference. Together with Ernst Stähli, Nisple, Pollien, and Sapin, he analysed data from an experiment conducted during the ISSP Pilot for 2015 which uses two different wordings of an open question asking about belonging to ethnic groups on the one hand and data from cognitive tests for the paper drop-off from MOSAiCH 2015 examining identification with the term “secondo” on the other. They found that some concepts widely used in one context (i.e., ethnic groups as put forward by the ESS standard or the term “secondo” used in German research on migration) cannot readily be transferred to other contexts (i.e., Switzerland in the first example or the French part of Switzerland in the second), either because the respondents do not think in these terms, or because the word is understood in different ways. Ernst Stähli presented a paper entitled “Comparing Concept Measurements across Contexts: The Relative Relevance of Wording and Translations” at the CSDI workshop. This paper pursues the team’s work on translation equivalence by analyzing a small test-retest experiment implemented in the ESS 2014. The results show that factors beyond the actual translation and wording, or even question format, influence the respondents’ answers. These factors seem to refer more to little investigated elements such as the way to invite people to participate and the style of previous questions than to better known ones such as sampling and data collection mode.

Ryser, in collaboration with Eberhard (LIVES) and Lebert gave a talk entitled “A Comparison/Validation of the BFI-10 with the BFI-15 in the SHP” at a session about “Measurement Quality in the Social Sciences” at the ESRA conference. Ryser presented the results of the evaluation of the psychometric properties of two extra-short scales assessing the Big Five personality traits in the SHP. In addition, extending the analyses done for the ESRA conference, Ryser published a working paper in the FORS Working Paper series about the psychometric properties of extra-short Big Five personality measures in multi-topic surveys based on the SHP and MOSAiCH dataset (“Psychometric properties of extra-short Big Five personality measures in multi-topic surveys: Documenting personality traits in the SHP and MOSAiCH”). Borrat-Besson, together with Ryser and Gonçalves, published a FORS working paper entitled “An evaluation of the CASP-12 scale used in the Survey of Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) to measure Quality of Life among people aged 50+”. The CASP-12 is a shorter version of the CASP-19, a measure of quality of life in older ages, drawing upon the “Theory of Human Need” with four dimensions: Control, autonomy, self-realization and pleasure. The main result is that the structure postulated by the authors of the CASP-19 could

not be replicated with the CASP-12 scale used in SHARE. Factor analyses suggest a scale with ten items instead of twelve, and two factors instead of four.

Kleiner, Lipps and Ferrez published an article entitled “Language Ability and Motivation among Foreigners in Survey Responding” in the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*. In this article the authors examine the question of whether answers from resident foreign respondents who do not master available survey languages may suffer from problems of comprehension of survey items, especially more complicated items. Using data from the 2008 Swiss Labor Force Survey and from the 2004 SHP refreshment sample, they found an overall poorer response quality among foreigners, especially for foreign groups from countries that do not share a common language with those spoken in Switzerland. Both reduced language mastery and reduced motivation among foreigners are relevant factors. A conclusion is that the more distant respondents are culturally and linguistically from the majority mainstream within a country, the more their data quality may be negatively affected. In contrast, question complexity is of minor importance.

Joye and Sapin, as convenors of the ISSP 2017 modules on Social Networks and Social Resources, prepared a reasoning report for the ISSP on the conceptual framework and the main topics of the module together with the drafting group (“ISSP 2017 on Social Network and Social Resources: Conceptual Overview and Main Topics”). This report was presented and discussed at the ISSP General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa. Based on the priorities defined by the General Assembly, Joye and Sapin, in collaboration with the drafting group, designed a large pretest questionnaire on social networks and social resources, testing several social network instruments, and prepared a reasoning report for this pretest questionnaire for the ISSP (“ISSP 2017 on Social Network and Social Resources: Reasoning report on the pretest questionnaire in 2015”). The pretest survey was launched in October by FORS in the German- and French-speaking parts of Switzerland, as well as in Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the United States, China, Taiwan, Turkey and Venezuela. The survey includes several thousand respondents who answered this pretest questionnaire in different modes.

In parallel to this international project, the data of a survey experiment on social networks and social resources were collected during Spring 2015. Funded by the NCCR LIVES, this experiment (Living with Others, LWO) tests four main instruments in a two-wave assessment and includes some questions from the different LIVES questionnaires, as well as questions on the main priorities defined by the ISSP 2017 drafting group. The aim of this instrument comparison is to define the most appropriate instrument for general cross-country comparative research on personal networks in relation with social inequalities and potential vulnerability issues. With respect to methodological research on social network instruments, a session was organized during the summer at the ESRA conference on the challenges posed by adapting survey instruments measuring social relations, social networks, and social capital in a cross-national setting (“Measuring social relations, social networks, and social capital in comparative survey”). Based on first results of the LWO survey experiment, a paper on the validity and comparability of the position generator instrument for measuring social resource was presented in this session (“The cross-cultural (and mode-independent) measure-

ment of social networks and social resources in population surveys”). A related paper was presented at the ASA conference, which additionally discussed the importance of measuring social capital in relation to other types of capital in comparative investigation (“Comparative Study of Social Networks and Social Resources”).

2.3.4 Other Methodological and Collaborative Studies

Ochsner presented how social scientists can benefit from bibliometric data in their research processes in the common FORS/LIVES methods and research seminar. He mentioned the dangers of simplistic use of bibliometric tools and proposed valid uses of bibliometric data. He reminded the researchers that they should apply the same methodological scrutiny to bibliometric data, tools, and analyses as they would do in their own field.

In December, the SHP team was invited to give a presentation on “Methodological challenges of panel surveys now and in ten years – a Swiss perspective” at the conference “Longitudinal Survey Research: Methodological Challenges” in Warsaw, Poland. Following this invitation, Lipps presented problems of longer-term panel surveys with a focus on cost, path dependency, and cross-sectional and longitudinal representativity issues.

FORS was invited to give a talk on methods and practices at FORS at a workshop dedicated to pretesting methods organized by the PUMA-AG (Special Interest Group of the “Plattform für Umfragen, Methoden und empirische Analysen”) at the University of Vienna. Ochsner gave an input talk on theory and practice of survey pretesting in general and discussed practices used at FORS.

2.3.5 Institutional Issues

At the ESRA conference, Roberts was elected to the ESRA Executive Board in the role of Vice Conference Chair for the next ESRA conference, which will take place in July 2017.

Lipps was invited to co-supervise a doctoral thesis at the Institut für Erziehungswissenschaft, University of Zürich: „Einfluss der Gruppenzusammensetzung auf den Therapieerfolg von adipösen Kindern und Jugendlichen“.

2.4 Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg LIS

LIS, the Cross National Data Center in Luxembourg, is a comparative micro-database on income, wealth, and employment. Its income database includes nearly 200 datasets covering 40 countries around the world over a period going back as far as 1968. The fully documented databases are accessible via a specially developed remote access system called LISSY which allows users to receive results of statistical analyses within minutes after submission, directly to their computer wherever they are located. Password protected access is free of charge for users from contributing countries.

FORS is the Swiss partner to LIS. The FORS director is member of the Board of the “LIS asbl”, an NPO according to Luxembourg law. The annual membership fees paid by FORS open for Swiss researchers free access to the complete LIS databases. The FORS website includes a short description of LIS and a link to the LIS homepage. LIS is systematically included in the promotional activities of FORS, especially at the level of university departments and institutes that might be interested (mainly sociology, political science, and economics).

In November, FORS organized a one-day workshop in Bern to introduce interested researchers from Switzerland and abroad to the LIS databases. The workshop, hosted with the support of Professor Ben Jann from the Institute of Sociology of the University of Bern, had nine participants, and was divided into morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session included an introductory presentation by the LIS representative Marco Lilla, followed by a presentation by Dr. Eric Crettaz from the Haute Ecole de Travail Social (HETS) in Geneva on his own research in Switzerland using LIS data. The afternoon session was devoted to hands-on discovery of the LIS databases in a university computer lab. The session was led by Mr. Lilla.

2.5 Social Report

The new editor-in-chief of the Social Report, Franziska Ehrler, started her work at FORS at the end of March. She is a political scientist and former head of the research service at the Swiss Conference for Social Assistance and Welfare (SKOS).

She continued preparing the edition 2016 of the Social Report on well-being together with the editorial board, consisting of Prof. Felix Bühlmann (University of Lausanne), Prof. Peter Farago (FORS), Prof. François Höpflinger (University of Zurich), Prof. Dominique Joye (University of Lausanne), Prof. Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello (University of Berne), and Prof. Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel).

The group met on four occasions in 2015:

- **April:** The first and most important point was the planning until the publication in 2016, and the more detailed time schedule for the next steps. Furthermore, the drafts of two scientific contributions arrived and awaited comments from the editorial board. The different data sources and their availability for the indicators part were discussed as well.
- **June:** The drafts of the other three scientific contributions were discussed. Then the editorial board fixed the indicators list for the chapter on the distribution of social goods and the one on social integration.
- **September:** This meeting was very important since the second drafts of the authors' contributions were ready for discussion, the indicator lists for the three other chapters needed to be defined and the structure of the introductory chapter had to be fixed.

- **November:** The main topic of this meeting was the graphic design concept presented by Hahn&Zimmermann, our new partner for the graphic design replacing Walo von Büren, who was responsible for the graphic design of all the previous editions. He sadly and unexpectedly passed away at the end of 2014.

Work on the Social Report 2016 moved on as planned. As a result, the five scientific contributions were almost finished, a considerable part of the data for the indicators was collected, and a first draft of the introductory chapter was ready for discussion.

With Hahn&Zimmermann and Peter Rusterholz, managing director of Seismo Publishers, the editorial board now has two competent partners. Hahn&Zimmermann were chosen among other graphic design companies after careful evaluation. With Peter Rusterholz the editorial board can count on someone already involved in the previous editions and thus assuring continuity.

The 2016 edition will not be the last Social Report, but will be the last edition under the current conditions. FORS initiated in autumn 2015 a working group to develop first ideas for a new form of social reporting which takes into consideration recent developments like, for example, the evolution of web-based products and the increased demand for up-to-date information (see section 2.2.3).

In order to benefit from international experiences the editor-in-chief participated in the 10th “Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe” conference on “Policy Goals, Societal Values and Citizen's Preferences: How We Live and How We Want to Live in Europe” at Villa Vigoni in Menaggio (Italy) on October 26-28. Due to a contact established during this conference, she supported the construction and calculation of the Active Aging Index for Switzerland. The Active Aging Index aims to monitor (and compare) active aging outcomes, and is a joint management project by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the European Commission’s Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL). It is headed by Prof. Asghar Zaidi (London School of Economics LSE).

As part of the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme (ISJRP), the editor-in-chief of the Social Report participated in a joint seminar co-organised by the University of Lausanne and the Indian Council of Social Science Research in September in Lausanne. Furthermore, FORS received in collaboration with the University of Neuchâtel a Seed Money Grant for a joint project with an Indian research team at the Institute for Social and Economic Change in Bengaluru/Bangalore on multidimensional well-being. As the Social Report 2016 emphasizes well-being, and in order to optimise synergies, the editor-in-chief will be part of the Swiss Research Team (see section 3.3.2).

2.6 Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences

The 19th Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences was held from August 14-29, 2015 at the Università della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano.

The following workshops were offered (number of participants in parenthesis):¹

First week: August 17 - 21:

- Prof. Kelvyn Jones: Multilevel Models: Practical Applications (13)*
- Prof. Eugen Horber: Statistics with SPSS for Social Scientists (25)
- Profs. Peter Schmidt/Eldad Davidov: Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) I (21)
- Prof. Benedetto Lepori: Grant Proposal Writing as a Social and Argumentative Process (6)*
- Profs. Alessandro Lomi and Garry Robins: The Analysis of Social Networks (14)

Second week: August 24 - 28

- Prof. Michael Gibbert: Case Studies: Design, Methods, and Reporting (12)*
- Prof Karen O'Reilly: Ethnographic Methods (7)*
- Prof. Elmar Schlüter: Multilevel Structural Equation Modeling(10)
- Prof. Zachary Estes: Experimental Methods: From Ideation to Publication (12)*

The optional two-day workshops preceding the Summer School had 18 (E. Horber: SPSS/Statistics refresher) and 8 (S. Kernbach: Visual Thinking for Researchers*) participants.

13% of the 114 participants attended two full-week courses. 81% of the participants were PhD Students. The largest groups of this year's participants are working in the fields of Communication Sciences (18%), Business Studies (16%), Sociology (15%), Education (15%), followed by Psychology (12%) and Political Science (9%). 18% of the participants were from foreign universities or institutions: Belgium (4), Austria (4), Liechtenstein (2), France (2), Croatia (2), Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Sweden, and South Korea.

2.7 Third Party Funded Projects

FORS is the leading institution in the project Open Research Data Platform Switzerland (ORD@CH), which is part of the programme "Scientific information: access, processing and safeguarding", initiated by swissuniversities (Programme SUC 2013-2016 P-2). In collaboration with the Digital Humanities Lab of the University of Basel, the ETH Scien-

¹ The workshops marked with a * were limited to 10-12 participants (choice of the instructor according to course content and teaching style).

tific IT Services / SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, as well as with the IT consultants and developers itopia AG and Liip AG, FORS is developing a publication platform for open research data in Switzerland. Its objectives are to promote secondary analysis of research data and interdisciplinary approaches in research and teaching, and to grant access to publicly funded research data to the general public. It will offer a metadata catalogue of the data available at the participating institutions. The ORD@CH platform is operational as a pilot project since spring 2015 and is planned to be continued as a permanent metadata infrastructure for open research data in Switzerland (see section 2.2.4).

FORS was mandated by the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) to lead data management for the Assessment of Basic Educational Competencies (ÜGK). The assessment consists of competency tests in mathematics, the school language, and the first foreign language, and aims at measuring the extent to which the cantons are successful in implementing the harmonization of obligatory education in Switzerland. In 2016, around 25'000 students attending the 11th grade (HarmoS) will participate in the mathematics test. In 2017, the same amount of 8th-grade students will be tested in their school language as well as in their first foreign language. The data management process will be led by FORS, where the data will also be archived. FORS senior researcher Dr. Marieke Heers is responsible for the project at FORS. In 2015, FORS established a detailed data management plan for the project and participated in several meetings and scientific round table discussions (see also section 2.2.3).

In September 2015 the Swiss Federal Chancellery published an open call for tender to conduct the surveys (formerly known as the VOX) after each popular vote between summer 2016 and end of 2020. FORS decided to participate in this call in collaboration with the Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau (ZDA) and the survey company LINK. The joint offer won the competition, being evaluated as the strongest proposal with the best quality for a competitive prize. The first survey will take place in autumn 2016. Some 12 to 16 surveys will be conducted subsequently until the end of 2020. Each survey will contain about 1'500 interviews. A report on the main results will be published six weeks after each vote. The data will be released as open government data and will be accessible via the FORS data services DARIS shortly after each vote. FORS senior researcher Prof. Georg Lutz led the successful bidding process.

The Swiss NGO Pro Infirmis, the country's biggest and most important organisation in its field, mandated FORS to design, run, and analyze the first wave of the newly established survey on attitudes towards handicapped persons. A pure probability sample of 2'000 respondents in all parts of the country will be surveyed using a combination of web and paper questionnaires.

The office of Urban Development of the city of Zurich mandated FORS for consultation, data analysis, and reporting on a mixed-mode experiment in the context of the population surveys administered regularly since 1999. Until now the surveys were carried out by telephone, however with constantly decreasing response rates. The office wanted to check if another mode or any mix of modes would produce better results. The experiment accompanied the regular survey fielded in 2015 and showed that a web/paper mixed-mode will result in a higher response rate and less response bias. At the same

time, the time-series can be continued as the measurement effects are mostly small, and the experimental design yielded point estimates for both modes in 2015. FORS senior researcher Dr. Michael Ochsner was leading the project on behalf of FORS (see section 2.3.2).

A framework convention was established between FORS and the Moroccan ONDH (Observatoire National du Développement Humain), which is financed by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco. The aim of this agreement was to transfer our panel survey management expertise and know-how to the Moroccan colleagues in charge of the ONDH household panel. Two 4-day workshops were organized in Rabat, Morocco, respectively in July and October 2016. The first was led by the head of the Surveys unit at FORS, Dr. Boris Wernli, and was dedicated to data management and data dissemination issues (person and household identifiers, data structure, data checks, data contracts and download, and anonymization), as well as to the scientific analysis of the first three waves of the Moroccan household panel. The second workshop, led by FORS senior researcher Dr. Erika Antal, focused specifically on weighting issues, in order to make possible longitudinal analyses in the first part of 2016.

FORS received in 2014 a mandate from the Bureau de l'Egalité (Office of Equal Opportunity), with the support of the UNIL management, to organize a survey among all members of the university community on the compatibility of professional or student life and private life at the University of Lausanne. The results were published in spring 2015 and showed that a small proportion of the university community was concerned by parenthood, but with important implications, especially with respect to professional and university careers. Specifically, they emphasized a shortage of subsidized child-care opportunities. The survey showed too that some services organized for parents were not sufficiently known by the target population, and that flexible schedule and working at home were important for parents in order to reconcile the different domains of life. Consequently, some recommendations were produced by the Office of Equal Opportunity, in order to centralize and foster information dissemination, as well as flexibility for parents. Moreover, more subsidized spots in day care nurseries will be created at the UNIL in the coming years.

Work on the Swiss Federal Survey of Adolescents *ch-x* (www.chx.ch) continued in 2015. The survey, which focuses on the topic of mobility of young adults, will run over a two-year period in 2016 and 2017. It will include some 50'000 young adults, most of whom are male Swiss citizens drafted for the army. DARIS pre-tested and finalized the original questionnaire (in French), which was then translated into German and Italian. DARIS staff also trained the "experts", i.e., education professionals who assist young people as they fill in the questionnaire in the Swiss army's recruitment centers (see also section 2.2.3).

FORS senior researcher Dr. Valérie-Anne Ryser was involved in a research project led by Prof. Klaus R. Scherer (Founding Director of the Swiss Centre for Affective Sciences at the University of Geneva) for a theory-driven analysis of the emotion dimensions of the data available in the Swiss Household Panel (SHP). The research project focuses on statistical modeling of individual and socio-cultural differences in emotional response. Dr. Ryser's contribution to this project will mainly consist of the preparation of

databases based on the investigation of the SHP and data analysis of “emotions” components of the SHP.

Apart from these projects there was the participation of FORS in several partly EU-funded international cooperative endeavours (see section 3.3).

FORS will continue to acquire a reasonable share of mandates in the future. They are supposed to cover thematic fields close to FORS’ core business, and to have the potential to add new dimensions and/or new know-how to the FORS portfolio. An Acquisition Charter formulating these goals was drafted in 2015 and circulated internally among FORS staff to avoid too much heterogeneity in acquisition activities (see section 2.9.3).

2.8 IT

FORSbase (<https://forsbase.unil.ch/>)

The development of the FORSbase application made good progress in 2015. In November 2015, the development phase of FORSbase version 2.0, which covers the functionalities of the research project inventory, was finished.

In November and December 2015 the DARIS group performed several testing rounds of the application. Within the same period, the IT group concentrated on the data migration from the old system SID50 to FORSbase and bug fixing. By the end of 2015 FORSbase version 1.5 had around 2’100 active users.

SMT *light*

In February 2015 the SMT *light* platform was successfully launched. It is a survey management tool, implemented by the FORS IT group, that supports basic survey handling, collaboration with other researchers, questionnaire construction, a question databank (re-use of questions), translation functionality, and import/export (to Excel and Qualtrics) facilities. SMT *light* was developed with the same technology as used in FORSbase and it can be easily extended and integrated into FORSbase. Three main surveys for the SELECTS group were constructed using the SMT *light* platform. The question databank, which is a part of the platform, currently has around 500 questions that can be reused easily. The questionnaires were constructed in seven languages, which demonstrated the tool’s flexibility and ease of use. SMT *light* was also used for the pilot of CSES Module 5 (see section 2.1.3). Further development of the SMT platform is planned for 2016.

ORD@CH (<http://openresearchdata.ch/>)

Within the framework of the project Open Research Data Pilot Platform Switzerland (ORD@CH), FORS (lead institution), the Digital Humanities Lab of the University of Basel, and the ETH Scientific IT Services / SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics are developing a publication platform for open research data in Switzerland (see section 2.7).

The FORS IT group prepared for the project a server that can be harvested by the project's platform using the OAI-PMH interface, which makes possible returning to the platform a list of available datasets including rich metadata about them (DDI-based). The outcome of the pilot harvesting (only the social science segment) can be found at <http://opendata.forscenter.ch/>.

DeFacto (<http://www.defacto.expert/>)

This new political science online platform supports the publication of articles related to important and relevant political and societal issues in Switzerland (see section 3.2). The IT group contributed to this project with the Wordpress-based web infrastructure, and with the programming of the web site. The platform is well linked to and present in social media to allow for feedback and to support the distribution of new articles. A somewhat particular requirement was the support of “active” graphics. They are created on a third-party platform, distributed by Amazon cloud, and finally embedded in the articles.

International commitments

The head of the IT group was actively involved in two new international projects as a technical expert, namely SEEDS and SERISS (see section 3.3.2).

IT administration

In December 2014 the IT group migrated the FORS email system to the new MS Exchange system of the UNIL. In 2015, the number of servers (internal, application, and web) maintained by the IT group increased to 13.

2.9 Governing Bodies and Management

2.9.1 Foundation Board

The Foundation Board is FORS' ultimate governing body. It is chaired by a representative of the host university who acts as President to the Foundation. The Deed of Foundation conveys to the Foundation Board the highest authority and the widest powers; the Deed can be downloaded from the FORS website. Currently, the Board consists of eight full members representing the key stakeholders (universities, the Federal Statistical Office, and the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences), as well as two observers from the most important funding bodies (the State Secretariate for Education, Research and Innovation, and the Swiss National Science Foundation). The list of the members of the Board as of December 31, 2015 is attached to this report (see Appendix).

In 2015 the Foundation Board met twice. One meeting was back to back to a joint meeting with the FORS Scientific Board.

During the first meeting on *March 20, 2015*, the Board audited the accounts and the Annual Report 2014. Apart from these recurring issues, the Board decided on the advertisement for the succession of the retiring director and discussed the comment to the evaluation report by the Swiss Science and Innovation Council that was to be delivered to the SERI.

The second Foundation Board meeting of the year was held on *November 24, 2015*, during which the Board approved of the FORS budget for 2016. The main part of the meeting was dedicated to the discussion on the ranked short list of candidates for the succession of the retiring director. The Board accepted unanimously the suggested list and mandated the President to sign the contract with the top ranked candidate.

The *joint meeting* of the Boards, chaired by the FORS President, on March 20, 2015, was dedicated to the recommendations by the Scientific Board that followed from the Swiss Science and Innovation Council's evaluation report. More specifically, the composition of the Scientific Board and the interplay between the two Boards were discussed.

The Foundation Board's most important agenda item in 2015 was the selection of the new director. In its November 2014 meeting the Board had defined the general procedure and appointed a nomination committee (see Annual Report 2014, p. 37). After approval of the advertisement by the Board in its March 2015 meeting, the call for applications was published through scholarly channels as well as large circulation media worldwide. There were 24 applications submitted. Five applicants were invited for hearings that took place in June. The three top candidates had to pass a full-day assessment at a professional assessment centre in September. Based on the results of the hearings and the assessments, the nomination committee ranked the short list unanimously. Following the decision by the Foundation Board in its November meeting the contract was signed between the Foundation FORS and the first-ranked applicant. The appointment of the former head of the SELECTS group, Prof. Georg Lutz, as the new director was communicated to the FORS collaborators, the Scientific Board, and the interested public on December 15, 2015. Prof. Lutz will take office on September 1, 2016.

With regard to the composition of the Foundation Board there were three changes: Due to his retirement, Prof. Robert Fluder announced his departure from the Board at the end of 2015; the conference of the university rectors (swissuniversities) decided to replace him with Prof. Daniel Gredig (FHNW). After completion of his term as the Dean of the Social and Political Sciences Faculty of the University of Lausanne, Prof. Fabien Ohl left the Board; he was followed by the newly appointed Dean, Prof. Jean-Philippe Leresche. As an observer representing the SNSF, Prof. Peter Schulz (Università della Svizzera italiana) joined the Board.

The President thanked the departing members for their valuable contributions and commitment and welcomed the new ones. The list of members of the Foundation Board as of December 31, 2015, can be found in the Appendix to this report.

2.9.2 Scientific Board

Apart from the joint meeting with the Foundation Board (see section 2.9.1), the Scientific Board had a two-day meeting on *March 19 and 20, 2015*.

As usual, the Director presented the Annual Report for the preceding year. Several issues were raised by members of the Board, among others the scientific publication activities of the FORS staff, the upcoming third international ESS conference hosted by FORS in 2016, and the participation in the interuniversity master programme “Public Opinion and Survey Methodology”. In conclusion, the Scientific Board endorsed the Annual Report 2014.

The Board then discussed the evaluation report by the Swiss Science and Innovation Council, specifically with respect to the recommendations concerning the Scientific Board. It prepared a statement on the issue that was subsequently presented to the Foundation Board in the joint meeting of the two Boards (see section 2.9.1).

Dr. Brian Kleiner, head of the DARIS unit, presented a paper on “Big Data” and their relevance for FORS. The Board appreciated this presentation and had a vivid discussion on different aspects of the topic. The paper was subsequently published under the title “Big data for the social sciences” in the FORS Working Paper series (WP 2015-2) and can be downloaded from the FORS website.² Chapter 1 of this Annual Report presents excerpts from this paper.

Dr. Philippe Eichenberger (SFSO) announced his withdrawal from the Board due to his retirement. The Chair thanked Dr. Eichenberger for his commitment and his contributions, which are highly appreciated. The SFSO suggests a successor Dr. Jean-Pierre Renfer, the new head of the Methodology Section at the SFSO. The list of members of the Scientific Board as of December 31, 2015, can be found in the Appendix to this report.

2.9.3 Management and Human Resources

The FORS Executive Board is chaired by the Director and comprises the heads of the units Surveys (Dr. Boris Wernli), Data and Research Information Services (Dr. Brian Kleiner), and Support (Ms. Corine Bolle). The Executive Board meets regularly. Decisions are minuted, and the minutes are sent to the Presidents of the Foundation and Scientific Boards to keep them posted on current affairs.

To discuss general topics on the current state and perspectives of FORS, the Executive Board met for a two-day retreat in La-Tour-de-Peilz near Vevey on June 29-30. The main issues and decisions were as follows:

² <http://forscenter.ch/en/research-publications-projects/publications/fors-working-paper-series/current-issues/>

- The importance of qualitative data at FORS should be enhanced. As a consequence, one of the post-doc positions to be advertised in early 2016 will be devoted to the documentation and re-use of qualitative data.
- The end of SNSF funding for the Social Report marks a new departure in FORS' activities in social indicators and social reporting from 2017 onwards. There should be more direct links to FORS data, and the presentation should be more interactive. A strategic working group will develop options in these directions.
- Project acquisition policies were discussed too. It was decided to develop an Acquisition Charter that would subsequently be distributed via the Intranet stating that acquisition of third-party-funded projects should be in thematic fields close to FORS' core business and should add new dimensions and/or new know-how to the FORS portfolio.

Apart from the tasks of the day-to-day operations, the discussion of funding structures for the funding period 2017-2020 continued. FORS management had to deliver a financial planning for this period to the SERI by the end of June. The SERI informed the Foundation Board at its November meeting that the joint funding by the SERI and the SNSF that was in place since the beginning of FORS would be continued for the next funding period.

Throughout the year the three heads of units were involved in the search for a new director (see section 2.9.1). They had the opportunity to express their opinions before the nomination committee at several points in time.

The collaboration with the university's central services, especially human resources and IT, continued to run smoothly and facilitated FORS daily operations considerably.

There were 39 staff employed by FORS at the end of 2015, of which 5 held non-permanent project-funded positions. One SCIEX-funded doctoral fellow (see section 3.3) and two post-doc scholars funded by the joint invitational programme with the university (see section 3.1) were hosted by FORS.

Apart from two office clerks and three IT specialists, all staff members have accomplished academic studies, mainly in different social science disciplines; 50% of these hold doctoral/Ph.D. degrees (see table in the Appendix). One collaborator accomplished her thesis in 2015, several others are currently working on their doctoral dissertations.

As compared to 2014 there were no major changes in the number or the structure of staff in 2015. However, it is worth noting that FORS has a majority of female staff – a remarkable contrast to its early days in 2008 when two-thirds of staff were men. Women are present in the scientific, the IT, and the administrative staff, on all hierarchical levels, and with different levels of education.

One senior collaborator left FORS in 2015 to become the data manager in the Neuchâtel-based NCCR "On the Move". Four new collaborators started working at FORS in 2015, among them one senior researcher in the economics of education, and

the new editor-in-chief of the Social Report. Two junior scientists were hired for project funded non-permanent positions.

Staff members originate from eight different nationalities and are native speakers of nine languages plus several Swiss-German dialects. A multinational and multilingual working environment is an essential part of the stimulating intellectual atmosphere FORS aspires to offer to its collaborators. Consequently, FORS communicates internally and externally in three languages: English, French, and German. All scientific collaborators are expected to understand these languages and to be able to communicate actively in at least two of them.

To foster scholarly exchange between FORS researchers and to profit from their diverse scientific and cultural backgrounds, the series of monthly lunch seminars for presentation and discussion of current research projects continued in 2015. The seminar was well attended, mostly by collaborators of FORS, but also by interested researchers from university institutes. The seminars were organised by FORS senior researcher Dr. Carmen Borrat-Besson (see Appendix for the complete list of seminars held in 2015).

A half-day staff excursion, followed by a dinner, took place on September 11. A Christmas party was held on December 15.

2.10 Communication

In 2015 the communication strategy set up in 2014 continued to be implemented. The FORS communication strategy includes an analysis of the status quo and the definition of strategic goals (target audiences, internal and external communication objectives). After the release of the new trilingual FORS website, new content was added to the new website on a regular basis and most of the existing content was updated. All through the year news for FORS collaborators was uploaded onto the Intranet section. In May a discussion meeting was organised with all FORS collaborators to gather comments about the Intranet in order to improve the site.

In November 2015, issue 1 of the new trilingual e-newsletter FORS Bulletin was released and sent to 9'500 recipients. The FORS Bulletin replaces the paper version of the newsletter "ForsInfo" and the periodically published newsletter "FORS Data Bulletin". Three to four times a year readers will be informed about our new datasets, publications, and important events and activities. The e-newsletter can also be consulted on our website (see <http://forscenter.ch/en/research-publications-projects/publications/fors-newsletter/>).

All through the year important promotional activities were conducted, like the organisation of various workshops and conferences (see Chapter 4, performance indicator 6.2). FORS continued to regularly inform our contact points about our activities. Several representatives from different contact points were replaced, and in late October a new contact point was established, notably with Prof. Dirk Helbing as main contact person from the ETH Zürich D-GESS (Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences).

The SWIR evaluation report, in its chapter on “services and outreach”, states that as a service provider of high quality, the FORS service function is provided and well-covered, *“yet there is a procedure to be established and a tool to be developed to systematically gather user feedback”*. In October, a concept was elaborated to illustrate how the topic was so far treated in-house, to define the content of the user survey and to clarify the following key questions: a) by what means can user feedback be gathered? b) what needs to be done to set up a user feedback survey? In collaboration with the IT team, several options were tested for how to gather user feedback. It is foreseen to implement the user feedback system in the course of 2016.

The FORS Working Paper Series publishes papers based on or related to survey data, from both methodological and substantive viewpoints. The series accepts manuscripts for consideration from scholars within and from outside of FORS. The series is intended to provide an early and relatively quick means of publication prior to further development of the work. In 2015 seven submissions were received. One of these papers has not yet been resubmitted after the review, and one was published in early 2016. In total, 28 papers have been published so far. The majority of the papers have in the meantime been published or are under review in a scientific journal. Also, some are not designed to become scientific publications, most often because they describe a method (e.g., 1-2010) or are too descriptive (e.g., 2-2012).

3 Scientific Collaborations

3.1 Host University

The collaboration with the host university is based on a scientific and an administrative contractual agreement, both signed for four years, tacitly prolonged for another four-year period. From the administrative side several central services are involved, mainly the Human Resources and IT departments as well as the facility management.

In addition, an agreement with the neighbouring Faculty for Social and Political Sciences has been concluded, which covers scientific, institutional, organisational, and financial topics. This agreement defines an explicit framework for the collaboration with important units like “Life Course and Inequalities” (LINES) or the Institute for Social Sciences, as well as with the NCCR LIVES, which is hosted by this faculty. Among others, it states that there will be regular biannual meetings of the Dean and the FORS director, and that several collaborators of the faculty, including two professors and four senior assistants, will devote a share of their working time to scientific collaboration with FORS researchers. In 2015 two such meetings were held to discuss current affairs.

Collaborative scientific projects between FORS and faculty members were continued in 2015 (see section 2.3).

An important continuing collaboration is the Methods and Research Meetings, a joint seminar series of FORS and LINES, organized by Dr. Oliver Lipps (FORS), Prof. Caroline Roberts (ISS), Dr. Jacques-Antoine Gauthier (LINES), and Dr. Eva Green (LINES). The meetings constitute a monthly platform where members of these and other units of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences as well as guest speakers present their research. The talks cover substantive research raising interesting methodological questions (quantitative or qualitative), research focusing on methodological issues, or discussions on new methodological approaches. The meetings provide a possibility to discuss methodological problems related to one’s own research. The events are open to all interested in research methods (sociology, psychology, economics, political science, etc.). See the Appendix for a list of themes and presenters in 2015.

The invitational programme sponsored by the University of Lausanne funded two postdoctoral fellows, one family sociologist and one sociologist of health and well-being, who were involved in joint research activities with FORS and LINES.

3.2 National Partners

The series of joint methodological seminars with the SFSO started in 2013 (see Annual Report 2013, p. 34) was continued with a meeting on “Experiences with the application of mixed mode methodologies in surveys” on March 16. The well-attended seminar showed interesting similarities and differences between science-driven and statistical surveys. Such exchanges prove to be productive for both sides.

FORS director Prof. Peter Farago is a member of the executive board of vsms-asms, the association of survey and social research companies in Switzerland (www.vsms-asms.ch). Together with FORS Foundation Board member Marco Buscher of the SFSO, he represents the contracting parties. The board discusses matters arising in this sector of the economy. His participation in this board allows for more accurate and timely information on the practical concerns of survey business and survey companies in Switzerland.

In 2015 the third cohort of students started in the master programme “Public Opinion and Survey Methodology” (MEOP) of the universities of Lausanne, Lucerne, and Neuchâtel in partnership with FORS, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, and the vsms-asms. Two senior members of the FORS staff (Prof. Georg Lutz and Dr. Boris Wernli) teach in this programme. FORS offered two internship positions for master students in 2015.

FORS received an SNF-Agora grant together with the University of Zurich (main applicant Prof. Fabrizio Gilardi, Prof. Georg Lutz co-applicant) to establish a blog called “DeFacto” (www.defacto.expert). Its goal is to publish articles presenting results of Swiss political science research for the politically interested public. The blog is a response to the growing gap between the theoretical and methodological requirements of international scientific publications in the social sciences and the interest of a wider public. It publishes articles related to important and relevant political issues in Switzerland in order to make political science research more visible. It also bundles existing attempts by individual institutes or researchers to inform a non-scientific audience. Thanks to the participation of all Swiss university political science departments, there is a critical mass of contributions to feed new content into the blog on a regular basis. It is also an answer to the growing media demand for political science experts. The blog started on October 1, 2015. It is hosted by FORS. Prof. Georg Lutz is one of its editors.

In July 2015 the new bilingual online publication series “Social Change in Switzerland” was launched (www.socialchangeswitzerland.ch). The series is co-edited by FORS, the Life Course and Inequalities research unit of the University of Lausanne LINES, and the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES. The main editor is Prof. Daniel Oesch from LINES/LIVES. He is supported by an editorial board that, amongst members from LINES and LIVES, comprises the following FORS collaborators: Franziska Ehrler, Prof. Peter Farago, Prof. Dominique Joye, Monika Vettovaglia, and Dr. Boris Wernli. The aim of the series is to monitor change in employment, family, income, mobility, voting, or gender in Switzerland. Based on cutting edge empirical research, it targets a wider audience than just academic experts. The series documents the evolution of Switzerland’s social structure. In 2015 three contributions were published in German and French. Four to five more articles are to come in the first semester 2016. FORS designed the webpage and hosts it. For each contribution press releases are issued and sent to selected Swiss media. The online series also has a twitter account and allows interested people to subscribe to the journal.

3.3 International Commitments

3.3.1 Survey Methods – Insights from the Field

The peer-reviewed online journal “Survey methods – Insights from the Field” (SMIF), edited jointly by FORS and GESIS, continued to establish itself (surveyinsights.org).

In 2015 12 new papers were submitted to the journal. One paper was rejected before the reviewing process, as it was off topic. 11 papers went through the reviewing process, of which 6 were published; 3 were refused by the editorial board after having received unsatisfactory reviews. Based on the number of articles sent to the reviewers, the rejection rate of the journal currently stands at 30% (compared to 33% in 2014).

Apart from the single contributions mentioned above, the first special issue “Weighting: Practical Issues and ‘How To’ Approach” was published in February. The special issue editors were Jean Dumais from Statistics Canada and Stephanie Steinmetz from the University of Amsterdam. The special issue included 8 articles.

All in all, 14 papers were published in 2015, compared to 9 papers in 2014 and 11 in 2013. By the end of December, four were in the process of revision by the authors.

SMIF offers the possibility of subscribing to e-mail notifications whenever a new paper is published on the platform. The number of users increased again in the third year of its existence, from 343 users and subscribers in 2014 to 422 at the end of December 2015.

From January 1 to December 31, the website of the journal was visited 12’088 times (compared to 9’210 in 2014). This could partly be explained by the publication of the special issue which generally attracts more users. Most visits came again from the United States, 5’502 (compared to 3’875 in 2014), followed by Germany, 1’191 (1’298 in 2014), the United Kingdom, 871 (593 in 2014), and Switzerland, 416 (573 in 2014). The top three keywords that were searched for on the journal website were “non-response”, “survey”, and “capi”.

3.3.2 Other international commitments

In 2015, FORS continued its involvement in the development of European research infrastructures:

- FORS has been actively involved in the development of the three ESFRI Roadmap social science initiatives (CESSDA, ESS, SHARE) to acquire the legal status of European Research Infrastructure Consortia ERIC. The very first infrastructure having been awarded this status was SHARE in 2011, and ESS followed suit in 2013. With regard to CESSDA, an interim solution was adopted (CESSDA AS, a Norwegian NPO), since Norway could not host an ERIC for the time being because of legal restrictions. It is expected to develop CESSDA into an ERIC in the near future. Switzerland has the status of an observer in the ERICs. FORS was

designated by the SERI to represent Switzerland in the General Assemblies of ESS and CESSDA.

- Funded by the European Commission, the Horizon 2020 project SERISS brings together three research infrastructures in the social sciences: the European Social Survey (ESS), the Survey for Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA). The scientific objective of the project is to exploit the synergies among these three infrastructures to the fullest extent and to leverage these to improve methodologies, tools, and project administration for these and other cross-national surveys. Within SERISS, FORS serves as leader of work package 4 on tools development, as well as technical coordinator for the whole project. The kick-off meeting was held in London in September 2015. The project is funded for four years.
- The Horizon 2020 project CESSDA SaW aims to establish the conditions for, and initiate the movement towards, a seamless social science data archive service for the whole of the European Research Area. Comprised of over 20 partner institutions from across Europe, the two-year project will conduct activities towards strengthening existing data services, and bringing new data services into the fold. FORS is participating in two of the five work packages, and leading a task on developing national establishment plans for data services. The kick-off meeting was held in Bergen, Norway, in October 2015.
- Funded by the European Commission, the FOSTER-CESSDA training project is a series of hands-on multi-day doctoral training events for the social sciences in Research Data Management for Open Data. The project lasted one year, and fostered training collaboration between members of five European Data providers: GESIS, Danish Data Archive, Slovenian Social Science Data Archives, UK Data Archive, and FORS. The project resulted in five trainings, one of which was led by FORS at the University of Lausanne, in collaboration with GESIS. It consisted in a two-day training course for doctoral students at LIVES. Furthermore, one DARIS staff member presented a paper as part of a workshop entitled “Open Science – Open Data”, which took place in Odense (Denmark) in November 2015. The project resulted in new training materials that will be available for future use by CESSDA partners.
- The SEEDS project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, aims to widen the circle of European countries with national social science data archives. Helping to establish new data services in the countries of Albania, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, the two-year project will extend the capacities of partner institutions and develop knowledge and tools related to data service infrastructures. Led by FORS, and supported by the Slovenian national data service ADP, the project held its kick-off meeting in May 2015 in Lausanne, with 20 participants. During the first phase of the project, partners studied and reported on their countries’ research and legal landscapes through surveys and interviews, and began developing policies and procedures for their new data services, as well as establishment plans. A first training workshop was held in October in Belgrade, Serbia, again with over 20 participants.

- Completed in April of 2015, Data without Boundaries (DwB) was a 4-year European FP7 project with 27 consortium partners aiming to facilitate access to official statistics. In 2015, FORS contributed to the drafting of the deliverable on researcher and research project accreditation. That report made recommendations concerning possible future models and standards for transnational researcher authentication and access to public statistics.

Together with GESIS and partners in Russia, Belgium, United Kingdom, Austria, France, and Finland, FORS has won a European Project funded through an ERA Net RUS call. It is entitled “PAWCER – Public Attitudes to Welfare, Climate Change and Energy in the EU and Russia”. Its aim is a) to reintegrate Russia into the ESS, and b) to study cultural commonalities and differences between Europe and Russia regarding attitudes towards the welfare state and environmental issues. FORS plays an important role in research on comparability issues (pre- and post-field work), as well as on the welfare state. FORS senior researcher Dr. Michael Ochsner has contributed considerably to the scientific content of the proposal. In-house, Prof. Peter Farago, Dr. Michèle Ernst Stähli, and Dr. Michael Ochsner are responsible for the Swiss project. The project will start in February 2016 and lasts until July 2018.

FORS was host institution of a SCIEEX fellow in 2015. SCIEEX was a programme to stimulate exchange between researchers from Eastern Europe and Swiss universities, which came to an end in 2015. FORS received this fellowship for a project on “Youth political participation in comparative perspective” lead by Daniel Oross, doctoral fellow at Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary. He stayed with FORS from November 2014 until October 2015. This project builds, among others, on a previous FORS project on political participation of young adults in Switzerland (see <http://forscenter.ch/en/research-publications-projects-2/projects-2/chyoupart/results/>).

FORS was chosen as an academic mentor for the “Balkan Electoral Comparative Study” funded by the Regional Research Promotion Program (RRPP) for the period 2014-2016. The project conducted a candidate survey in four Balkan countries (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia), and it will also run a citizens survey. FORS researchers (Dr. Brian Kleiner, MA Nicolas Pekari, and Prof. Georg Lutz), together with colleagues from Finland (Prof. Asa von Schoultz), Greece (Prof. Ionnis Andreadis), and the USA (Prof. Josep Colomer) support the project team in the data collection and help with linking the project to international scholars and research networks worldwide. The mentoring team organized a site visit to Switzerland in autumn 2015. FORS will archive and distribute the data collected in this project through its data services DARIS.

In collaboration with Prof. Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel) FORS won a seed money grant in the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme in the Social Sciences. The project is entitled “Multidimensional Well-being: Conceptual, Methodological, and Analytical Perspectives”. Together with colleagues from the Institute for Social and Economic Change in Bengaluru/Bangalore there will be a series of meetings for joint work on scholarly publications on the topic. The kick-off meeting was held in Lausanne on November 5-6. On the FORS side, Prof. Peter Farago and the editor-in-chief of the Social Report, Franziska Ehrler, are participating (see section 2.5).

FORS was a member of the COST Action IS1004 “WEBDATANET – web-based data collection: methodological challenges, solutions, and implementations” (2011-2015). WEBDATANET’s aim was to promote web-based data usage by supplying web-based teaching and discussion platforms, disseminating findings, and organizing conferences, working groups, and research exchanges. It contributed to the theoretical foundation of web-based data collection and stimulated its integration into the research process. FORS senior researcher Dr. Michèle Ernst Stähli represented FORS in the Management Committee of the Action. The final conference of this COST Action was held in Salamanca, Spain, May 26-28, with Roberto Cavallo and Don A. Dillman as key speakers and over 90 presentations and posters. Dr. Michèle Ernst Stähli organized, together with Nejc Berzelak from the University of Ljubljana, a session about mode effects in web surveys, where results about mode effects on well-being measures from the FORS-LIVES mixed mode experiment were presented.

International scholarly collaboration was also promoted by attendance of FORS researchers at a number of conferences (see the complete list in the respective section in the publications list in the Appendix), or hosting international conferences and workshops at FORS (see the complete list in chapter 4, indicator 6.2).

FORS director Prof. Peter Farago serves as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of GESIS. In this function he was a member of the nomination committee for the new GESIS president to be appointed in 2016.

Furthermore, he was mandated by the Leibniz-Gemeinschaft to participate in the evaluation of the German Institute for Lifelong Learning in Bonn (Deutsches Institut für Erwachsenenbildung DIE).

4 Performance Indicators

The FORS internal performance monitoring system is based on a conceptual framework that links overall FORS **objectives** to key **activities**, and then to specific **indicators**. It can be used to assess progress toward institutional objectives over time. The two primary objectives are directly related to the FORS mandate:

- **Objective 1:** Support, enhance, and contribute to social science research in Switzerland
- **Objective 2:** Strengthen the social sciences in Switzerland by creating linkages and facilitating synergies between researchers and institutions within the country and internationally

The activities within the monitoring system represent the full range of FORS projects and services. The first five correspond to objective 1, while the sixth corresponds to the second objective. *Indicators* were selected based on their capacity to measure the extent to which FORS is carrying out its activities toward achieving its objectives over time. The summary table below shows all activities and indicators.

This chapter presents figures for the system's 14 indicators for 2015, as well as comparisons with those of previous years. Each indicator is provided with a brief description, results, and explanation where needed. The order and numbering refer to the summary table below.

Activity and Indicator Summary Table

N°	Indicator
	Activity 1: Produce and make available data
1.1	Number of datasets produced by FORS surveys that are distributed to researchers
1.2	Number of publications using datasets produced by FORS surveys
1.3	Number of teachers using FORS data for teaching purposes
	Activity 2: Prepare, document, and provide data
2.1	Number of datasets distributed to or downloaded by researchers (<i>Daris</i>)
2.2	Number of new research project descriptions in the research inventory (<i>Daris</i>)
	Activity 3: Advise researchers
3.1	Number of cases of help and advice provided to users or to others requesting information or expertise
	Activity 4: Acquire and conduct funded research projects
4.1	Total funding for third-party financed projects in progress

	Activity 5: Contribute actively to substantive and methodological scientific debate
5.1	Number of publications by FORS staff
5.2	Number of presentations by FORS staff
	Activity 6: Establish collaborative links and stimulate scientific exchange
6.1	Number of collaborative research projects and scientific activities with outside organisations and individuals
6.2	Workshops, seminars, and conferences organised and conducted by FORS
6.3	Number of hours devoted to teaching by FORS staff
6.4	Number of Lugano summer school course enrollments
6.5	Number of copies of the Social Report sold or distributed

Objective 1: Support, enhance, and contribute to social science research in Switzerland

Activity 1: Produce and make available data that can advance and deepen understanding of Swiss society

Indicators:

1.1 Number of datasets produced by FORS surveys that are distributed to researchers

This indicator assesses the extent to which the data from studies conducted by FORS are being used by researchers for secondary analysis.

A total of 1'131 FORS-produced datasets were distributed by FORS to researchers in Switzerland in 2015. The figures for the MOSAiCH-ISSP and SHP increased slightly, while those for SELECTS and ESS were somewhat less than for 2014.

Number of datasets produced by FORS distributed to researchers

Study Datasets	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
MOSAiCH-ISSP	179	162	280	396	295	119
Swiss Household Panel (SHP)	567	531	392	307	243	348
Swiss Electoral Studies (SELECTS)	394	431	278	374	177	174
European Social Survey (ESS)	30	52	52	63	63	306
Total	1'170	1'176	1'002	1'140	778	947

In addition to the distribution by FORS, the Swiss parts of the studies ESS and ISSP data can also be downloaded from the international websites of these projects. The data for the European Values Study (EVS) and the Survey of Health,

Aging, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), both conducted by FORS, are only available in this way. As information provided by the institutions responsible for these studies did not allow us to get a consistent picture of the use of Swiss data in the context of these studies, *international distribution is not included in the indicator*. It is however important to keep in mind that for this reason the indicator underestimates the use of the Swiss survey data produced at FORS.

1.2 Number of publications using datasets produced by FORS surveys

The impact of data from studies conducted by FORS on the scientific process is measured here by the number of publications making use of them. To qualify for this indicator, a publication using international survey data needed to include Switzerland in its analysis.

We were able to identify 251 publications in 2015 that made use of data from studies conducted by FORS, including the ESS, MOSAiCH/ISSP, SHP, SELECTS, and SHARE. As with 2014, two-thirds (67%) of these were articles in peer-reviewed journals. The remainder were working papers or reports (24%), books or book chapters (8%), and dissertations (2%). While most of the publications were substantive, 13% of all publications concentrated on methodological issues. The number of publications in 2015 varied according to the FORS data used: ESS: 79; SHARE: 51; ISSP/MOSAiCH: 47; SHP: 42; SELECTS: 32.

For figures concerning the period 2008-2014 see chapter 5 of this report.

1.3 Number of teachers using FORS data for teaching purposes

This indicator allows evaluation of the use of data from FORS surveys for education in the social sciences. It is limited to university instruction in Switzerland.

During 2015, at least 21 teachers/professors used FORS data for teaching purposes in seminars and courses. 16 teachers/professors used Nesstar datasets (directly downloadable), and 5 teachers/professors signed an agreement in order to distribute Swiss Household Panel data to registered students. These results are an increase compared to those from 2014, where 15 teachers/professors used FORS data for teaching. The classes/seminars took place at the universities of Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, St. Gallen, Svizzera Italiana, Zurich, and the FHNW School of Social Work.

Activity 2: Prepare, document, and provide data, such as are needed to conduct studies and secondary analysis in the social sciences

Indicators:

2.1 Number of datasets distributed to or downloaded by researchers (*Daris*)

This indicator assesses the intensity of use of secondary data acquired by way of the FORS data service. The measure is a composite of datasets distributed either by FTP, by the Nesstar server, or by way of dedicated webpages (e.g., for the studies PISA, SELECTS, and Vox-it).

In 2015, **1'955** datasets held within the FORS data service were either downloaded or distributed by FTP. This marks a sort of stabilization, with continuing overall fluctuations from year to year, beginning in 2011. The Vox, Vox-it, and Vox-cumulative datasets were somewhat less popular in 2015 than in 2014, explaining the decrease from 2014. The data users were almost exclusively researchers and students affiliated with a university or university of applied science, and the vast majority were from within Switzerland. At the international level, the datasets were acquired principally from Germany and the United States, but also from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Greece, Ireland, Belgium, Turkey, Canada, France, Portugal, Spain, Hungary, Brazil, Austria, Israel, and Italy.

Downloads and ordered datasets: 2008 to 2015

Dataset count	Year							
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Vox, Vox-it, Vox-cumulative	696	1068	600	812	857	597	339	252
Eurobarometer/MOSAiCH/ESS	209	244	352	479	473	535	140	101
SELECTS	394	431	278	374	177	174	159	204
Other studies ordered from the data service	632	632	763	531	394	147	158	71
Total	1'955	2'375	1'993	2'196	1'901	1'453	796	628

2.2 Number of new research project descriptions in the research inventory (*Daris*)

This indicator assesses our success in tracking social science research projects in Switzerland and capturing their descriptions. This measure may fluctuate over time, due to occasional influxes of project descriptions from the databases of partner institutions with which FORS is developing new data exchange agreements.

During the annual survey 2014/2015, **376** new project descriptions were added to the research inventory, compared to 397 during 2013/14. Most of these new research projects are situated in five core disciplines (sociology, education science, political science, economics, and psychology). All in all, the research inventory comprises 10'349 published project descriptions.

Activity 3: Advise researchers and other interested parties on the collection and use of data and other methodological issues

Indicator:

3.1 Number of cases of help and advice provided to users or to others requesting information or expertise

FORS regularly provides consultation, information, and advice in response to calls and contacts from researchers and other external parties seeking help or expertise. This indicator measures the overall level of this activity (which has been documented throughout the year using an online software), and provides details according to caller characteristics.

During 2015, FORS staff members documented 291 cases of providing help or advice to individuals contacting us from the outside, compared to 373 cases in 2014, 376 in 2013, 574 in 2012, and 348 in 2011. In 2015, there were 16 FORS collaborators who provided at least one documented case of help or advice (compared to 19 in 2014, 22 in 2013 and 21 in 2012), with an average of 18 calls per person. The calls were fairly evenly distributed across the staff, although one person documented over 119 cases.

As shown in the table, those contacting us fell into different categories, such as students (21%), doctoral students (20%), research faculty (15%), and teaching faculty (15%). As in previous years, most of the people contacting us for advice were from universities (73%), and most contacted us from within Switzerland (90%).

The time devoted to calls by FORS staff varied, with most cases requiring less than a half hour (52%), with 24% of the cases taking more than an hour to address. There were different purposes for the contacts, including interest in accessing data (28%), data analysis (24%), documentation (13%), getting advice on survey design and implementation (11%), and getting subject expertise (11%).

FORS consultations, by caller and call features								
	2015		2014		2013		2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	291	100	376	100	574	100	348	100
Type of caller								
PhD student	59	20	47	13	61	16	58	10
Faculty (re-research)	45	15	62	17	68	18	97	17
Student	61	21	90	24	68	18	82	14
Faculty (teaching)	45	15	102	27	80	21	118	21
Other researcher	20	7	21	6	24	6	34	6
Other types (e.g., administrator, journalist, post doc)	61	22	51	14	75	20	185	32
Institutional type								
University	211	73	283	76	263	70	335	58
Public administration	12	4	11	3	20	5	49	9
Private	7	2	7	2	23	6	66	11
Haute école	15	5	21	6	27	7	35	6
Research institute	21	7	23	6	9	2	11	2
Other	25	9	28	8	34	9	78	14
Region								
French-speaking Switzerland	179	62	219	59	164	44	290	51
German-speaking Switzerland	72	25	106	28	133	35	208	36
Italian speaking Switzerland	10	3	4	1	5	1	9	2
Other Country	30	10	44	12	74	20	67	12
Time devoted								
<15 minutes	72	25	115	31	91	24	118	21
15-30 minutes	80	27	93	25	138	37	201	35
30 min - 1 hour	69	24	91	24	77	20	105	18
More than 1 hour	70	24	74	20	70	19	150	26
Purpose								
Data access	81	28	136	36	106	28	147	26
Data analysis	70	24	67	18	66	18	85	15
Survey design and implementation	32	11	55	15	41	11	54	9
Documentation	37	13	39	10	50	13	39	7
Subject expertise	32	11	22	6	53	14	134	23
Methodology	12	4	10	3	14	4	26	5
Other purposes	27	9	44	12	46	12	89	16

Activity 4: Acquire and conduct funded research projects

Indicator:

4.1 Total funding for third-party financed projects in progress

All externally mandated and funded projects are counted in this indicator. However, FORS ongoing infrastructure projects are excluded (i.e., ESS, EVS MOSAiCH, SELECTS, SHP, the Social Report, and LIS). The sums reported might fluctuate over time depending on duration and funding schemes of individual projects.

In 2015, there was a total of 527'476 CHF in funding for third-party financed projects (compared with 200'511 CHF in 2014). This huge difference is mainly due to the participation of FORS in a series of EU-funded infrastructure projects (see section 3.3.2). Additionally, there was a significant number of new or continued mandates, for example those given by swissuniversities, by the city of Zurich, or by the NGO Pro Infirmis (see section 2.7). We hesitate to derive a trend from these figures since there will always be some fluctuation in third-party funded projects, and so the figures might again look very different next year.

Activity 5: Contribute actively to substantive and methodological scientific debate

Indicators:

5.1 Number of publications by FORS staff

Publications are a reflection of active and successful participation in international scientific debate.

In 2015, FORS staff members had a total of 22 publications, including 11 articles in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Revue Suisse de Sociologie*, *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, *Survey Research Methods*, and *Social Indicators Research*, among others. Out of these publications, six treated methodological issues in survey research, with three of these in peer-reviewed journals.

Type of publication	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Peer-reviewed articles	11	17	11	14	14	22
Working papers	8	3	10	8	13	11
Book sections	3	7	9	12	10	5
Edited books/journals	0	4	3	6	0	4
Total	22	31	33	40	37	42

5.2 Number of presentations by FORS staff

This serves as an indication of active commitments to diffuse findings and engage colleagues in scholarly discussion.

The results of research projects conducted at FORS were the subject of 56 presentations at national and international scientific conferences and workshops, such as the Conference of the European Sociological Association in Prague, the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting in Orlando, and the European Social Survey Conference in Limerick. 27 (47%) of the presentations at scientific conferences and workshops were focused on methodological issues. See the Appendix for a complete list of presentations by FORS staff.

Type of presentation	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Scientific conferences	58	43	55	41	41	46
Other presentations	26	32	28	27	17	13
Total	84	75	33	40	37	42

Objective 2: Strengthen the social sciences in Switzerland by creating linkages and facilitating synergies between researchers and institutions within the country and internationally

Activity 6: Establish collaborative links and stimulate debate and scientific exchange with and between researchers and institutions that pursue similar objectives, both within Switzerland and abroad.

Indicators:

6.1 Number of collaborative research projects and scientific activities with outside organisations and individuals

Developing and maintaining linkages and synergies between FORS staff and the outside research community is a key activity for FORS. This indicator addresses collaborative links with researchers in Switzerland and abroad.

In 2015, 22 FORS staff members were involved in 67 collaborative projects with outside organizations. Thus, around 70% of eligible FORS staff were involved in research activities.

About 6 out of 10 (61%, compared to 67% in 2014) of these collaborative projects were with individuals from the French-speaking part of Switzerland, 19% (compared to 14%) with colleagues from the German-speaking part of Switzerland, and 37% (38% in 2014) with foreign institutions (some projects involved several institutions from different regions).

This concentration is due in particular to the close ties of some collaborators with other institutions in Lausanne and Geneva (in particular LINES/LIVES). However, we note a constant increase of the share of collaborations with the German-speaking part of Switzerland, starting from 8% in 2011 and reaching almost 20% in 2015. Compared to the previous years, our international collaborations are also more diversified, including a broader range of foreign countries (13, compared to 9 for instance in 2013).

Region / Country Collaborations (some projects involve several countries)

	n
French-speaking part of Switzerland	41
German-speaking part of Switzerland	13
Belgium	5
Germany	4
The Netherlands	4
North America	4
Italy	3
France	2
Australia	1
China	1
Denmark	1
Hungary	1
New Zealand	1
Taiwan	1
Turkey	1
Total	83

6.2 Workshops, seminars, and conferences organised and conducted by FORS

The indicator gives a sense of FORS efforts in establishing, maintaining, and developing scientific networks nationally and internationally.

FORS organised and conducted six different conferences, workshops, and seminars in 2015. In addition, the FORS/LINES research and methods series and the FORS lunch seminars hosted a wide range of speakers, both domestic and international (see Appendix for details).

Events 2015	Month
8th International Conference of Panel Data Users	June
Open Research Data Hackdays	June
Panel data management workshop at ONDH (Rabat, Morocco)	July
Swiss Methods Festival for Qualitative Research	September
Panel weighting issues at ONDH (Rabat, Morocco)	October
Workshop on the Luxembourg Income Study	November
FORS/LINES research and methods seminar series	Continuous
FORS lunch seminars	Continuous

6.3 Number of hours devoted to teaching by FORS staff

Sharing knowledge and shaping future researchers through teaching is an important task of FORS.

In total, 7 FORS staff members taught in 2015. They gave 258 teaching hours in 10 different courses at all academic levels (bachelor, master, and PhD), as well as in the context of continuing education (see list in Appendix). The topics covered concerned predominantly data analysis and data management, but also survey methodology. More than half (59%) of the teaching hours were provided in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, about one-tenth (9%) in the German-speaking part, and 32% were given abroad, mostly during two four-day workshops organized in Rabat (Morocco) as part of our collaboration with the ONDH (Observatoire National du Développement Humain), in charge of the ONDH household panel.

Thus, about 25% of eligible FORS staff were involved in teaching activities. FORS will continue to make a contribution to the training of young scientists according to its possibilities and resources.

6.4 Number of Lugano summer school course enrolments

The Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences held in Lugano every year brings together young researchers to focus on current issues in empirical research methodology. This indicator measures the level of participation in this event.

The 2015 FORS summer school in Lugano had 128 course enrolments, compared to 144 in 2014, 118 in 2013, 138 in 2012, and 145 in 2011. 13% of the 114 participants attended two courses. 82% came from Switzerland, with the remaining 18% from Belgium, Austria, Liechtenstein, France, Croatia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, and South Korea. 71% of the participants were PhD students from universities or universities of applied sciences. Participants were working or studying primarily in the fields of Communication Sciences (18%), Business Studies (16%), Sociology (15%), Education (15%), Psychology (12%), and Political Science (9%).

6.5 Number of copies of the Social Report sold or distributed

This indicator reports the number of copies of the Social Report sold or distributed as a measure of our effectiveness in disseminating important results on Swiss society. The number is separated into copies sold and distributed, and by language.

The Social Report is published every four years. The latest report, the Social Report 2012, was released in late 2012, and 890 copies have been delivered so far. The total number of copies sold and distributed since the publication of the Social Report 2012 is provided in the table below. Of the 890 copies that were delivered, 561 (63%) were sold.

Language	Sold	Distributed	Total delivered
German	351	154	505
French	163	149	312
English	47*	26**	73
Total	561	336	890

*This number is lower than in 2014 because of two books which were returned in 2015.

**With regard to the English version of the report, 200 copies have been received in return for the FORS contribution to printing costs. Additionally, 26 have been distributed so far.

5 The Use of FORS Data in International Scholarly Publications, 2008-2014

5.1 Purpose and Method

The ultimate goal of every scientific data collection is its use for research and publications. The data collected by FORS are no exception. Figures on publications with FORS data are crucial for the evaluation of the scientific impact of our activities.

This is undisputed. However, measuring publication activities is tricky. First of all, the form of publications to be taken into account has to be defined: peer-reviewed journals of course, but a limitation to these seems to be too restrictive. Working papers or doctoral dissertations should be counted as well. Second, there is no encompassing central database of publications. Some projects like ESS or SHARE have their own databases, but these are not complete; neither are sources like Google Scholar or the Web of Science. This is one of the reasons why statistics usually underestimate publication activities; this applies to the figures presented in this chapter, too. Finally, the time frame is important as well: too short a period can be misleading because of the relatively slow pace of publication due to peer-reviewing procedures; on the other hand, an extensive time period makes the data less meaningful.

For this overview of publication activities with FORS data we decided to concentrate on the most important and most demanded data collected by FORS: the European Social Survey ESS, the International Social Survey Programme ISSP, the Survey on Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe SHARE, the Swiss Election Studies SELECTS, and the Swiss Household Panel SHP. The time frame is from the establishment of FORS in 2008 until the end of 2014. As it turned out while researching the databases, 2015 was considerably less complete than the preceding years, so it will be included in a future update. It is foreseen to update these statistics regularly.

We searched project-specific databases, scientific journals, as well as important general databases such as Google Scholar or the Web of Science. We decided to include not only articles published in scientific journals (peer-reviewed or not), but also books, book chapters, reports, conference papers,³ and dissertations.

Moreover, to be included in our statistics, the publications had to meet two additional requirements:

- Swiss data should have been used. This is obvious for analyses using the SHP and SELECTS, but we strictly followed this criterion for the international surveys as well.
- Data produced by FORS had to be used for empirical analyses or, in case of review papers, FORS data should be mentioned with a primary role.

³ We define as “conference papers” studies presented at conferences or published online (for example works that are published on the websites of universities).

In addition, although the majority of the publications are in English, we included also other languages (for example German, French, Italian, Spanish).

For each publication, the following information was collected: title, year of publication, keywords, kind of publication, DOI (or other identification code), and country/ies considered. Furthermore, the name and the institutional affiliation of the author(s) are recorded.

The main topics of each publication were analysed as well. The assignment of a publication to a topic followed a specific strategy: First, a list including all the main topics was created. Then, the title, the keywords (if present) and the abstract of each publication were assigned to these categories. If the publication had more than one main topic, it was assigned to several categories.

This study was accomplished by Dr. Sara Zella and Dr. Ivett Szalma, postdoctoral fellows at FORS. The authors acknowledge the support for the collection of the information by several colleagues at FORS.⁴

We first report some overall results and subsequently turn to the results on publications with SHP data.

5.2 Overall Results

All in all, we could identify 1'807 publications based on or using the selected datasets produced by FORS (see table 5.1). They are quite evenly distributed over the years, with an average of ca. 250 publications per year. As one could expect the international surveys are more often used for publications worldwide, specifically the ESS and SHARE. The comparatively low output with SELECTS data is due to the explicitly national character of the dataset and the fact that it is produced every four years only.

Table 5.1: Publications using Swiss data of selected FORS surveys, 2008-2014

	Years							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
ESS	66	72	97	63	73	68	57	496
ISSP	38	52	37	50	66	50	34	327
SHARE	60	47	71	76	59	75	67	455
SELECTS	25	13	37	14	26	48	57	220
SHP	27	44	56	37	50	41	54	309
Total	216	228	298	240	274	282	269	1807

Source: Own calculations

With regard to the use of different publication channels we see that the vast majority of publications is in journals (60%, see table 5.2). However, there are differences between

⁴ An extended version with more detailed results on all selected surveys will be published as a FORS Working Paper in 2016.

the surveys, with ISSP leading with a share of 72% whereas the SHP data are used less frequently for journal publications (46%) but more often for working papers or reports (33%) and for dissertations (see section 5.3).

Table 5.2: Channels used for publications with Swiss data of selected FORS surveys, 2008-2014

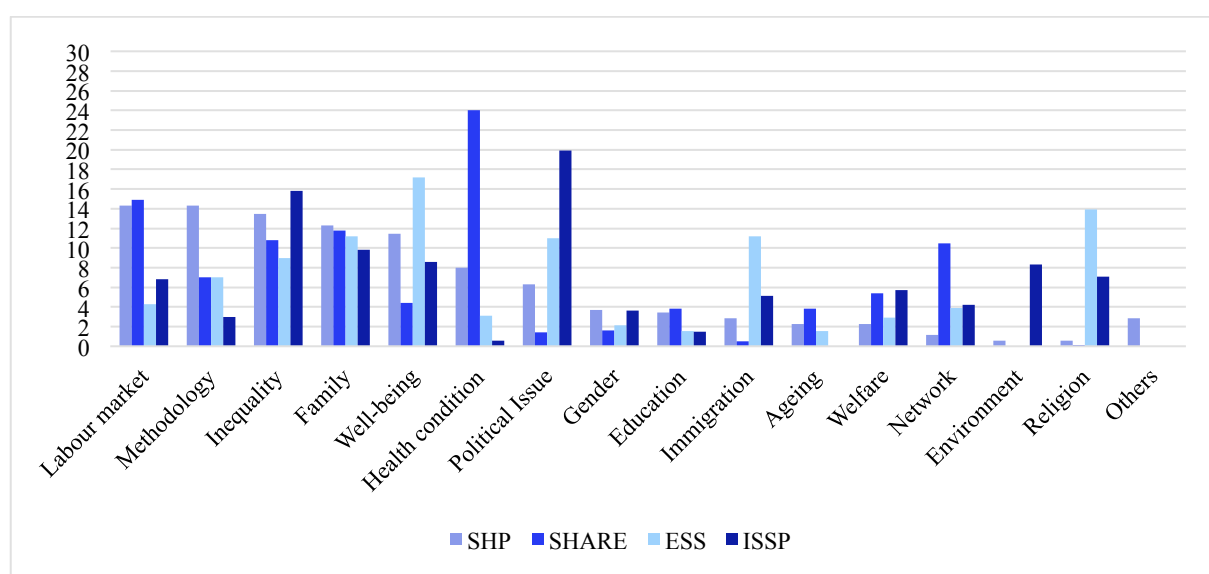
	Journal article	Working paper/ Report	Book/ Chapter	Thesis	Total	Total (%)
ESS	327	50	102	17	496	28%
ISSP	235	41	35	16	327	18%
SHARE	239	137	69	10	455	25%
SELECTS	140	41	39	0	220	12%
SHP	142	101	31	35	309	17%
Total	1083	370	276	78	1807	-
<i>Total (%)</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>4%</i>	-	<i>100%</i>

Source: Own calculations

For the analysis of the main topics of the publications we excluded SELECTS because of its mono-thematic character: All publications with SELECTS data are about political issues. Inclusion of these publications would strongly bias the results.

The wide topical range reflects the multi-thematic character of these surveys (see figure 5.1). This goes for SHARE as well, although it has for obvious reasons a strong focus on health topics. The most frequent topics represent the classic fields of empirical social research: inequality, family, well-being, labour market, and methodology. The frequent use of the ISSP for political analyses is due to the module on the role of government, which was repeated several times in the past.

Figure 5.1: Main topics of publications by surveys, 2008-2014



Source: Own calculations, based on 1587 publications (SELECTS excluded)

5.3 The Use of SHP Data for Publications

The SHP is the largest and most prominent survey done regularly by FORS. Its uninterrupted yearly data collection goes back as far as 1999, which makes it one of the oldest household surveys of its kind worldwide still in operation.⁵

We could identify 309 publications using SHP data in the period 2008-2014 (see table 5.3). The distribution of publications in the different publication channels is quite stable over time, journal articles being the most frequent followed by working papers/reports. As compared to the other surveys, however, the latter have a relatively high share (see section 5.2). This might be seen as an indication that there is still a potential for more journal publications. The fact that the number of dissertations using SHP data was growing in the last years could be an encouraging sign in this direction since these academic qualification works usually get published in scholarly media.

Table 5.3: Channels used for publications with SHP data, 2008-2014

Year	Journal article	Working paper/ Report	Book/ Chapter	Thesis	Total	N
2008	37%	30%	22%	11%	100%	27
2009	41%	25%	23%	11%	100%	44
2010	55%	29%	4%	12%	100%	56
2011	43%	35%	16%	6%	100%	37
2012	54%	44%	2%	0%	100%	50
2013	44%	29%	10%	17%	100%	41
2014	41%	35%	4%	20%	100%	54
Total	46%	33%	10%	11%	100%	309

Sources: Own calculation; based on 309 publications

Studies like the SHP make sense scientifically only if they are used for longitudinal analyses. The strength of a panel is its ability to record developments on the individual micro-level and to make them accessible for analysis. And indeed, two-thirds of the publications using SHP data in the time period considered included two or more survey waves; this share was relatively stable over the years (see table 5.4). In this perspective the SHP serves its purpose perfectly.

Another important aspect of data usage are international comparisons. Albeit being a national survey, the SHP invests considerably to make the data comparable with similar surveys. This is done by an ex-post harmonization following the guidelines and rules of the Cross-national Equivalent File CNEF (see section 2.1.1 and <http://forscenter.ch/en/our-surveys/swiss-household-panel/datasupport/cnef-2/>). As a consequence, two-thirds of the papers with a comparative approach include more than two countries.

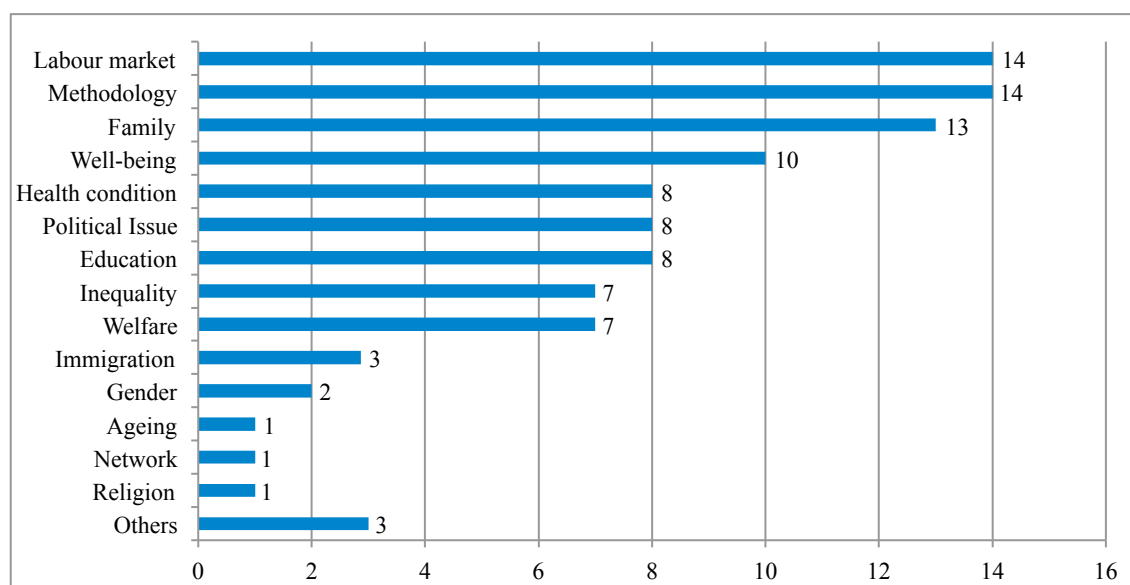
⁵ Only the US-based PSID (since 1968) and the German SOEP (since 1984) have a longer continuous backlog. The UK household panel (BHPS, since 1991) was incorporated into the longitudinal survey „Understanding Society“ in 2010 and has therefore undergone major changes.

Table 5.4: Publications using SHP data for longitudinal analyses, 2008-2014

Year of Publication	One wave	Several waves	Total	N
2008	33%	67%	100%	27
2009	47%	53%	100%	44
2010	23%	77%	100%	56
2011	26%	74%	100%	37
2012	29%	71%	100%	50
2013	34%	66%	100%	41
2014	28%	72%	100%	54
Total	31%	69%	100%	309

Sources: Own calculation; based on 309 publications

When it comes to topics covered by publications with SHP data, the classical panel themes prevail: labour market, family, well-being, and methodology (see figure 5.2). However, there is a surprisingly wide range of other topics. This is a result of the design of the SHP as a multi-thematic survey. The benefit of such a design is the usability of the data in different substantive contexts. Our study on publications with SHP data shows that scholars actually make use of this advantage.

Figure 5.2: Main topics covered by publications using SHP data (in %).

Sources: Own calculation; based on 309 publications (a publication might include more than one topic)

Appendix: Facts and Figures

Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

- Heers**, Marieke, Joris Ghysels, Wim Groot, and Henriette Maassen van den Brink. 2015. "Differentiated Effects of Community Schooling on Cognitive and Social-Emotional Learning Outcomes." *School Effectiveness and School Improvement* 26 (3): 354–81, doi:10.1080/09243453.2014.975138.
- Kleiner**, Brian, Oliver **Lipps**, and Eliane **Ferrez**. 2015. "Language Ability and Motivation Among Foreigners in Survey Responding." *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology* 3 (3): 339–60, doi:10.1093/jssam/smv015.
- Lipps**, Oliver, Nicolas **Pekari**, and Caroline Roberts. 2015. "Undercoverage and Non-response in a List-Sampled Telephone Election Survey." *Survey Research Methods* 9 (2): 71–82.
- Ochsner**, Michael, Tobias Wolbring, and Sven E. Hug. 2015. "Quality Criteria for Sociology: What Sociologists Can Learn from the Project 'Developing and Testing Research Quality Criteria in the Humanities'." *Sociologia e Politiche Sociali* 18 (2): 90–110, doi:10.3280/SP2015-002005.
- Ryser**, Valérie-Anne, and Jean-Marie Le Goff. 2015. "Family Attitudes and Gender Opinions of Cohabiting and Married Mothers in Switzerland?" *Family Science*, 6(1), 370-379, doi:10.1080/19424620.2015.1102155.
- Selb, Peter and Georg **Lutz**. 2015. "Lone Fighters: Intraparty Competition, Interparty Competition, and Candidates' Vote Seeking Efforts in Open-Ballot PR Election." *Electoral Studies* 39: 329-337.
- Szalma**, Ivett, and Judit Takács. 2015. "Who Remains Childless? Unrealized Fertility Plans in Hungary." *Czech Sociological Review* 51 (6).
- Vandenplas, Caroline, Dominique **Joye**, Michèle **Ernst Stähli**, and Alexandre **Pollien**. 2015. "Identifying Pertinent Variables for Nonresponse Follow-Up Surveys: Lessons Learned from 4 Cases in Switzerland." *Survey Research Methods* 9 (3): 141–58.
- Voorpostel**, Marieke, and Hilde Coffé. 2015. "The Effect of Parental Separation on Young Adults' Political and Civic Participation." *Social Indicators Research* 124 (1): 295–316.
- Wernli**, Boris, and Caroline Henchoz. 2015a. "Les conséquences financières du départ du foyer parental. Une analyse longitudinale des données du Panel suisse de ménages." *Revue Suisse de Sociologie* 41 (2): 311–28.
- Wernli**, Boris, Valérie-Anne **Ryser**, and Carmen **Borrat-Besson**. 2015. "Bien-être subjectif: L'impact du départ à la retraite en Suisse." *Revue Suisse de Sociologie* 41 (3): 377–99.

Book Sections

- Monica Budowski, Maurizia Masia, Robin **Tillmann**. 2015. Switzerland. In: Grzegorz Libor, Dorota Nowalska Kapuscik, Poor Europe. The Problem of Poverty in Chosen European Countries, Editor: Wydawnictwo US, Place: Katowice, Year: 2015
- Lipps**, Oliver. 2015. Regression. In *Methoden-Lexikon für die Sozialwissenschaften*. Springer.
- Stam**, Alexandra. 2015. Migration-Related Vulnerability: The Example of Domestic Violence among Marriage Migrants in the Swiss Context. In *Marriage Migration and Multicultural Relationships*, Heikkilä and Rauhut, 159–77. Turku, Finland: Institute of Migration.

Working Papers / Reports

- Joye**, Dominique, and Marlène **Sapin**. 2015. “International Social Survey Programme: Study Monitoring Report on National Identity III.” July.
- Joye**, Dominique, Marlène **Sapin**, et al. 2015. “ISSP 2017 on Social Network and Social Resources: Reasoning Report on the Pretest Questionnaire in 2015.” September.
- Joye**, Dominique, Marlène **Sapin**, et al. “ISSP 2017 on Social Network and Social Resources: Conceptual Overview and Main Topics.” March.
- Kuhn**, Ursina, and Eric Crettaz. 2015. “Wealth Information in the Swiss Household-Panel: Imputation and Descriptive Statistics.” SHP Working Paper 1_15.
- Miettinen, Anneli, Anna Rotkirch, Ivett **Szalma**, Annalisa Donno, and Maria-Letizia Tanturri. 2015. “Increasing Childlessness in Europe: Time Trends and Country Differences.” Working Paper, Families & Societies 33/2015.
- Ochsner**, Michael. 2015. Systematische Methodenevaluation im Rahmen der Bevölkerungsbefragung der Stadt Zürich. Analyse und Empfehlungen. Report im Auftrag der Stadtentwicklung Zürich.” Lausanne, Switzerland: FORS.
- Struffolino, Emanuela, Laura Bernardi, and Marieke **Voorpostel**. 2015. “Self-Reported Health among Lone Mothers: Do Employment and Education Matter?” LIVES Working Paper 2015/44.
- Weaver, France, Judite Gonçalves, and Valérie-Anne **Ryser**. 2015. “Socioeconomic inequalities in subjective well-being among the 50+: contributions of income and health.” Geneva School of Economics & Management Working Paper Series 15-01-01.

Doctoral thesis

- van den Hende**, Anthe. 2015. Settling and Dwelling in the Swiss Peri-Urban Areas: Residential Trajectories and Life Course Events. Doctoral Thesis. University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Presentations

Scientific conferences

- Antal**, Erika. 2015. "The weighting scheme of the Swiss Household Panel". Paper presented at the 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 2.
- Büchi, Andrea, Matthias Winzer, and Michael **Ochsner**. 2015. "Bevölkerungsbefragung Stadt Zürich: Mode-Experiment im Spannungsfeld von Erreichbarkeit und Kontinuität." Paper presented at the Swiss Statistics Meeting, Berne, Switzerland, August 26.
- Ernst Stähli**, Michèle, and Nejc Berzelac. 2015. "Evaluation of Web Mode in Different Mixed-Mode Survey Designs." Session organisation and paper presented at the Webdatanet General Conference 2015, Salamanca, Spain, May 27.
- Ernst Stähli**, Michèle, Oliver **Lipps**, and Caroline Vandenplas. 2015. "Comparing Concept Measurements across Contexts: The Relative Relevance of Wording and Translations." Paper presented at the CSDI workshop, London, United Kingdom, March 26.
- Ernst Stähli**, Michèle, and Caroline Roberts. 2015. "Practical Solutions for Mixed Mode Survey Users and Producers." Session organisation and paper presented at the Sixth Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Reykjavik, Iceland, July 17.
- Ernst Stähli**, Michèle, Caroline Roberts, Rosa Sanchez Tome, and Dominique **Joye**. 2015. "Comparing Estimates across Survey Designs – Are Mode Effects the Greatest Cause for Concern?" Paper presented at the Sixth Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Reykjavik, Iceland, July 17.
- Hug, Sven E., and Michael **Ochsner**. 2015. "Validation Strategies in the Field of Research Evaluation: Traditions and New Directions." Paper presented at the 20th Nordic Workshop on Bibliometrics and Research Policy, Oslo, October 2.
- Joye**, Dominique, Marlène **Sapin**, and Alexandre **Pollien**. 2015. "Non Response and Social Networks: Substantial Consequences of Survey Design." Paper presented at the International Workshop on Household Survey Nonresponse, Leuven, Belgium, September 2-4.
- Joye**, Dominique, Marlène **Sapin**, and Christof Wolf. 2015. "The Cross-Cultural (and Mode-Independent) Measurement of Social Networks and Social Resources in Population Surveys." Paper presented at the 6th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Reykjavik, Iceland, July 16.
- Joye**, Dominique, Marlène **Sapin**, and Christof Wolf. 2015. "Comparative Study of Social Networks and Social Resources." Paper presented at the 110th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, USA, August 20.

- Kulic, Nevena, Kulic Minello, and Sara **Zella**. 2015. "Accumulation of (dis)advantage within Households? The Role of Money Management Practices in Financial Well-Being of Swiss Couples". Paper presented at the European Consortium for Sociological Research ECSR Conference, Tallinn, Estonia, September 10.
- Lebert**, Florence. 2015. "Further Training: A Means of Reducing Perceived Job Insecurity?" Paper presented at the 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 2.
- Lebert**, Florence. 2015. "Den Arbeitgeber wechseln: Eine erfolgreiche Strategie, um die wahrgenommene Arbeitsplatzunsicherheit zu reduzieren?" Paper presented at the SGS-Kongress 2015: Kollektive Dynamiken, soziale (De-)Regulierung und Öffentlichkeit, Lausanne, Switzerland, April 6.
- Lebert**, Florence. 2015. "Coping with Job Insecurity through Training?" Paper presented at the PROWEL The rich, the poor and the precarious? International perspectives, Twann, Switzerland, July 3.
- Lipps**, Oliver. 2015. "Modeling Cooperation in an Address-Register-Based Telephone/face-to-Face Survey." Paper presented at the 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 2.
- Lipps**, Oliver. 2015. "Repräsentativität bei Telefon (Hauptmodus) und Face-to-Face (falls kein Telefon) Befragungen - Wer hat Telefon, Wer ist erreichbar, und wer kooperiert im SHP 2013 Auffrischungssample?" Paper presented at the FORS – BFS Mixed mode Workshop, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, March 16.
- Lipps**, Oliver. 2015. "Non-Observation Bias in an Address-Register-Based CATI/CAPI Mixed Mode Survey." Paper presented at the 6th ESRA conference, Reykjavik, Iceland, July 13.
- Lipps**, Oliver. 2015. "Methodological Challenges of Panel Surveys Now and in Ten Years – a Swiss Perspective." Paper presented at the Longitudinal Survey Research: Methodological Challenges, Warsaw, Poland, December 15.
- Lutz**, Georg. 2015. "The New 2015 Online Panel/RCS in the Framework of SELECTS: Design and Fieldwork." Paper presented at the Wahlstudientreffen, Vienna, Austria, November 26.
- Lutz**, Georg and Thomas de Rocchi. 2015. "What drives party evaluation? The influence of campaign performance and published poll results." Paper presented at the conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, USA, April 16.
- Monsch**, Gian-Andrea. 2015. "Being or Becoming an Activist? Assessing the Link Between Worldviews, Social Networks and Protest Intention." Paper presented at the Alternative Futures and Popular Protest, Manchester, England, March 31.
- Monsch**, Gian-Andrea. 2015. "Being or Becoming an Activist? Worldviews, Protest Intention and Participation." Paper presented at 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 2.

- Murinko, Livia, and Ivett **Szalma**. 2015. "Fatherhood and Changes in Men's Second Union Formation in Norway, France and Hungary." Paper presented at the Population Association of America 2015 Annual Meeting, San Diego, USA, May 30.
- Ochsner**, Michael. 2015. "Pretesting. Theorie und Praxis." Paper presented at the Pre-testing-Methoden-Workshop am Fakultätszentrum für Methoden der Sozialwissenschaften der Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria, September 21.
- Ochsner**, Michael. 2015. "Running with the Devil: On the Use and the Misuse of Bibliometrics and How Social Science Research Can Profit from Bibliometrics." Paper presented at the Research Methods Seminar, Lausanne, Switzerland, November 3.
- Ochsner**, Michael, Michèle **Ernst Stähli**, Karin **Nisple**, Alexandre **Pollien**, and Marlène **Sapin**. 2015. "Cross-Cultural Transferability of Concepts: Issues, Problems, Strategies." Paper presented at the 6th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Reykjavik, Iceland, July 17.
- Oross**, Daniel. 2015. "Reasons behind changes in youth participation in European societies: the power of institutions or the power of new generations?" Paper presented at the 43rd ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops, University of Warsaw, Poland, March 29 – April 2.
- Oross**, Daniel. 2015. "Local participatory initiatives and political participation of young people." Paper presented at the ECPR General Conference, Montréal, Canada, August 26-29.
- Pekari**, Nicolas. 2015. "Determinants of Recruitment and Retention Rates in the SELECTS 2015 Rolling Cross-Section Online Panel Survey." Paper presented at the Wahlstudientreffen, Vienna, Austria, November 26.
- Roberts, Caroline, and Michèle **Ernst Stähli**. 2015. "Current Challenges and Open Questions in the Field of Mixed Mode Survey Methodology." Paper presented at the Sixth Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Reykjavik, Iceland, July 17.
- Roberts, Caroline, Michèle **Ernst Stähli**, Dominique **Joye**, and Rosa Sanchez Tome. 2015. "Combining Web and Mail Sequentially – Error and Cost Advantages in the Swiss Context." Paper presented at the Sixth Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Reykjavik, Iceland, July 16.
- Roberts, Caroline, Caroline Vandenplas, Rosa Sanchez Tome, Michèle **Ernst Stähli**, Dominique Joye, and Nick Allum. 2015. "Estimating Components of Mean-Squared Error as a Means to Evaluate Mixed Mode Solutions to Noncoverage Error in Telephone Surveys." Paper presented at the TSE15 (2015 International Total Survey Error Conference), Baltimore, USA, September 22.
- Rotkirch, Anna, Anneli Miettinen, Ivett **Szalma**, and Maria-Letizia Tanturri. 2015. "Childlessness, Gender and Social Inequality: European Developments." Paper presented at the ESA 2015 12th Conference of the European Sociological Association, Prague, Czech Republic, August 25.

- Roeters, Anne, Jornt Mandemakers, and Marieke **Voorpostel**. 2015. Parenthood and Psychological Well-Being: The Moderating Role of Lifestyle. Paper presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, San Diego, USA, April 30.
- Ryser**, Valérie-Anne, Hanappi, Doris, Bernardi, Laura and Jean-Marie Le Goff. 2015. How employment quality impacts fertility intentions? Evidence from the Swiss Household Panel. Paper presented at the 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users. Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 1.
- Ryser**, Valérie-Anne, Eberhard, Jakob, and Florence **Lebert**. 2015. Comparison of the BFI-10 with the BFI-15 in the Swiss Household Panel. Paper presented at the 6th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Reykjavik, Iceland, July 14.
- Sanchez Tome, Rosa, Caroline Roberts, and Michèle **Ernst Stähli**. 2015. "Mode Effects on Measures of Wellbeing: A Comparison between Uni- and Multi-Dimensional Approaches." Paper presented at the Sixth Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Reykjavik, Iceland, July 17.
- Sanchez Tome, Rosa, Caroline Roberts, Michèle **Ernst Stähli**, and Dominique **Joye**. 2015. "Evaluating the Effect of Mode of Data Collection on Measures of Subjective Wellbeing: Implications for Cross-Survey Comparisons." Paper presented at the Webdatanet General Conference 2015, Salamanca, Spain, May 27.
- Schmid**, Flurina. 2015. "First Child among Immigrants and Their Descendants in Switzerland: Results and Difficulties to Find Results in Switzerland." Paper presented at the 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 1.
- Stam**, Alexandra. 2015. "The ch-x Experiment: Building Experience in Good Data Management Practices." Paper presented at the IASSIST, Minneapolis, USA, March 6.
- Stam**, Alexandra. 2015. "The Emergence of Data Management in the Swiss Research Landscape and the Potential Role of Librarians." Paper presented at the EBSLG conference, St-Gallen, Switzerland, September 6.
- Stam**, Alexandra. 2015. "Data Management Planning for Open Data in Switzerland." Paper presented at the FOSTER/CESSDA training event, Odense, Denmark, November 25.
- Struffolino, Emanuela, Laura Bernardi, and Marieke **Voorpostel**. 2015. "Lone Motherhood and Self-Reported Health: Does Paid Work Matter?" Paper presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, San Diego, USA, 1 May.
- Szalma**, Ivett, and Michael **Ochsner**. 2015. "Work-Life Conflict of Working Couples before and during the Crisis in 20 European Countries." Paper presented at the European Social Survey Conference, Limerick, Ireland, May 28.
- Szalma**, Ivett. 2015. "Still after the Neutrality Ideal?" Paper presented at the ESA 2015 12th Conference of the European Sociological Association, Prague, Czech Republic, August 25.

- Szalma**, Ivett, and Maja Djundeva. 2015. "Are There the Same Attitudes towards ART, Abortion and Scientific Research on Embryos in Europe?" Paper presented at the Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association 2015, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 3.
- Szalma**, Ivett, and Judit Takács. 2015. "How to Measure Fatherhood?" Paper presented at the European Social Survey Conference, Limerick, Ireland, May 28.
- Szalma**, Ivett, and Judit Takács. 2015. "Fathers' Family Involvement in Four European Countries." Paper presented at the Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association 2015, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 3.
- Szalma**, Ivett, and Judit Takács. 2015. "Attitudes towards Fatherhood in Europe." Paper presented at the Conference of the Hungarian Sociological Association and the ELTE Faculty of Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary, November 20.
- Voorpostel**, Marieke, and Hilde Coffé. 2015. "The Effect of Parental Divorce on Political and Civic Participation." Paper presented at the Alppop Conference in La Thuile, Italy, January 27.
- Voorpostel**, Marieke. 2015. "Adult Sibling Coresidence in Switzerland: A Life Course Analysis." Paper presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Orlando, USA, November 20.
- Wernli**, Boris. 2015. "Leaving the Parental Home Social and Financial Inequality in Switzerland." Paper presented at the 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users. Workshop Life Course Analysis, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 2.
- Wernli**, Boris. 2015. "The Financial Conditions of Young People's Housing Transitions in Switzerland." Paper presented at the ESA 2015 12th Conference of the European Sociological Association, Prague, Czech Republic, August 28.
- Wernli**, Boris, and Sara **Zella**. 2015. "Family Deconstruction and Life Satisfaction. The Swiss Case." Paper presented at the 8th International Conference of Panel Data Users, Workshop Health and Quality of Life, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 1.
- Wolbring**, Tobias, and Michael **Ochsner**. 2015. "A Bottom-Up Approach to Research Assessments: What Sociology Can Learn from the Humanities." Paper presented at the Ad-hoc group DORA et al.: "Global movements against 'impactitis' and 'evaluitis'" at the ÖGS-Kongress (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Soziologie), Innsbruck, Austria, October 1.
- Zella**, Sara, and Ivett **Szalma**. 2015. "The Effect of Work-Life Conflict on Mental and General Health." Paper presented at the Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association 2015, Lausanne, Switzerland, June 3.
- Zella**, Sara, and Ivett **Szalma**. 2015. "The Effect of Work-Life Conflict on Mental and General Health." Paper presented at the ESA 2015 12th Conference of the European Sociological Association, Prague, Czech Republic, August 26.

Other Presentations

- Antal, Erika.** 2015. "Introduction to Survey Sampling Theory". Guest lecture at the Programme doctoral de l'Ecole des Sciences Criminelles, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, May 26.
- Antal, Erika.** 2015. "Les étapes de système de pondération dans le PSM". Presentation at the Observatoire National du Développement Humain, Rabat, Morocco, October 13-16.
- Buerli, Stefan.** 2015. "Social science research data between data protection and open access". Presentation at the Open Research Data Hackdays 2015, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, June 5.
- Ernst Stähli, Michèle.** 2015. "FORS als Forschungsinfrastruktur". Presentation at the General Assembly of the Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research (SACM), Bern, Switzerland, März 13.
- Ernst Stähli, Michèle.** 2015. "Methodische Zugänge zur Erforschung von Medienstrukturen, Medienorganisationen und Medienstrategien ". Presentation at the Workshop Netzwerk Medienstrukturen, Zürich, Switzerland, Oktober 17.
- Ernst Stähli, Michèle, Dominique Joye, and Caroline Roberts.** 2015. "Alternatives au problème de couverture dans les enquêtes CATI: enseignements de l'expérience mixed-mode de LIVES-FORS." Paper presented at the Workshop FORS-OFS, Neuchâtel, March 16.
- Ernst Stähli, Michèle.** 2015. "Multi-Lingual Surveys and Questionnaire Translation." Presentation at the Master level course of Prof. Caroline Roberts "Questionnaire development & questionnaire design", MA in Public opinion and surveys methodology, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, May 18.
- Ernst Stähli, Michèle.** 2015. "The ESS Survey Life Cycle." Presentation at the Master level seminar of Prof. Eva Green "Cultural diversity: research and debates", SSP, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, October 8.
- Heers, Marieke.** 2015. "Sekundärdaten: Zugang und Nutzung." Guest lecture at the course „Methoden der Empirischen Sozialforschung“, University of Fribourg, Department of Communication and Media Research, bachelor level, December 2.
- Lutz, Georg.** 2015. "Democratic participation and (social) inequality." Invited lecture, Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest, March 12.
- Lutz, Georg.** 2015. "Open Research Data". Presentation at the Swiss Cleantech Fokusgruppe Wirtschaft & Gesellschaft“, June 7.
- Lutz, Georg.** 2015. „Hochschulkommunikation: Können sich Universitäten aus der Politik heraushalten?“ Presentation at the SUPRIO-Workshop, Bern, Switzerland, October 5.
- Perret, Andreas.** 2015. "Visualisation et sociologues." Paper presented at the Journée "Visualisations", Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, March 7.

- Perret, Andreas.** 2015. "La visualisation et les sociologues: Un rapport contrarié mêlant illusionnisme et facteur d'impact." Paper presented at the Doctoriales de l'Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, May 11.
- Perret, Andreas.** 2015. "Visualisierung in der Forschung... und anderswo." Paper presented at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, May 13.
- Perret, Andreas.** 2015. "Exploration, Selling Pitch and Deliverable: The Promises of Visualization." Paper presented at the Université de Lausanne, Séminaire "Methods and Research," Lausanne, Switzerland, May 26.
- Perret, Andreas.** 2015. "Visualisierung in der Forschung: Folge." Paper presented at the Universität Freiburg Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät, im Seminar „Quantitative und qualitative Datenanalyse“, Fribourg, Switzerland, November 23.
- Perret, Andreas.** 2015. "Data Management, Why Should I Care?" Paper presented at the NCCR -on the move Friday Sessions, Neuchatel, Switzerland, December 6.
- Perret, Andreas, and Marion Rivoal.** 2015. "Domestiquez vos données." Paper presented at the Université de Lausanne, Journée "Bases de données," Lausanne, Switzerland, February 27.
- Sapin, Marlène.** 2015. Trajectoires d'insertion relationnelle et santé mentale d'individus en situation de vulnérabilité. Guest lecture at the course "Trajectoires de vie et vulnérabilité", Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland, december 7.
- Takács, Judit, and Ivett **Szalma.** 2015. "How to 'measure' Fathering Practices and Perceptions in International Surveys?" Oral presentation, Prague, Czech Republic, August 25. <http://programme.esa12thconference.eu/presentation/902>.
- Voorpostel, Marieke.** 2015. "Données d'enquêtes: Principes de base". Guest Lecture in the Master Course "Méthodes de recherche", Institut de Hautes études en Administration Publique (IDHEAP), University of Lausanne, Lausanne, March 23.
- Wernli, Boris, Brenda Spencer, and Pierre Simon Vermot.** 2015. "Men and Fathers. Care, and Gender Equality in Switzerland: Assessment of Existing Databases in Switzerland." Paper presented at the MenCare Workshop, Olten, Switzerland, January 10.
- Wernli, Boris.** 2015. "Health Quantitative Studies: The Use of Secondary Microdata in Switzerland." Paper presented at the Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, Switzerland, October 23.
- Wernli, Boris.** 2015. "The Swiss Household Panel (SHP): A New Perspective for Health and Information Technology Studies." Paper presented at the seminar COHERENT, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, Switzerland, September 2.
- Wernli, Boris.** 2015. "Présentation de la méthodologie du Panel suisse de ménages (PSM)." Paper presented at the Coopération ONDH/FORSEPM/Atelier de formation du 21 au 24 juillet 2015, Observatoire National du Développement Humain, Rabat, Maroc, July 22.

Wernli, Boris. 2015. "Enquête sur la conciliation des sphères de vie à l'UNIL: Les études - la famille - le travail." Paper presented at the Direction de l'UNIL, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, February 11.

Other Media (*selection*)

Bütikofer, Sarah, Georg **Lutz**. 2015. Politik und Wahlen: Kein Hobby der Jungen. www.DeFacto.expert, October 28.

Kuhn, Ursina, and Christian Suter. 2015. Die Entwicklung der Einkommensungleichheit in der Schweiz. In *Social Change in Switzerland N° 2*. FORS/Université de Lausanne. <http://socialchangeswitzerland.ch>.

Kuhn, Ursina, and Christian Suter. 2015. L'évolution des inégalités de revenus en Suisse. In *Social Change in Switzerland N° 2*. <http://socialchangeswitzerland.ch>.

Lutz, Georg. 2015. Wirtschaftslage beeinflusst die Wahlen kaum. *Volkswirtschaft*, 88 (5): 40-44.

Lutz, Georg. 2015. Die Wahlfreiheit der Bundesversammlung: schon viele nicht-offizielle Bundesratskandidaten gewählt. www.DeFacto.expert, November 17.

Lutz, Georg. 2015. Die Wahlen 2015 waren die stabilsten Wahlen seit 1963. www.DeFacto.expert, November 5.

Lutz, Georg. 2015. Der Bisherigenbonus war 2015 für Frauen höher als für Männer. www.DeFacto.expert, October 28.

Ryser, Valérie-Anne. Travailler, comment on s'arrête? Participation à l'émission "Les échos de Vacarme", RTS La première, September 6.

Suter, Christian, and Ursina **Kuhn**. 2015. Einkommensverteilung in der Schweiz. Konstante Ungleichheit seit 1990. Gastkommentar, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, October 7.

Suter, Christian, and Ursina **Kuhn**. 2015. En Suisse, les inégalités de revenu sont moins flagrantes qu'ailleurs. *Le Temps*, October 6.

FORS Working Paper Series

- Borrat-Besson**, Carmen, Valérie-Anne **Ryser** and Judite Gonçalves. 2015. "An evaluation of the CASP-12 scale used in the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) to measure Quality of Life among people aged 50+." FORS Working Paper, 2015-4. Lausanne: FORS.
- Kleiner**, Brian, Alexandra **Stam** and Nicolas **Pekari**. 2015. "Big data for the social sciences." FORS Working Paper, 2015-2. Lausanne: FORS.
- Lipps**, Oliver. 2015. "Non-Observation Bias in an Address-Register-Based CATI/CAPI Mixed Mode Survey." FORS Working Paper, 2015-1. Lausanne: FORS.
- Rizzi, Ester and Malgorzata Mikucka. 2015. "The happiness-parenthood link in a context of limited state support: The case of Switzerland." FORS Working Paper, 2015-3. Lausanne: FORS.
- Ryser**, Valérie-Anne. 2015. "Psychometric properties of extra-short Big Five personality measures in multi-topic surveys: Documenting personality traits in the SHP and MOSAiCH." FORS Working Paper, 2015-5. Lausanne: FORS.

Teaching Activities

- Antal**, Erika. May 26, 2015. Seminar “Introduction to Survey Sampling Theory”, University of Lausanne, School of Criminal Sciences, doctoral level.
- Antal**, Erika. October 13-16, 2015. “Les étapes de système de pondération dans le PSM, ONDH”, Workshop organized at ONDH, Rabat, Morocco.
- Lipps**, Oliver. Spring semester 2015. Seminar “Linear Regression reloaded”. Institute for Sociology at the University of Basel, master level.
- Lutz**, Georg. Spring semester 2015. “Elections et votations en Suisse: Analyse de données d’enquête”. University of Lausanne, IEPI, bachelor level course (with Lionel Marquis).
- Lutz**, Georg. Autumn Semester 2015. “The field of survey research methodology” (SRM), University of Lausanne, Master of Arts in Public Opinion and Survey Methodology, master level course.
- Szalma**, Ivett. Spring semester 2015. “Family Sociology”. Universitatea Babes Bolyai, bachelor level.
- Szalma**, Ivett. Autumn semester 2015. “Non-mainstream family practices”. Eötvös Loránd University, master level.
- Stam**, Alexandra, and Brian **Kleiner**. Spring semester 2015. Workshop LIVES “Be Ready to Tackle the Data Deluge: Essential Skills in Quantitative and Qualitative Data Management” at the University of Lausanne, doctoral level.
- Wernli**, Boris. Spring semester 2015. “Grandes enquêtes – analyses empiriques.” University of Lausanne, faculty SSP, bachelor level course.
- Wernli**, Boris. Spring semester 2015. “Exploratory techniques, data visualization and data presentation”. University of Lausanne, Master of Arts in Public Opinion and Survey Methodology, master level course.
- Wernli**, Boris. July 21-24, 2016. “Coopération ONDH/FORS - Atelier de formation Enquête Panel de Ménages”. Workshop organized at ONDH, Rabat, Morocco.

Methods and Research Meetings

February 24: Anne Cornilleau and Anne-Sophie Cousteaux (*Sciences Po, Paris*)

Recruiting and maintaining a probability-based internet panel in France: the ELIPSS pilot study.

March 24: Katharina Manderscheid (*University of Lucerne*)

Correspondence analysis as a tool to perform the embedded actor. An example from mobilities studies.

April 28: Esther González-Martínez (*University of Fribourg*)

Identifier l'ordre social dans l'organisation conversationnelle.

May 26: Andréas Perret (*FORS*)

Exploration, selling pitch and deliverable: The promises of visualization.

October 10: Sinisa Hadziabdic (*University of Geneva*)

"Observing the unobservable in a stepwise approach: Teasing out causal effects through panel data".

November 3: Michael Ochsner (*FORS*)

Running with the devil: On the use and misuse of bibliometrics and how social science research can benefit from bibliometrics.

December 1: Matthias Studer/Gilbert Ritschard (*University of Geneva*)

What matters in differences between life trajectories? A comparative review of sequence dissimilarity measures.

Lunch Seminars

February 12: Valérie-Anne Ryser (*FORS*)

Subjective wellbeing: the impact of the transition to retirement in Switzerland

March 12: Gian-Andrea Monsch (*FORS*)

Being or Becoming an Activist? Assessing the Link Between Worldviews, Social Networks and Protest Intention.

April 30: Erika Antal (*FORS*)

The weighting scheme of the Swiss Household Panel.

June 25: Dániel Oross (*FORS*), Tamás Kovács (*Hungarian Academy of Sciences*) and Daniel Rona (*Corvinus University of Sciences*)

The Exit generation – Political Orientations, Attitudes to work, Values and Activities of Hungarian University and College Students.

September 17: Gabriella Ilonszki (*University of Budapest*)

The change of the Hungarian political electoral system (reasons and consequences)

October 27: Sara Zella (*FORS*)

Changes in Work Hours and Life Satisfaction: The Role of Children.

November 24: Flurina Schmid, Franziska Ehrler et Michèle Ernst Stähli (*FORS*)

Les groupes focus: petite introduction et retour d'expérience.

Contact Points

Universities

Basel

Prof. Max Bergman, *Institut für Soziologie*

Christina von Rotz, *Institut für Soziologie*

Prof. Kurt Schmidheiny, *WWZ*

Bern

Prof. Rolf Becker, *Institut für Erziehungswissenschaft*

Prof. Ben Jann, *Institut für Soziologie*

Prof. Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen, *Institut für Politikwissenschaft*

Fribourg

Maurizia Masia, *Département Travail social et politiques sociales*

Geneva

Blaise Dupuis, *Département de Sociologie*

Grégoire Métral, *Centre interfacultaire de gérontologie*

Lausanne

Prof. Florence Passy, *IEPHI*

Lucerne

Dr. Katharina Manderscheid, *Soziologisches Seminar*

Lugano

Fabia Rothenfluh, *Università della Svizzera Italiana, Institute of communication and health (COM)*

Neuchâtel

Dr. Katia Iglesias, *Laboratoire d'études transnationales et des processus sociaux*

St. Gallen

Dr. Stephan Egger, *Soziologisches Seminar*

Zurich

Prof. Eldad Davidov und Georg Datler, *Soziologisches Institut*

Dr. Maike Debus, *Psychologisches Institut, Sozialpsychologie*

Prof. Daniel Kübler, *Institut für Politikwissenschaft*

Prof. Rainer Winkelmann, *Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultät*

Prof. Werner Wirth, *Institut für Publizistikwissenschaft und Medienforschung IPMZ*

Prof. Dirk Helbing, *ETH, Departement of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, Computational Science (D-GESS)*

**Universities of Applied Sciences
(Fachhochschulen, Hautes écoles spécialisées)**

Aarau

Silvana Kappeler, *Pädagogische Hochschule Aarau, Institut Forschung und Entwicklung, FHNW*

Bern

Prof. Jachen Curdin Nett, *Berner Fachhochschule, Soziale Arbeit*

Fribourg

Dr. Jean-François Bickel, *Haute école fribourgeoise de travail social*

Geneva

Dr. Eric Crettaz, *Haute école de travail social (HETS)*

Kreuzlingen

Prof. Dorothea Christ, *Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau, Abteilung Forschung*

Lausanne

Prof. Pascal Eric Gaberel, *Haute école de travail social et de la santé EESP*

Lucerne

Dr. Susanna Niehaus, *Hochschule Luzern, Soziale Arbeit*

Lugano

Prof. Christian Marazzi, *Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI)*

Zurich

Dr. Peter Rüesch, *Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, Gesundheitswissenschaften*

Governing Bodies

As of December 31, 2015

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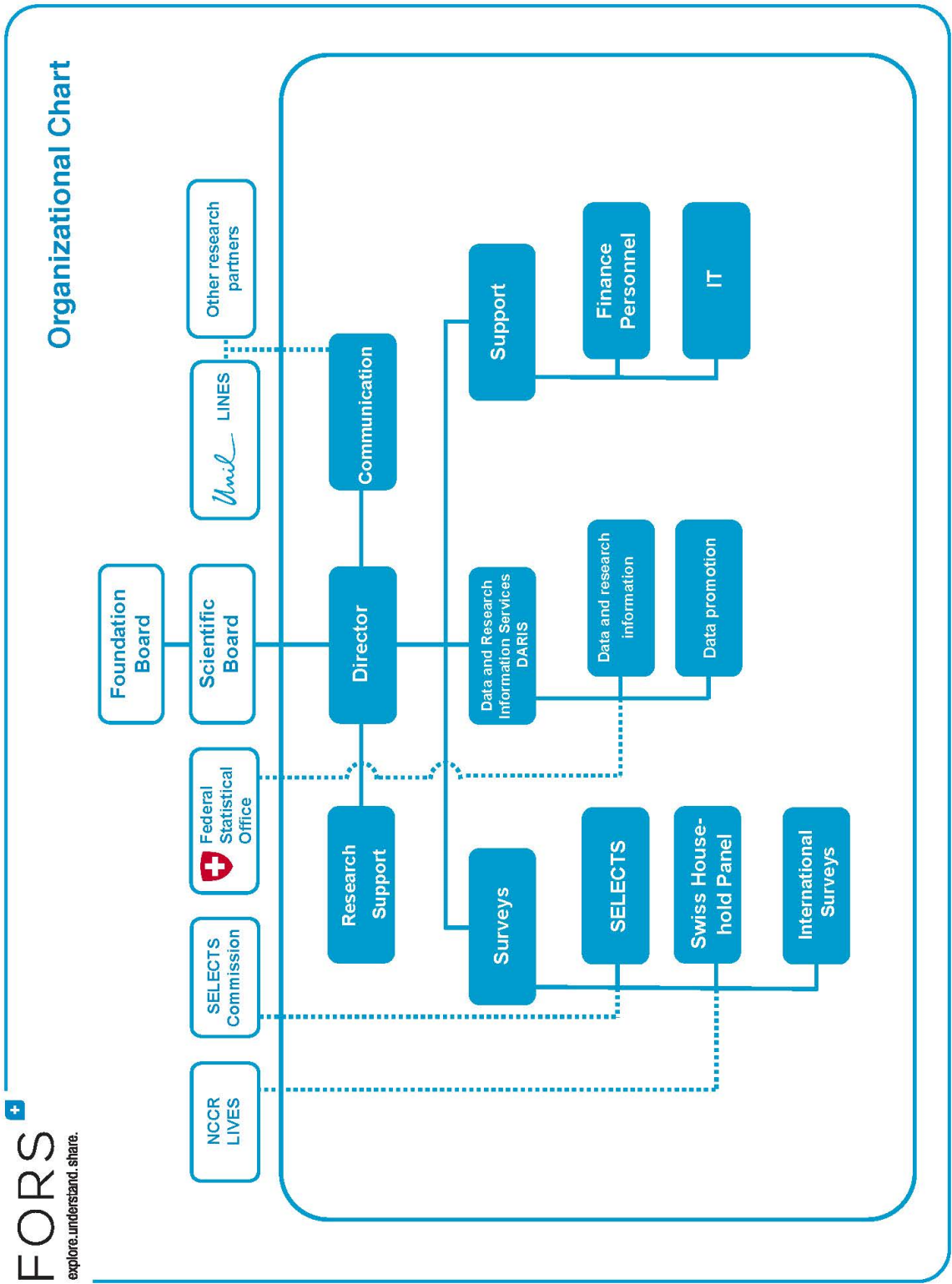
Prof. Milad **Zarin-Nejadan**
University of Neuchâtel

Staff Statistics

	31.12.15		01.01.15		01.01.08	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Permanent Employees	39	100	36	100	19	100
<u>1. Sex</u>						
Male	16	41	15	42	13	68
Female	23	59	21	58	6	32
<u>2. Nationality</u>						
CH	30	77	28	78	16	84
other (D,F,HU,I,NL,SB,USA)	9	23	8	22	3	16
<u>3. Mother language</u>						
Swiss-German	13	33	12	33	5	26
French	14	36	13	36	9	48
Bilingual (incl.FIN,HU,I,PL)	6	15	5	14	4	21
other (E,G,HU,NL,SB)	6	15	6	17	1	5
<u>4. Degrees received</u>						
Professional formation	2	5	2	6	2	11
BA/MA/Lic./Diploma	20	51	18	50	13	68
Dr. / Ph.D.	17	44	16	44	4	21
<u>5. Disciplines</u>						
Sociology	9	23	9	25	5	26
Political Science	7	18	6	17	4	21
(Social) Psychology	3	8	3	8	4	21
other social sciences *	10	26	7	19	0	0
other disciplines **	5	13	5	14	1	5
IT	3	8	4	11	3	16
Clerk	2	5	2	6	2	11
<u>6. Degree of Employment</u>						
Full time	12	31	8	22	7	37
Part time (50%-90%)	27	69	28	78	12	63
Permanent	34	87	33	92	19	100
Not permanent	5	13	3	8	0	0
* <i>Economics, communications, education, anthropology, human geography</i>						
** <i>Statistics, mathematics, linguistics, archival and library science</i>						

Organizational Chart

As of December 31, 2015



List of Abbreviations

BHPS	British Household Panel Survey
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing
CCS	Comparative Candidate Survey
CESSDA	Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives
CNEF	Cross-National Equivalent File
COMPASS	Communication Portal for Accessing Social Statistics
DARIS	Data and Research Information Services
DBBS	Dried Blood Spot Samples
DwB	Data without Boundaries
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
ESS	European Social Survey
EVS	European Values Study
FOSTER	Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research
ISSP	International Social Survey Programme
LINES	Life Course and Inequality Research Centre (U Lausanne)
LIS	Cross-national Data Center in Luxembourg
LIVES	NCCR Overcoming Vulnerability – Life Course Perspectives
MOSAiCH	Measurement and Observation of Social Attitudes in Switzerland
NCCR	National Centre of Competence in Research
ORD@CH	Open Research Data Pilot Platform Switzerland
PAPI	Paper and Pencil Interviewing
PAWCER	Public Attitudes to Welfare, Climate Change and Energy in the EU and Russia
PSID	Panel Study of Income Dynamics
SEEDS	South-Eastern European Data Services
SELECTS	Swiss Electoral Studies
SERISS	Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences
SFSO	Swiss Federal Statistical Office
SHARE	Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe
SHP	Swiss Household Panel
SMIF	Survey Methods: Insights from the Field
SNSF	Swiss National Science Foundation
SOEP	Sozio-ökonomisches Panel (Socio-economic Panel Study)
swissuniversities	Organisation of the Swiss universities, universities of applied sciences, and universities of teacher education
Understanding Society	The UK Household Longitudinal Study
vsms-asms	Verband Schweizer Markt- und Sozialforschung – Association suisse des recherches de marché et sociales (Association of Swiss Social and Market Research)