

Annual Report 2009

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Table of Contents

In a Nutshell				
1	Full Scale Operational Functionality Reached	4		
2	FORS Core Activities	5		
2.1	Surveys	5		
2.2	Data and Research Information Services DARIS	9		
2.3	Communication Portal for Accessing Social Statistics COMPASS	11		
2.4	Methodological Research	12		
2.5	Luxembourg Income Study LIS	14		
2.6	Social Report	16		
2.7	Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences	16		
2.8	Third Party Funded Projects	17		
2.9	Governing Bodies and Management	18		
2.10	Communication	22		
3	Scientific Collaborations	24		
3.1	Host University	24		
3.2	National Partners	25		
3.3	International Commitments	26		
4	Challenges Ahead	28		
Appe	endix: Facts and Figures	29		
Publi	cations	29		
FORS Working Paper Series				
Teaching				
Lunch Seminars				
Contact Points				
Presentations at Universities				
Governing Bodies				
Staff Statistics 4				
Organizational Chart				
Poster (English version)				
List of Abbreviations				

In a Nutshell

- NSF contributions to infrastructure instruments secured until the end of 2011 (p.4)
- Swiss part of SHARE run in collaboration with IEMS, Prof. A. Holly (p.7)
- SELECTS: open call for modules issued (p.8)
- Preparations for enhancing documentation and distribution of qualitative data (p.9)
- COMPASS portal and data catalogue online (p.11)
- Proposal for mixed mode interviewing experiments submitted to NSF (p.13)
- LIS introductory seminar held (p.15)
- New members to Foundation and Scientific Boards appointed (p.19/20)
- 33 permanent staff employed as of Dec. 31, 2009 (p.21)
- FORS Working Paper series and "Inside FORS" bulletin launched (p.22)
- FORS / MISC scientific collaboration: methods seminar, joint research projects
 (p.24)
- Visits to Rectors of all Swiss universities (p.25)
- Active part in European research infrastructures developments: participation in CESSDA new FP 7 proposal; chairing of ESFRI Thematic Working Group on Social Sciences and Humanities (p.26/27)

1 Full Scale Operational Functionality Reached

In contrast to its predecessors and according to the will of the funders, FORS was designed to reach and maintain a critical mass for an organisation of its kind. In 2009, the targeted shape of 30 to 40 collaborators was attained. By the end of 2009, 33 collaborators constituted the full operation of the four main functions of FORS:

- production of survey data;
- documentation, promotion, and dissemination of data for use in secondary analyses;
- cutting edge research focusing on survey methodology;
- consulting services for researchers in Switzerland and abroad.

FORS is about to find and secure its place in the national and international social science community. Doing its own (methodological as well as substantive) research, publishing results in journals and other appropriate media, communicating with researchers at conferences, workshops and meetings, and hosting scientific events are important activities on the scientific side, and they have reached a remarkable level as this report shows.

There is an institutional and policy side to integration and networking, too. With its Contact Points at all relevant universities and with its active participation in policy making bodies, for example at the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, FORS is well linked nationally. Being one of the few organisations that is responsible for the national parts of all three ESFRI social sciences roadmap projects (CESSDA, ESS, SHARE) and with its presence especially in the ESFRI process by chairing the Social Sciences and Humanities Working Group, FORS has successfully introduced itself as a partner to European developments of highest relevance for the future of the social sciences at large.

In 2009, the Swiss National Science Foundation formally agreed to continue funding FORS core surveys like the Swiss Household Panel (SHP), the Election Study (SELECTS), the European Social Survey (ESS), and the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP). To these it has added the Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), and the preparation of the Social Report 2012. Hence the key FORS activities are financially secured for the rest of the current government funding period.

2 FORS Core Activities

2.1 Surveys

2.1.1 Swiss Household Panel SHP

The survey: Five main tasks were achieved: First, the SHP CD 2009, containing the SHP data and documentation for waves 1 to 9 conducted in the years 1999 to 2007 (SHP_I, waves 1 to 9; SHP_II, waves 1 to 4), was made available to researchers in February 2009. Second, the field work for waves 10 and 5 was completed in February 2009. With regard to these waves, work related to data cleaning and preparation, (new) variable construction, and (new) documentation (including a new User Guide) were realised from March to December 2009 in order to prepare for data diffusion. The dissemination of the first ten waves (1999 to 2008: SHP_I, waves 1 to 10; SHP_II, waves 1 to 5) took place in early January 2010, through a new system of internet data/documentation downloading. Third, the field work for waves 11 and 6 was prepared between February and August (mainly questionnaires, qualitative and quantitative pre-tests, new (differentiated) communication to participating households, training of interviewers), and started early September. Fourth, a revised version of the SHP data waves 1 to 9 (with a codebook) was provided to the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) in August 2009. Fifth, the grant proposal 2010-2011 was submitted to the Swiss National Science Foundation in June 2009, and (fully) accepted in November 2009.

The SHP team: During the first half of the year, two new collaborators joined the SHP team (thus finally reconstituted): Flurina Schmid, a political scientist, and Florence Lebert, a specialist in educational sciences.

Publications/Conferences/Teaching (see Appendix for details): SHP staff published four SHP working papers, one SOEP paper, one book chapter, seven articles (amongst others, in the Swiss Journal of Sociology, the Swiss Political Science Review, the Journal of Official Statistics, the Journal of Family Issues, and Social Indicators Research), and contributed to an edited book. Moreover, four articles (and a book chapter) were accepted for publication by Swiss or international journals (Swiss Journal of Sociology, Bulletin de Méthodologie Sociologique, and International Journal of Comparative Sociology). In addition, the SHP scientific report 2008 was delivered to the Swiss national science foundation by the end of June 2009 (and accepted early August), and editorial work performed for the special issue of the Swiss Journal of Sociology (02/2010) devoted to "Longitudinal Analysis in Switzerland". Moreover, the 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland took place on June 4-5 at the University of Lausanne. The conference was attended by about 80 participants. For the first time, the conference was actually dedicated to longitudinal analysis. Finally, SHP staff contributed to around 25 conferences, were involved in two doctoral programmes, and gave three presentations in the framework of master (or refresher) courses.

2.1.2 International Surveys

2.1.2.1 European Social Survey ESS

The Swiss ESS finished its fourth wave in early 2009. Due to the decrease of fixed telephone lines and the increasing tendency not to register in the telephone directories, an innovative sampling scheme had to be used in order to optimize the sample: The Swiss Post has a file with all the buildings in Switzerland, with an indication of the number of letterboxes of private households. This allows to draw a "sample of letterboxes". These letterboxes were verified by a member of MIS and the name of the household written on the letterbox sent back to the MIS center of operation. A last selection by region (NUTS II) was done in order to respect the sampling frame. The procedure had been successfully tested for the European Value Survey 2008, and it proved again to be feasible.

The response rate was slightly lower than in the preceding rounds but still around 50%. An explanation for this could be the decreasing will to respond or, more probably, the change in the sampling frame: the probability of non-contacts is in a sample based on buildings and letter boxes greater than with telephone numbers.

We have also done test/retest procedures, as foressen in the plan, and introduced some additional questions on identity in collaboration with Poland and Portugal, one more way to put forward the collaborative project of the ESS.

Switzerland being member of the ESS Preparatory Phase Project consortium, the Swiss team was practically involved in this project. In particular, Dominique Joye participated in a workshop on the outreach of the ESS in London (September) and Brussels (October).

As a member to the ESS Scientific Advisory Board the FORS director participated in the two meetings of this Board in Dubrovnik (March) and in Bruges (November).

2.1.2.2 MOSAiCH/ISSP

The MOSAiCH survey was fielded just after the ESS. According to the discussion with the FORS Scientific Board and the project proposed to the NSF, the choice of the topics of this survey was driven by four considerations:

- to implement two editions of the ISSP, namely religion (2008) and social inequality (2009); the ISSP rules allow to deposit one module until September of the next year;
- eventually to extend these topics by the optional ISSP questions or other questions linked to them; this was done in collaboration with a project active in the NSF research programme on religion;
- to continue the series initiated by the "Eurobarometers in Switzerland", giving information on the evolution of Swiss opinions towards the European Union;
- to allow for methodological work inside FORS. This has been done in three directions of research:

- to have a better understanding of the conditions in which surveys are fielded in Switzerland and the attitude toward different modes and conditions;
- to improve the quality of the indicators by testing a larger range of questions: this has been done in particular with questions about supervision's role as the ones used in the PSM;
- to replicate some items between the main survey and an additional part.

The survey was split into two parts: one face to face and another one as a paper questionnaire, dropped off at the end of the main survey (which is one more experiment for the surveys' team, the last example of such a procedure dating back as far as the end of the nineties). Generally the results were satisfying, with a response rate once again just lower than 50% and more than two thirds of the sample returning the paper questionnaire.

2.1.2.3 Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe SHARE

SHARE is a multi-disciplinary, cross-sectional, and longitudinal biannual survey measuring the combined health, economic and social living conditions of persons aged 50 and over and their partners. It has been created in response to a communication by the European Commission to the Council and the European Parliament in 2000, which identified population ageing and its social and economic challenges to growth and prosperity to be among the most pressing challenges of the 21st century in Europe. ESFRI nominated SHARE as one of the five Social Science and Humanities (SSH) projects in its Roadmap (for more information on SHARE visit www.share-project.org).

SHARE started in 2004 with eleven countries, including Switzerland, and has expanded now to all EU member states (27 plus associated Switzerland and Israel). It is coordinated centrally at the Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Ageing (MEA) and harmonized with the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).

Data about respondents' actual situation were collected in 2004 and 2006 among the same persons in face-to-face interviews (CAPI). The third wave, conducted in 2008, differs from the previous two conceptually as the focus was on retrospective life-histories. The fourth wave, whose fieldwork will begin in November 2010, will take a similar form as the two first waves of the project.

In Switzerland, SHARE will be run in partnership between the Institute of Health Economics and Management (IEMS), University of Lausanne & CHUV (main applicant and country team leader: Prof. Alberto Holly) and FORS (co-applicant: Prof. Peter Farago). Funds for the fourth wave of data collection of the SHARE project during the period 2010-2011 were granted by the Swiss NSF.

The SHARE team at FORS is lead by Dr. Boris Wernli, head of the unit Surveys; as a scientific collaborator Carmen Faustinelli will be in charge of the data collection process, including questionnaire translation, pilot and pretest, participation in

interviewer training, tender submissions and contacts with the selected survey agency, and data checks and cleaning.

2.1.3 Swiss Electoral Studies SELECTS

Selects was mainly concerned with publication activities of the data that were collected around the national election of 2007. Selects has agreed to produce a special issue of the Swiss Political Science Review with about 10 contributions from Swiss researchers in 2010. This volume will be edited by Georg Lutz (FORS), Thomas Milic (University of Zurich) and Marco Steenbergen (University of Bern). An open call for papers was launched. Contributions foreseen for this special issue were presented at a workshop organized by Selects in Neuchâtel in October 2009. Several additional publications and papers using Selects data haven been written and presented by a number of Swiss researchers and the Selects project manager.

Selects is part of two international research networks. The data for the "Comparative Study of Electoral System CSES" which includes parts of the questionnaire as well as macro-level data was handed over to the project coordinators in Michigan. The first comparative dataset that includes the Swiss data will be released in spring 2010. In the framework of the "Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS)", Cornell University hosted a workshop on "Candidates in Constituency Campaigns from a Comparative Perspective" where different country papers were presented; these papers will become part of a special issue published by Electoral Studies in 2010. Selects has also applied for Swiss membership in the COST Action "The true European Voter", a research network with the aim to intensify exchange between national election studies in Europe and to create a comparative dataset.¹

The academic responsibility for the Selects project is in the hands of a commission chaired by Prof. Pascal Sciarini (University of Geneva). The commission met twice in 2009. It discussed and decided mainly on the preparation for the 2011 election study. Selects has decided to change and formalise the procedure of the establishment of the next study questionnaire with the aim to make not only the data available to the scientific community but to leave some space in the questionnaires for researchers in the study itself. The commission has defined a core questionnaire which allows to compare electoral behaviour over time. To stimulate new innovative research questions, Selects has launched an open call for modules among Swiss researchers in autumn 2009. The modules accepted will become part of the 2011 questionnaire.

¹ The State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) has decided positively on the Swiss participation in this COST Action in January 2010.

2.2 Data and Research Information Services DARIS

2.2.1 Data Service

Usage and workflow: There are some indications that the FORS data service was successful in generating new interest in secondary analysis and archived data among researchers in Switzerland. Usage statistics show that there was a significant increase in datasets disseminated in 2009, compared to 2008 (see table below). Overall, 962 datasets were ordered directly from Daris or downloaded from our FORS Nesstar server, while this figure was 579 in 2008, an increase of over 80 percent.

Number of datasets disseminated

	Project					
Year	Nesstar	Pisa	Selects	Vox	Data service	Total
2008	324	30	49	153	72	579
2009	539	23	43	160	197	962

As outlined in the strategic plan, Daris invested considerable effort in laying the groundwork for a smoother workflow, including publication of most of its archived data to the Nesstar server, in order to make the data more directly and easily accessible to researchers. Preparatory work for Nesstar publication included definition and implementation of documentation elements following the international DDI2 standard. Other work included the definition of a series of "controlled vocabularies", which will allow for standardization and searching according to aspects of research methodology on Nesstar and in all-FORS data catalogue, to be developed in early 2010.

A 2009 FORS consultation with a University of Lausanne expert in data protection issues, as well as participation in a CESSDA-based examination of how such issues are managed across European countries, led to a reconsideration of the Daris deposit and end-user licences for archive data. Revisions to the contracts included simplification of language, clarification of terms and conditions, and the removal of overly burdensome or unnecessary requirements, for example, that researchers submit to Daris two hard copies of any and all publications based on secondary analysis of archive data.

Daris at FORS moved closer in 2009 toward the archiving of qualitative research data, and is now positioned to serve as a national resource center qualitative research. In April, the head of Daris attended an international conference in Bremen, Germany that addressed the best practices and challenges of qualitative data archiving. A report on the state of qualitative archiving in Switzerland was drafted and submitted for a publication coordinated by the organizers of the Bremen conference. Soon after, Daris accepted its first qualitative research project for archiving, a corpus of over 600 recorded interviews conducted throughout Europe, led by professor Laura Bernardi, now at the University of Lausanne.

Special projects: Leading a FORS effort, Daris took the first steps in 2009 towards developing a question databank, which would include question and variable level information for all FORS produced or distributed data. The design work conducted in 2009 included definition of database structure and relevant descriptive aspects of survey questions (e.g., question and scale typologies and characteristics).

Another special project involved collaboration with a University of Lausanne research team developing a database of information on "Swiss Elites" of the 20th century. A third special project of 2009 was in collaboration with the research team of TREE (Transitions from Education to Employment) at the University of Basel. Daris worked with TREE staff to prepare multiple waves of data for dissemination, including the creation of a special end-user contract. The data now reside at Daris.

2.2.2 Research Inventory

The annual survey 2008/09 for the research inventory was very successful (444 new entries, 221 updates). During 2009, we further refined the questionnaire, the web interface, and have adopted a more personalized approach to getting relevant research information from the researchers.

Daris has concluded data sharing agreements with the information system for research, development and evaluation projects of the Swiss Federal Administration ARAMIS and the "Schweizer Zentrum für Heil- und Sonderpädagogik SZH / Centre suisse de pédagogie spécialisée CSPS". The already existing agreement with the "Schweizerische Koordinationsstelle für Bildungsforschhung SKBF / Centre suisse de coordination pour la recherche en éducation CSRE" is continued.

In addition, we developed and published an online database allowing a search for Swiss experts in specific research areas. Also during 2009, all research project descriptions were indexed to be harvested by Google and are therefore more easily accessible to a larger number of potential users.

2.2.3 Other Activities

DARIS issued the "FORS Data Bulletin" in November, an email sent to over 4'000 Swiss social science researchers with information about newly available data and services, upcoming events, and research opportunities. The bulletin will henceforth be issued four times a year.

A brief national online survey of over 4'000 social science researchers in Switzerland was conducted in early 2009. The purpose of the survey was to gauge researchers usual practices and needs, as well as their familiarity with various Daris and FORS services more generally. A report on the results of the survey was published in October. Findings indicate that there is already considerable use of and interest in the data and research information services offered by FORS, but that more needs to be done to make our various services better known to the research community.

We believe that data and research information services are best rendered when they are delivered by staff who are well familiar with the needs, methods, and tools of researchers. It is for this reason that during 2009 Daris staff attended a variety of training workshops and presentations relating to data analysis and survey methodology. In addition to attending a variety of methodological seminars and presentations provided by FORS, UNIL, and other organisations, Daris staff also participated together in a six-session course on methods of data analysis, taught by Boris Wernli, the head of the FORS survey unit.

2.3 Communication Portal for Accessing Social Statistics COMPASS

The COMPASS project at FORS started its implementation phase in 2009, in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO). After determining the relevant categories, the COMPASS team began documenting the SFSO datasets in its charge. An average of three meetings were spent with each person responsible for a dataset at the SFSO in order to gather the information needed for the catalogue. This information would later be made available to the researchers.

The information was dispatched for every survey in ten domains, containing 52 categories and 63 sub-categories. Every domain was then completed with an explanatory text. All information was subsequently validated by the SFSO at several levels.

On request of the SFSO, the initial 22 surveys or modules were completed with the additional modules "Reconciliation between work and family life" from the Swiss Labor Force Survey and the "Social and Economic Conditions of Student Life" survey.

While the catalogue was created by the COMPASS team, FORS IT staff used the early prototype of 2008 to develop a proper application, consisting of an Oracle database and a Flex web interface, allowing an interactive display of all items contained in the catalogue. On November 1st, the tri-lingual portal went online. Researchers can now choose datasets online according to multiple criteria and order them by using interactive forms.

Data protection contracts were made with the SFSO for every dataset researchers can access through COMPASS (except three surveys which are presently not provided as standardized datasets by the SFSO). COMPASS had the opportunity to study these files and can now help researchers with initial setups once they have received similar files from the SFSO.

A first public use sample (PUS) of the "Swiss Health Survey", to be disseminated without data protection contracts, was initiated with the section "Population Health". The section "Statistical Methods" has been consulted to select adequate tools and methods. The scope of the tasks devoted to COMPASS was increased to include interviewing a panel of intended users of the PUS. Compass is also involved in the development of a PUS for the PISA 2006 Survey, which was started in 2009 by the section "Household and Persons Surveys".

E-Mail Telephone Meeting in Neuchâtel

COMPASS activity in 2009, amount of contacts with partners of the SFO during the creation of the catalogue, as recorded in the COMPASS information system.

The FORS director and the head of COMPASS organized and carried out several presentations at the SFSO, first for the board, then for the management of the office. This led to a wide acceptance of the project within the institution and ensured that expectations would be met and that no misunderstanding would hinder the development of the catalogue.

Besides the SFSO, COMPASS was presented in Lausanne to representatives of Swiss universities and schools of higher education, in Bern at the commission for research in the public federal administration, in Lucerne at a workshop dedicated to public statistics, and in Germany, at GESIS – the Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences.

The Steering Committee FORS-SFSO met in Neuchâtel in February, May, September and December. Besides issues directly connected with the COMPASS project, the committee also discussed questions relevant to the new SFSO sampling base.

Katelijne Gysen, Alexandra Stam, and Claudio Wassmer were hired in 2009 as microdata specialists. They now form, with Andreas Perret and the mathematician Bryce Waver, the COMPASS team. These collaborators, chosen for their scientific, technical, and communication skills, accomplished all milestones defined for 2009.

2.4 Methodological Research

Recorded contacts in 2009, by month

The FORS methodological research programme started by detailing the three research modules defined by the FORS Scientific Board (analysis of non-response, mixed mode interviewing, and translation and equivalence issues) by the thematic drafting groups.

The selection of modules was driven by Switzerland's rich potential for shedding light on challenges confronting data quality, such as response rates and response bias, mixing of survey modes, and questions around translation and scale equivalence. All three programmatic papers were accepted by the Board members, and all three had a productive first year of operation in 2009. Board members also encouraged FORS staff to engage in collaborative projects that cross the three modules. They also encouraged involvement of FORS data producers in the methodological research process in order to work on problems with practical application.

2.4.1 Analysis of Non-response

Work conducted in 2009 on the topic of non-response involved cooperation effects of SHP interviewers, SHP interviewer effects on substantive survey answers, SHP attrition from different socio-demographic groups, and also attrition depending on survey mode, using data from the CNEF. Other work dealt with tax simulation in the SHP and imputation of missing income data. Interviewer experience in the ESS was evaluated with respect to obtaining cooperation, and producing more homogeneous cooperation rates. A number of peer reviewed papers on these issues were presented at the European Survey Research Association (ESRA) conference in Warsaw, the Nonresponse Workshop in Lausanne, the WAPOR in Lausanne, and others. Papers have either been published in 2009 (see appendix), accepted for publication, or are still under review. All papers make recommendations to improve fieldwork or weighting procedures in order to either prevent or to mitigate bias from item and unit nonresponse.

To mention a project suitable for reducing nonresponse that was conducted by data producers, new household targeted flyers have been designed for the SHP and sent to the sample households to encourage response. According to the current wave fieldwork progress, these flyers were received favourably and are able to reduce attrition.

2.4.2 Mixed Mode Interviewing

A proposal for an experiment on mixing survey modes was submitted to the National Science Foundation, applying for a full project to start in 2010 (main applicant: Prof. Dominique Joye). The design of the proposal was informed by the advice of Prof. Bob Groves during a meeting in April 2009. Some preliminary work has already begun, such as including a supplementary PAPI part in the MOSAiCH survey of 2009, or mixing PAPI and CAWI in the pre-test for the 2011 ISSP on health surveys.

2.4.3 Language, Translation, and Measurement Equivalence

The main project of 2009 for this working group was an exploratory investigation of dialect-based adaptations by Swiss German speaking telephone interviewers. Our findings indicate that in the effort to render survey questions appropriate for Swiss German speaking respondents, interviewers alter them, in many cases also changing

their meaning. We presented results from this project at the ESRA conference in Warsaw. We plan to submit a proposal for a large-scale experiment to the Swiss National Science Foundation in 2010.

Another related project launched in 2009 involves the mapping of the linguistic terrain for surveys internationally. Until now, there has never been a systematic review of the languages of survey administration across countries. Such a review could make a significant contribution to the field of survey research, especially given the expansion of comparative work and growing realization of the importance of language and translation for data quality. We believe that work in these linked domains started in 2009 will make significant theoretical and practical contributions to the field in coming years.

2.4.4 Collaborative Projects

In the course of 2009, some cross-module and cross-organisational collaborative projects started, including members of FORS and MISC, with focus on its various language related challenges. First, as an off-shoot of the FORS/MISC collaborative research group on data collected from national minorities, we started conducting secondary analyses of a variety of datasets to examine the relationship between language proficiency and nonresponse and substantive data quality. We anticipate that data gathered from nonnative speakers of German, French, and Italians in Switzerland will be more subject to problems of quality. A presentation is accepted at the ISA 2010 in Goteborg. The MISC team is also, in collaboration with FORS, developing tools to assess scale validity in a multilingual context. In addition, Switzerland will be one of the countries involved in the "Advanced Translation Package" for the ESS 2010.

2.5 Luxembourg Income Study LIS

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) is a comparative microdatabase on income, employment, and demography with more than 180 data sets covering some 30 countries around the world over a period going back as far as 1968. In recent years, a new database on wealth was added. 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 right to their computer wherever they are located. Password protected access is free of charge for users from contributing countries.

LIS is a registered NPO in Luxembourg, with an international board. Robert Erikson, professor of sociology at Stockholm University, currently is president of the board. The LIS director is Janet Gornick, professor of political science and sociology at the City University of New York. Markus Jäntti, professor of economics at the Swedish Institute for Social Research, Stockholm University, acts as a Research Director. LIS operations are led by the Managing Director, Thierry Kruten, in Luxembourg.

The LIS microdata have been accessed by over 1,500 researchers to analyse crossnational variation in social and economic outcomes including poverty, income inequality, employment status, wage patterns, gender inequality, family formation, and immigration. Some researchers have combined data from LIS with data from other sources on, for example, political behaviour, public opinion, and health outcomes. Results based on LIS microdata appear in books, articles, and dissertations. Each completed study is included in the LIS Working Paper Series.

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 payed by FORS open for Swiss researchers the free access to the complete LIS data bases.

At present, there are four Swiss datasets in LIS:

- 1982 Swiss Income and Wealth Survey
- 1992 Swiss Poverty Survey
- 2000/2002 Income and Consumption Survey
- 2004 Income and Consumption Survey

The 1982 and 1992 data sets originate from academic research projects, whereas the 2000/2002 and 2004 data sets are products of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (EVE/ERC, now renamed to HABE/EBM).

There are several dozens of users of LIS data in Switzerland. Almost all of them are located at the universities, but some are in government agencies or international organisations (ILO, WHO). According to LIS user statistics these figures are very much in line with those of comparable small countries like Belgium, Israel, Norway, or Sweden.

128 working papers – about 25 percent of the total– used Swiss data. And Swiss researchers are also publishing: Recently, Working Paper 504 was authored by Dr. Hanno Scholtz from the University of Bern. LIS thus contributes to the integration of Swiss researchers into the international community, and it provides for including Switzerland into comparative analyses done by scholars from around the world.

The use of LIS data in Switzerland can be expected to intensify once interested researchers become aware that there are current, good quality Swiss data readily available in the databases.

Of course 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 and economics).

Additionally, FORS organised for the first time a one-day seminar on LIS for all interested researchers in late September 2009. The LIS Managing Director, Dr. Thierry Kruten, introduced LIS, its current state, as well as new developments and possibilities. Dr. Hanno Scholtz (University of Bern) reported about his scientific work and his experiences with LIS. Working sessions emphasized scientific and practical aspects of using LIS databases.

This kind of activity will be continued. It is planned to offer such seminars annually from now on.

2.6 Social Report

After successful publication of the Social Report 2008, conceptual preparation work on the next issue started in early 2009. Together with the editors of the report on generations (Perrig-Chiello, Höpflinger and Suter: Generationenbericht Schweiz 2008) it was decided to continue reporting on generations by focusing the Social Report 2012 on this topic. FORS submitted a proposal for the continuation and institutional consolidation of reporting on generations which has been accepted by the Swiss NSF.

The proposal aims at developing the scientific base of reporting on generations, at building up a network of researchers in the field ("Plattform Generationenforschung"), and at drafting the structure of the Social Report 2012.

Part of these tasks will be performed by Prof. François Höpflinger (University of Zurich). The bulk of the networking and drafting work, however, will be assigned to the newly established service "Social Reporting" at FORS. The sociologist Dr. Felix Bühlmann was hired in late 2009 to head this service.

A *sounding board* consisting of Swiss and international scholars as well as non-scientific experts in the field will monitor the development of the project and give advice on its strategic orientation.

2.7 Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences.

The 13th Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences took place from August 14 - 28, 2009 at the Università della Svizzera Italiana (Lugano).

During the first week, the following courses were held:

- Dr. Pam Campanelli: Survey Research Methods (15 participants);
- Prof. Edgar Erdfelder: Applied Analysis of Variance and Linear Modelling (24 participants);
- Prof. Eugene Horber: Statistics & SPSS for Social Scientists (20 participants); and during the second week:
- Prof. Karen O'Reilly: Participant Observation and Ethnography (10 participants);
- Profs. Peter Schmidt/Eldad Davidov: Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) I (23 participants);
- Prof. Micheal Gibbert: Case Studies: Design, Methods, and Reporting (12 participants).

Nearly 21% of the participants attended two courses. The optional two day preparatory/refresh Workshop (Horber) preceding the Summer School had 14 participants.

Eighty-four percent of the participants were PhD students. The largest group (26%) of this year's participants was working in the field of communication sciences, followed by Business Studies and Psychology (both 16%), Education (15%), and Political Science (10%).

2.8 Third Party Funded Projects

The European project "Representation and policy congruence in Europe" (REPCONG), hosted by FORS, was mainly concerned with network activities, data collection and first publications in 2009. The team members from four different countries met three times in 2009. The first meeting in Innsbruck, organized by the REPCONG team from Lausanne in January, served to deepen the common theoretical understanding of representative processes in Europe. The two additional meetings focused on methodological aspects, especially of multi-level analysis as well as on the coordination of the entire REPCONG project. The team in Lausanne also provided a contextual level database on political institutions in the relevant European countries. Additionally, the team took part in a two-week course at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Summer School in Ljubljana to expand their knowledge of multivariate methods.

As for publications, two central aspects concerning the differences of political preferences between citizens and elites were covered. First, the REPCONG team addressed the question of how to ideally measure political congruence; for this they inspected the methodological possibilities of applying the technique of multi-level-modeling to assess congruence of citizens and political elites. Second, the team concentrated on substantive questions regarding political congruence, especially focusing on congruence in the Swiss semi-direct democratic setting. One of the studies dealt with differences between citizens' subjective evaluations of congruence and their factual, substantive congruence. Another one focused on the similarity of policy spaces of elites and citizens in Switzerland using CSES data. Both papers were presented at the general conference of the ECPR in Potsdam in September, and the latter also at a workshop organized by the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) Democracy in Bern in November. In a third study on congruence between citizens and their preferred party in Swiss popular votes was determined. The result of this analysis was presented at the Swiss Political Science Association meeting in Geneva in January 2010.

Occasionally FORS is doing mandated projects for non-commercial customers. A good example for this type of service is the consulting mandate for the statistical office of the canton of Lucerne for running their first general population survey on opinions and attitudes concerning topics of cantonal relevance; the mandate was accomplished by FORS senior researcher Dr. Kathrin Kissau.

Another 2009 example was the feasibility study for a research project on political behaviour of young adults aged 18-25 for the division Education of the State

Secretariate for Education and Research (SER). This feasibility study led to a research proposal which eventually was accepted by the SER. A specifically hired scientific collaborator will – under the direction of Dr. Kissau – analyse Swiss and comparative data on the topic and run a standalone online survey with young adults in Switzerland.

FORS will aim to acquire a reasonable share of mandated projects in the future.

2.9 Governing Bodies and Management

2.9.1 Foundation Board

The Foundation Board is the FORS foundation's supreme governing body. It is chaired by the Rector of the host university who acts as a 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 and Research and the Swiss National Science Foundation). The list of the members of the Board as of December 31, 2009 is attached to this report (see Appendix).

After its initial phase of intense activity in 2007/08 the Board followed a more regular schedule in 2009. There have been three meetings, one of them back to back to a joint meeting with the Scientific Board.

In the first meeting on *March 10, 2009*, the Board audited the accounts and the Annual Report 2008. The Board also discussed briefly the collaboration principles of the two FORS Boards and the draft strategic plan. Both papers were subsequently submitted for discussion to the joint meeting of the Boards later in 2009 (see below). Other important themes were the current state and the short-term perspectives of the establishment of contact points in Swiss universities.

This topic was further developed at the second meeting of the Board on *May 5, 2009*. The responsible FORS senior collaborator, Dr. Isabelle Renschler, reported on the first full day event that was held for the contact points on March 12, 2009 (see section 3.2). The second key issue of this meeting was a preparatory discussion on evaluation procedures in view of the joint meeting of the two Boards.

The third Foundation Board meeting of this year was held on *November 27, 2009.* It decided on the FORS budget 2010. Due to the retirement of its vice-president, Prof. Urs Altermatt (see below), the Board had to elect a successor. Prof. Katharina Michaelowa was appointed unanimously. Furthermore, the Board was to appoint two new members to the Scientific Board (see section 2.9.2). The main substantive topic was the question of the modalities to access the new sampling frame of the Federal Statistical Office. The Board expressed its expectation that this issue would be resolved in a satisfactory way between FORS and the Office. The representative of the Office to

the Board, Mr Marco Buscher, and the FORS Director were mandated to discuss concrete options bilateraly as well as with Statistical Office top management.

The *joint meeting* of the Boards, chaired by the FORS President, on May 5, 2009 set out some basic collaboration principles. These principles define the systematic exchange of information between the two Boards via the meeting minutes, regular discussions on strategic issues, development plans, and evaluation matters, as well as consultation and decision making procedures and mandating evaluations to the Scientific Board. Furthermore, the Boards decided on mid-term strategic goals for FORS. These include expertise in producing and disseminating data, consulting services and methodological research; collaboration with Swiss and foreign scientific partners; outreach to national and international audiences; and the involvement in the debate on research policy issues. Finally it was decided that the first scientific evaluation of FORS products and services in the strict sense to be accomplished by the Scientific Board should take place not earlier than 2012, but that instruments for the continuous monitoring of FORS activities would have to be developed and implemented by FORS management by mid-2010.

In 2009, two members left the Foundation Board due to their retirement from active professional life: Prof. Urs Altermatt, representative of the Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities and vice-president to the Board, and Prof. Gabrielle Antille Gaillard, representative of the Swiss National Science Foundation and observer to the meetings of the Board. On behalf of the Foundation, the President acknowledged the commitment and the productive contributions of these distinguished colleagues in the important period of establishing FORS.

According to the rules set out in the Deed of Foundation, the Rector's Conference nominated Prof. Margrit Stamm (University of Fribourg) as a successor to Prof. Altermatt, and the NSF designated Prof. Monica Budowski (University of Fribourg and member of the National Research Council) to follow Prof. Antille Gaillard (see updated list of members in the Appendix). The President welcomed both at the meeting of November 27 and thanked them for their availability.

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 *May 4 and 5, 2009*. One of the key issues was the draft proposal for the Swiss Household Panel waves 2010 and 2011 to be submitted to the NSF by the end of June (see section 2.1.1). Following a presentation by SHP senior researchers, the Board discussed in depth especially the question of a possible new sample. It was decided not to include this option in the current proposal, but to reevaluate the topic for the subsequent waves in due time.

Another important scholarly discussion revolved around the FORS methodological research programme. The three modules (mixed mode interviewing, nonresponse, and translation issues, see section 2.4) were presented by FORS senior researchers. Members of the Board gave valuable feedback and input and expressed the wish to

continue the debate once the projects had advanced and (preliminary) results could be reviewed.

Furthermore, the Director of the new university research unit Methodology, Inequalities and Social Change (MISC), Prof. Dominique Joye, gave a brief overview on its activities and collaborative links with FORS (see sections 2.4.4 and 3.1). Since the setting-up of this unit, its goals, and its research programme are closely linked to the establishment of FORS in Lausanne, the Scientific Board asked for regular reports on progress made by MISC in the future.

Finally the Board agreed with the conclusions of a strategic paper given by the head of the Survey unit, Dr. Boris Wernli, emphasizing that the current state of the survey market in Switzerland does neither need nor allow the establishment of an operational data collection service by FORS. However, the situation can change over time and might therefore be reconsidered, for example, in connection with the development of web based surveying.

The creation of the FORS Working Paper series (see section 2.10) was in principle welcomed by the Board. Concerns were raised with regard to a clear differentiation between reports, working papers, articles and the like, and with regard to the submission to scientific journals of texts based on working papers. Such questions will have to be carefully considered as the series grows.

There have been two changes in the composition of the Board: Prof. Bob Groves was appointed Director of the US Census Bureau and had to withdraw from the Board according to the rules set out by the Obama administration. Prof. Monica Budowski was designated by the National Research Council to represent the NSF on the Foundation Board; she withdrew therefore from the Scientific Board to avoid role cumulation. On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked both colleagues for their scholarly inputs to the Board's discussions.

After consultation with the Chair, two new members were nominated and subsequently elected to the Scientific Board by the Foundation Board: Prof. Edith D. de Leeuw, University of Utrecht, and Prof. Christian Suter, University of Neuchâtel (see updated list of members in the Appendix).

2.9.3 Management

The FORS Executive Board is chaired by the Director and comprises the heads of the units Surveys, Data and Research Information Services, and Support. The Executive Board meets regularly every second week. Decisions are minuted, and the minutes are sent to the Presidents of the Foundation and the Scientific Boards to keep them posted on current affairs.

To prepare for the upcoming strategic planning discussions in the context of the funding proposal to be submitted to the State Secretariate by June 2010, and 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 November 10-11. Several decisions resulted from this meeting:

- The internal flow of communication is to be improved by the monthly news bulletin "Inside FORS", distributed electronically to all collaborators (see section 2.10).
- FORS contact points will be invited to the second full day meeting in 2010 to reinforce links and to keep them posted on important issues in connection with FORS.
- FORS activities in the field of documenting and accessing qualitative data will be developed following the publication of the "Statement on Qualitative Research Methods" by the Swiss Academy for Humanities and Social Sciences. A public workshop is planned in 2010.
- The participation of FORS staff at international conferences in 2010 is to be coordinated. A respective meeting of FORS and MISC senior researchers took place on December 7, 2009.
- It will be proposed to the Lugano Summer School director to plan for regular courses on secondary analysis of FORS large data sets (e.g., SHP, ESS, SELECTS, SHARE).
- The basic structure of the FORS web site will be reconsidered in order to follow a more user-oriented logic as compared to the current organisation-centered presentation.
- FORS senior staff will develop mid-term perspectives on data policy and its implications for FORS; a first meeting was held in early 2010. Results of this debate will be submitted subsequently to the Foundation and Scientific Boards.

Data protection issues are at the core of the activities of several FORS units. To learn more about the legal side, FORS commissioned a report in 2009 on its data documentation and publication routines to the data protection expert Prof. Philippe Meier from the University of Lausanne. The report confirmed that current FORS practice in documenting data and giving researchers access to data is in line with Swiss data protection regulations.

The collaboration with the University's central services, especially human resources and IT, ran smoothly in 2009 and facilitated FORS daily operations considerably.

There were 33 permanent staff employed at FORS by the end of 2009. Apart from two mathematicians, two office clerks, and two IT specialists, all staff members have accomplished studies in different social science disciplines; one third has doctoral / Ph.D. degrees (see table attached in the Appendix). Several dissertations and one habilitation are under way.

As compared to 2008, the number of staff grew by 22 percent. This growth is partly due to the completion of the SHP and COMPASS teams, and partly to the successful funding proposals for new projects like SHARE and the Social Report. The numbers of male and female employees are almost equal now. Sociologists and native Swiss-German speakers have clearly grown in number and in share of the total.

Staff members originate from seven different nationalities and are native speakers of seven 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, there have been monthly lunch seminars introduced for presentation and discussion of current research projects. The seminars are organised by FORS senior researcher Dr. Marieke Voorpostel (see Appendix for the complete list of seminars held in 2009).

At a general FORS staff meeting on May 11, the two postdoctoral fellows hired on the University funded invitational programme presented their research projects (see section 3.1).

A half-day staff excursion by boat to Vevey to visit the games museum, followed by a dinner, took place on September 4. A Christmas party was held on December 14.

2.10 Communication

2009 was a year of intense communication activities for FORS². Existing tools to promote the services and data sources have been refined and completed, and new tools were developed.

The newsletter was published again twice, in April and November. At each edition, close to 4'000 researchers received information about quantitative data developments in Switzerland. The newsletter was dedicated in April to the data service and the newly established contact points, and in November to international congresses organized in Lausanne as well as to new FORS services.

In order to increase the visibility of the institution, a poster including the mission statements and the supporting institutions was produced in German, French, and English (see Appendix). It has already been used at different events such as the WAPOR conference, the Swiss congress of sociology, and other major research gatherings.

An important window towards the outside world is our website, which was customized and completely redesigned to bring together in a consistent way the webpages of the different groups and projects and to allow for more flexibility in the future. The website points up newly available services like the access to public statistical micro-data, and includes currently available tools and functions to help the researchers to find the information they seek. As before, all information is available in three languages. In terms

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² We will mention here only the activities developed for the institution as a whole. The various groups composing FORS develop their own proceedings and promotion tools.

of image, the features and pages have altogether been standardized and correspond now more fully to a single corporate design.

Another major focus of communication activities during the second year of existence was exchange with the scientific community. Oral presentations at all the institutions of social sciences were conducted with the aim of providing information about FORS and its services, and sharing knowledge and know how on survey research and methods. By the end of the year most of the Swiss universities and universities of applied sciences that are important for the social sciences were covered (see list of presentations in the Appendix).

These oral presentations were mainly done in research meetings and in methods courses and therefore reached junior and senior researchers as well as students alike. They were tailored to the knowledge and degree of familiarity of the audience with quantitative data. Keeping the scientific community informed is of course an ongoing endeavour, and this activity will continue in 2010, with priority on the institutions with new contact points (see section 3.2).

As a means of lean and efficient scientific exchange, the FORS Working Paper series has been created. Submission guidelines are available from the FORS website. After internal and external review, the papers are published electronically. Publication in the Working Paper series does not prevent authors from submitting their paper to a peer-reviewed journal or an editied book. FORS Working Papers can be downloaded from the FORS website. The series is editied by FORS senior researcher Dr. Marieke Voorpostel. In 2009, the first two papers were published (see Appendix).

To improve the internal flow of communication, the monthly news bulletin "Inside FORS" was created. The bulletin informs staff about news concerning all fields of activity of FORS. It is distributed electronically to all collaborators, the Chair and members of the Foundation Board, and the Chair of the Scientific Board.

3 Scientific Collaborations

3.1 Host University

The collaboration with the host university is based on a scientific and administrative contractual agreement, both signed for four years with the possibility of prolongations. From the administrative side several central services are involved, mainly the Human Resources, IT, and Communication departments.

An especially close and fruitful scientific collaboration has developed with the University of Lausanne research unit on Methodology, Inequalities and Social Change MISC. First, Caroline Roberts and Francesco Laganà, postdoctoral fellows of the invitational programme of the University (see below), have worked in close scientific collaboration with MISC on methodological projects on mixed mode and data quality, as well as on the SHP and the Swiss Labour Force Survey to improve knowledge on empirical characteristics of the labour market, in particular in relation to immigration. Second, on different important methodological topics, including translation and quality of scales, several collaborative projects have been developed (see section 2.4.4). Lastly, a number of proposals associating MISC and FORS collaborators have been submitted to the NSF. If accepted, they will be a strong basis for future collaboration.

Another successful collaboration was implemented with the Methods and Research Seminar that was organised jointly by FORS, MISC, and the Institute of Applied Mathematics IMA. The seminar offers a 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 2009 seminars covered the following topics:

•	Jean-Pierre Müller, U Lausanne Oliver Lipps, FORS	R et analyses textuelles Panel attrition on the individual and the
٠	Jean-Marie Le Goff, U Lausanne	Event History Analysis et modèles de diffusion
٠	Guy Elcheroth, U Lausanne	Spatially weighted contextual variables in multi-level analyses
٠	Alina Matei, U Neuchâtel	Survey sampling package for R
٠	Florent Dieterlen, U Lausanne	New techniques for longitudinal analyses
٠	Gilbert Ritschard, U Geneva	TraMineR: L'analyse des données séquentielles
١	Caroline Roberts, U Lausanne / FORS	Mixing modes of data collection in social surveys

The invitational programme sponsored by the University has been partly reoriented to host two postdoctoral fellowships. The fellowships were internationally advertised. About two dozen applications were submitted. The fellowships were awarded to the English social psychologist Caroline Roberts and the Italian sociologist Francesco Laganà. Dr. Roberts holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and has specialised in survey methodology; she follows up on research she was conducting as a scientific collaborator to the ESS central team at City University London and to the American Election Study at Stanford University Palo Alto. Dr. Laganà got his PhD from the University of Brescia; he focuses on labour market dynamics basing his comparative empirical analyses on longitudinal data from household panels and labour force surveys, and he is involved in the European EQUALSOC network.

Apart from the fellowships, the invitational programme allowed invitation of Dr. Laurent Lesnard, deputy director of the Centre for Social and Political Data in Paris, for a professional exchange on data documentation and data access issues.

In middle and long term perspective, the scholarly collaboration between FORS and the Lausanne faculty of social and political sciences will profit from the newly created chair on life course studies and social policy. The FORS director was a member of the nomination committee. The newly appointed professor will take office in autumn 2010.

3.2 National Partners

In order to establish personal relations with the top management of Swiss universities and to improve the visibility of FORS, the President and the Vice-President of the Foundation, together with the Director, visited the Rectors of all Swiss universities. The schedule was as follows:

•	University of Basel	29.9.
•	University of Bern	18.5.
•	University of Fribourg	18.5.
•	University of Geneva	30.10.
•	University of Lucerne	3.11.
•	University of Lugano	24.8.
•	University of Neuchâtel	30.10.
•	University of St-Gall	28.8.
•	University of Zurich	20.7.

The respective Rector in office was always present at the meetings, partly accompanied by a representative of the social sciences faculty. Documents on FORS were handed out (FORS newsletters and flyer, Annual Report 2008). The encounters were very valuable in explaining the goals, institutional background, and activities of FORS. The idea and the way of functioning of the contact points was supported by all Rectors.

The network of contact points that was started in 2008 was further expanded in 2009. Several new experts joined the network from universities and universities of applied sciences, more recently from the university of Lucerne and from Ticino (Università della svizzera italiana, USI, and Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana, SUPSI).

There are now contact points at all the Swiss universities, and the network includes more than twenty representatives of institutes, faculties, universities and universities of applied sciences who provide information to researchers and students within their home institution or faculty. Some larger universities have more than one contact point, as for example Zurich, where each major institute for the social sciences has its own (see complete list of contact points in the Appendix).

An important function of the representatives is to give feedback about the way the services are perceived, and to provide information about modifications that researchers would like to introduce to FORS services. Some of these suggestions have already been put into practice regarding the research inventory while other comments will be useful for future work.

The official start of the contact points was at the kick-off meeting on March 12, 2009. This was an important moment to present in detail the surveys and projects that are conducted at FORS, and to meet the representatives. The contact persons had the opportunity to talk to the project leaders during their one day visit and to discuss data access and secondary analysis.

An important step into a new collaborative venture in life course research is the partnership of FORS in the NCCR proposal "Overcoming Vulnerability – Life Course Perspectives" directed by Prof. Dario Spini (U Lausanne). This proposal involves several Swiss universities and distinguished scholars in the field. If accepted the NCCR will develop especially close scientific relations with the SHP. By the end of 2009, the proposal was on the shortlist of 10 projects recommended for funding by the NSF due to its outstanding scientific quality. The final decision will be made by the State Secretariate for Education and Research in early 2010.

3.3 International Commitments

FORS continued and reinforced its involvement in the development of European research infrastructures: The FORS director was appointed Chair of the Thematic Working Group on Social Sciences and Humanities of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and as such a member of the Swiss delegation to ESFRI. The working group is composed of 15 distinguished scholars from 14 European countries plus the European Commission. It will

- monitor the development and implementation of the current ESFRI roadmap SSH projects,
- explore common needs and cooperation options of these projects,

- observe scientific dynamics in its fields to eventually detect potential new projects that could be included in the roadmap,
- document the establishment of national roadmaps and their consequences for SSH, and
- address conceptual issues concerning whether the ESFRI instruments are well adapted to SSH.

FORS took an active role as partner in the ongoing transformation process of CESSDA and ESS into European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). With the participation in the fourth wave of SHARE (see section 2.1.2) FORS has become one of the few institutions of its kind that takes responsibility for the national parts of all social science ESFRI roadmap projects.

International scholarly collaboration was promoted by attendance of FORS researchers at a number of conferences (e.g., the European Survey Research Association ESRA in Warsaw, the Priority Programme on Survey Methodology PPSM in Bremen), or hosting international conferences at FORS (the Panel Data Users' Conference in June, the World Association for Public Opinion Research WAPOR yearly conference, and the Nonresponse workshop, both in September). FORS and the University of Lausanne have been trusted to host the next ESRA conference in 2011, one of the most important scientific events in survey research on the continent. For a complete list of international conference attendance by FORS collaborators, see the respective section in the publications list in the Appendix.

Being part of the ISSP drafting group on health, it was expected from the FORS International Surveys group to organize a pretest. In order to keep costs low, a mixed strategy combining web and paper was chosen. The questionnaire was generated on paper and Internet ("limesurvey") using the open source program QueXML. The address sample was bought from a private company that has the reputation to own one of the most complete sampling bases in Switzerland. It is still too early to comment on the quality of the results, but the final response rate will probably be higher than one third of the total number of addresses.

During 2009, FORS participated in several CESSDA related projects, including testing of the multilingual social science thesaurus ELSST, as well as development of European-wide data deposit and end-user license models. In addition, FORS contributed to a multinational FP7 proposal for improving access to data from National Statistical Institutes.

4 Challenges Ahead

1. More and more social scientists are doing research inside and outside of universities. However, funding remains a critical issue especially when it comes to large scale data production needed for sound empirical research. The secondary analysis of existing datasets will certainly gain importance as a mode of saving on funds to be spent on scientific analyses rather than on gathering data. Consequently the production, documentation, and accessibility of high quality datasets will be confronted with a growing demand from the side of researchers.

This growing demand for infrastructural support will foster the development of **new technologies** of documentation and access on the international level that will have to be implemented by FORS in order not to isolate Swiss researchers from international networks of data use and scientific cooperation.

- 2. Generally speaking there is a professionalisation of social science research infrastructures going on that is, in Europe, strongly driven by the ESFRI process. FORS will have to keep pace with this if it does not want to risk being put aside. It might well be that this needs IT, documentation, and consulting resources that surpass what is at disposition now. A realistic estimation of the necessary investments in time, manpower, and know-how is an important input for discussing future priorities.
- 3. Being a social science service and research institution, FORS has to constantly improve its outreach to the scientific community and beyond. The respective record so far is encouraging but needs to be developed further. To be recognised as a national centre of expertise in the social sciences, FORS has to enlarge and strengthen its networks and to intensify its visibility. The instruments are there (e.g., university contact points, website, newsletter, flyer, poster) and the support by the staff responsible for institutional networks and outreach is available. They are being used already, but usage will have to be more thorough by all collaborators in the future.
- 4. FORS funding arrangements as they have been established until the end of 2011 will have to be renewed soon. The State Secretariate for Education and Research is asking for a mid-term activities plan (2012-2016) and the corresponding financial planning by the end of June 2010. Preparatory discussions involve senior staff as well as the Scientific Board. The Foundation Board will have to make strategic choices in 2010 that will shape FORS for quite a number of years.

Appendix: Facts and Figures

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- **Kissau**, Kathrin, and Uwe Hunger. 2009. *Politische Sphären von Migranten im Internet:* Neue Chancen im "Long Tail" der Politik. München: Nomos Verlag.
- Oris, Michel, Eric D. Widmer, Anik de Ribaupierre, Dominique **Joye**, Dario Spini et al. (eds.). 2009. *Transitions dans le parcours de vie et construction des inégalités*. Lausanne: Presses polytechniques et universitaires romandes.
- **Sapin**, Marlène, Dario Spini, and Eric D. Widmer. Forthcoming 2010. *Il percorso della vita*. Bologna: Il Mulino, coll. Itinerari.

Scientific Conferences

- Bernardi, Laura, Antoine Pierrard, Francesco Giudici, and Marlène **Sapin**. 2009. "Social networks' characteristics and childbearing intentions." Paper presented at the XIX International Social Network Conference (Sunbelt), San Diego, California, 10-15 March.
- Budowski, Monica, Maurizia Masia, and Robin **Tillmann**. 2009. "Dynamics of Poverty, Precarious Prosperity and Prosperity in Switzerland." Paper presented at the 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, University of Lausanne, 5 June.
- **Farago**, Peter. 2009. "Identity, Social Relations, and Consumption Patterns." Chair of a plenary session at the 16th Congress of the Swiss Sociological Assocation "Identity and Lifestyle Transformations". Geneva, 7-9 September.
- Giger, Nathalie, Kathrin **Kissau**, Georg **Lutz**, and Jan **Rosset**. 2009. "Explaining the Variance of Perceived and Substantive Representation." Paper presented at the 5th General ECPR Conference in Potsdam, 10-12 September.
- Giudici, Francesco, Antoine Pierrard, Marlène **Sapin**, and Eric D. Widmer. 2009. "Social network effects on intentions of work participation by Swiss men and women in the transition to parenthood." Paper presented at the XIX International Social Network Conference (Sunbelt), San Diego, California, 10-15 March.
- Henchoz, Caroline, and Boris **Wernli**. 2009. "The Effects of Transitions in Cohabitation, Marital and Parenthood Status on the Division of Household Labor." Paper

- presented at the 16th Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association, University of Geneva, 9 September.
- Henchoz, Caroline, and Boris **Wernli**. 2009. "Women's and Men's Housework: A Life Course Perspective." Paper presented at the 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, University of Lausanne, 4 June.
- **Joye**, Dominique, Sylvie **Leuenberger-Zanetta**, Alexandre **Pollien**, Marlène **Sapin**, and Nicole **Schoebi**. 2009. "Structure of non-response in Switzerland: A cumulative approach?" Paper presented at the 20th International Household Survey Nonresponse Workshop, Lausanne, 31 August 3 September.
- **Joye**, Dominique, Marlène **Sapin**, and Alexandre **Pollien**. 2009. "Effect of different translations of answer scales." Paper presented at the Seminar of Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSSII) Survey design and quality, Leinsweiler, Germany, 3-5 December.
- **Kissau**, Kathrin, Georg **Lutz**, and Jan **Rosset**. 2009. "The structuring pattern of political opinions: is it the same for citizens and elites?" Paper presented at the 5th General ECPR Conference in Potsdam, 10-12 September.
- **Kuhn**, Ursina. 2009. "Voting trajectories in Switzerland: Explaining electoral success of the SVP with Panel data." Paper presented at the Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association, University of St. Gallen, 9 January.
- **Kuhn**, Ursina. 2009. "The impact of political sophistication on change in party preferences." Paper presented at the 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, University of Lausanne, 4 June.
- **Kuhn**, Ursina. 2009. "Round-table: The Swiss Social Report 2008 from the perspective of European social reporting." Paper presented at the 16th Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association, University of Geneva, 9 September.
- **Kuhn**, Ursina. 2009. "The Swiss Household Panel." Paper presented at the GSOEP-CNEF Workshop, Cornell University, 12 September.
- **Lipps**, Oliver. 2009. "Interviewereffekte auf Kooperation und Datenqualität bei einem zentralen CATI Panel." Paper presented at the Workshop "Qualität von Grosserhebungen", Bundesagentur für Arbeit (IAB), Nürnberg, Germany, 3 September.
- **Lipps**, Oliver. 2009. "Cooperation in centralised CATI a Contact based Multilevel Analysis to examine Interviewer, Respondent, and Contact Effects." Paper presented at the 20th International Workshop on Household Survey Nonresponse, University of Lausanne, 31 August.
- **Lipps**, Oliver and Alexandre **Pollien**. 2009 "Components of Nonresponse and Experience of Interviewer Effects in the ESS". Paper presented at the European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference, Warsaw, 29 June 3 July.
- **Lutz**, Georg, and Oliver **Lipps**. 2009. "Do female and male interviewers produce different answers on attitude questions?" Paper presented at the 62nd WAPOR Conference, University of Lausanne, 12-13 September.

- **Lutz**, Georg. 2009. "The Swiss open ballot PR system: its origin and its effect on strategic behaviour of parties and candidates." Paper presented at the workshop on "Personal and Party Representation", Barcelona, Spain, 18-19 June (under review with Oxford University Press for a book edited by Josep Colomer).
- **Lutz**, Georg. 2009. "The electoral success of beauties and beasts." Paper presented at the 5th General ECPR Conference, Potsdam, 10-12 September.
- **Lutz**, Georg, and Peter Selb (2009). "Personal vote seeking and district magnitude in open list PR systems. Evidence from Switzerland." Paper presented at the conference on "Candidates in Constituency Campaigns from a Comparative Perspective", Cornell University and to be presented at the APSA 2010 conference and to appear in a special issue of Electoral Studies (special issue accepted).
- **Pollien**, Alexandre, and Lorenzo Bonoli. 2009. "Parcours de formation ou dernier diplôme atteint?" Paper presented at the 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, 4 June.
- **Pollien**, Alexandre, and Lorenzo Bonoli. 2009. "Parcours de formation ou diplôme atteint?" Paper presented at the 16th congress of the Swiss Sociological Association, University of Geneva, 8 september.
- **Pollien**, Alexandre, Oliver **Lipps**, Dominique **Joye**, Sylvie **Leuenberger-Zanetta**, Marlène **Sapin**, and Nicole **Schöbi**. 2009. "Comparing contact sequences in the ESS and mapping the impact of survey methodology." Paper presented at the European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference, Warsaw, 29 June 3 July.
- **Renschler**, Isabelle, Brian **Kleiner**, Nicole Fasel, and Nicole **Schöbi**. 2009. "Telephone interviews, Swiss style: patterns of adaptation, for better or worse?" Paper presented at the European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference, Warsaw, 29 June 3 July.
- **Ryser**, Valérie-Anne, and Jean-Marie Le Goff. 2009. "Mariage et Paternité." Paper presented at the Lunch égalité, Bureau de l'égalité des chances, University of Lausanne, 7 April.
- **Ryser**, Valérie-Anne, Jean-Marie Le Goff, and Laura Bernardi. 2009. "Gender role-set, family orientations, and fertility intentions in Switzerland." Paper presented at the 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, University of Lausanne, 5 June.
- **Ryser**, Valérie-Anne, Jean-Marie Le Goff, and Laura Bernardi. 2009. "Gender role-set, family orientations, and fertility intentions in Switzerland." Paper presented at the European Sociological Association Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 5 September.
- **Ryser**, Valérie-Anne, Jean-Marie Le Goff, and Laura Bernardi. 2009. "Coping with threatening identities in old and very old age." Paper presented at the 16th Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association, University of Geneva, 9 September.
- **Ryser**, Valérie-Anne, Jean-Marie Le Goff, and Laura Bernardi. 2009. "La signification du mariage chez de futurs pères. Contexte Suisse." Paper presented at the

- Colloque international et interdisciplinaire, Université de Valenciennes, France, 22 october.
- **Sapin**, Marlène. 2009. "Trajectoire de vie, ressources sociales et détresse: Parcours de patients suivis en psychothérapie." Paper presented at the 16th Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association, University of Geneva, 7-9 September 2009.
- **Sapin**, Marlène, and Eric D. Widmer. 2009. "Changes in personal networks during the transition to parenthood. An empirical assessment in Switzerland." Paper presented European Sociological Association Conference, Lisbon, 2-5 September.
- **Voorpostel**, Marieke. 2009. "Transitions in marital status, gender, and political and civic participation." Paper presented at the Community Work & Family Conference, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 16-18 April.
- **Voorpostel**, Marieke. 2009. "Attrition in the Swiss Household Panel." Paper presented at the 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users, University of Lausanne, 4-5 June.
- **Voorpostel**, Marieke, and Hilde Coffé. 2009. "Life cycle transitions, gender, and political and civic participation." Paper presented at the 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users, University of Lausanne, 4-5 June.
- **Voorpostel**, Marieke. "Life cycle transitions, gender, and political and civic participation". Paper presented at the BHPS Conference, Colchester, UK, 9-11 July.
- **Voorpostel**, Marieke. 2009. "Gender differences in leisure time: A cross-national comparison over time". Paper presented at the Workshop Economic and Social Arrangements, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 27-29 August.
- **Voorpostel**, Marieke. 2009. "Transitions in partnership and parental status, gender, and political and civic participation." Paper presented at the European Sociological Association Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 2-5 September.
- **Voorpostel**, Marieke. 2009. Session organizer and "In partnership and parental status, gender, and political and civic participation." Paper presented at the 16th Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association, University of Geneva, 7-9 September.
- **Weaver**, Bryce, and France Weaver. 2009. "Does availability of informal care decrease inpatient care in Switzerland?" Paper presented at the 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users, University of Lausanne, 5 June.
- **Weaver**, Bryce. 2009. "When Normality Fails: a Multiple Imputation Technique Based on the Cumulative Distribution." Paper presented at the Third Conference of the European Survey Research Association, University of Warsaw, Poland, 3 July.
- **Wernli**, Boris. 2009. "Les grandes enquêtes de FORS." Presentation at the University of Lausanne, 19 March.
- **Wernli**, Boris, and Ursina Kuhn. 2009. "Le panel suisse de ménages." Presentation at the University of Lausanne, 7 May.

Working Papers / Reports

- **Buerli**, Stefan, and Brian **Kleiner**. 2009. "Supporting an open access research culture: Findings of a National Survey of Social Science Researchers." Lausanne: FORS.
- **Kuhn**, Ursina. 2009. "Attrition analysis of income data." SHP Working Paper 2_09. Lausanne: FORS.
- **Kuhn**, Ursina and Flurina Schmid. 2009. "Tax simulation in the SHP." SHP Working Paper 4_09. Lausanne: FORS.
- **Lipps**, Oliver and Ursina **Kuhn**. 2009. "Codebook for CNEF variables in the SHP (1999-2007)." SHP Working Paper 5_09. Lausanne: FORS.
- **Lipps**, Oliver. 2009. "Attrition of Households and Individuals in Panel Surveys." SOEP Papers 164, DIW Berlin.
- **Lutz**, Georg. 2009. Notes on Rwandas new electoral code. Report on behalf of the Rwandan national electoral commission and the Swiss Development Cooperation.
- **Voorpostel**, Marieke. 2009. "Attrition in the Swiss Household Panel by demographic characteristics and levels of social involvement." SHP Working Paper 1_09. Lausanne: FORS.

Other Media (Selection)

- **Farago**, Peter. 2009. "Generationenbeziehungen im Fokus: Der Sozialbericht 2012." Bulletin 4/2009. Bern: SAGW.
- Lutz, Georg. 2009. 4 Abstimmungsnachmittage als Kommentator bei DRS 4.
- **Lutz**, Georg. 2009. 10vor10 Beitrag über die Studie "The electoral success of beauties and beasts."
- **Lutz**, Georg. 2009. Interview 3.11.2009 im "Forum" RSR zur Isolation von Rudolf Merz im Bundesrat.
- **Lutz**, Georg. 2009. Interview 12.6.2009 im Landbote "Bei Spenden fehlt die Transparenz."
- Lutz, Georg. 2009. Interview 27.3.2009 im Bund "Linke hat durchaus Chancen."
- **Lutz**, Georg. 2009. Interview 10.3.2009 in der Solothurner Zeitung "SVP kommt ihrem Zenit näher."
- **Lutz**, Georg. 2009. Interivew SF Schweiz aktuell 9.2.2009. Ausblick Wahlen Kanton Wallis.
- **Voorpostel**, Marieke. 2009. Interview 22.11.2009 in Femina, "Pourquoi le divorce isole-t-il les femmes?"

FORS Working Paper Series

Scherpenzeel, Annette. 2009. "Innovations and New Technologies in Panel Research." FORS Working Paper series No. 1. Lausanne: FORS.

Lutz, Georg. 2009. "The Electoral Success of Beauties and Beasts." FORS Working Paper series No. 2. Lausanne: FORS.

Teaching

- **Kuhn**, Ursina. 8 Mars 2009. Presentation of SHP in master course "Bildungssoziologie", Prof. Rolf Becker. University of Bern.
- **Kuhn**, Ursina. 7 May 2009. Presentation in master course political science, Prof. Florence Passy. University of Lausanne.
- **Kuhn**, Ursina. 4 June 2009. 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, Refresher Course: Regression and Application to Panel data. University of Lausanne.
- **Lipps**, Oliver. 22. April 2009. "Aspekte der Datenqualität bei komplexen Haushaltsumfragen", Guestlecture, Institute for Sociology, ETH Zürich.
- **Lipps**, Oliver. 4. June 2009. 5th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland, Workshop: "The longitudinal Model for Growth". University of Lausanne.
- **Lipps,** Oliver. 16. October 2009. "Das Schweizer Haushalt Panel", Guestlecture. Wirtschaftswissenschaftliches Zentrum (WWZ), University of Basel.
- **Lipps**, Oliver. Summer semester 2009. Course on longitudinal survey data analysis. University of Basel.
- **Lutz**, Georg. 1 April 2009. "L'échantillonnage de SELECTS au concret". University of Lausanne.
- **Lutz**, Georg. 10 November 2009. "Wahlforschung in der Schweiz", Guestlecture. Lichtenstein-Institut, Vaduz.
- **Wernli**, Boris. 28-29 September 2009. Données d'enquêtes, principes et techniques de base. IDHEAP, Ecole doctorale.
- **Wernli**, Boris, and Jean-Marie Le Goff. 15 et 16 October 2009. Les enjeux de l'analyse longitudinale: des données d'enquête à leur traitement. Université de Lausanne, Ecole doctorale romande en sociologie.

Lunch Seminars

January 21: Boris Wernli

Tels parents, tels enfants? Les influences parentales dans l'orientation idéologique en Suisse.

February 18: Alexandre Pollien

Contacter le répondant. Essai de typologie des séquences de contact d'enquête.

March 25: Ursina Kuhn

Stability and Change in Party Preference.

April 22: Kathrin Kissau

Online Data Collection.

May 13: Georg Lutz

Elections and Electoral System Support in Rwanda.

May 27: Bryce Weaver

Custom Imputation Algorithm.

June 24: Francesco Laganà

Employment Area or Social Class? Entrapment and Exit Employment Paths from Unskilled Jobs in Services and Industry. An Analysis of the Italian Case.

September 30: Alexandra Stam

Marriage, Migration, and the Geographies of "Love".

October 21: Caroline Roberts

The Effect of Interview Duration on Data Quality in Telephone Interviews.

November 18: Brian Kleiner / Isabelle Renschler / Martina Bichsel

Questionable Questions: A Study of Survey Interviews in Swiss German.

December 16: Jan Rosset

Measuring Unequal Political Representation in Switzerland.

Contact Points

Universities:

Prof. Max Bergman and Robin Samuel, Universität Basel, Institut für Soziologie

Dr. Michelle Beyeler, Universität Bern, Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Dr. Jean-François Bickel, *Université de Fribourg, Département Travail social et politiques sociales*

Dr. Maria Caiata-Zufferey, *Università della Svizzera Italiana, Institute of Communication and Health*

Dr. Eric Crettaz, Université de Neuchâtel, Chaire études sociales et transnationales,

Prof. Eldad Davidov and Georg Datler, Universität Zürich, Soziologisches Institut,

Dr. Luc Gauthier, Université de Genève, Département de Sociologie

Grégoire Métral, Université de Genève, Centre interfacultaire de gérontologie

Prof. Florence Passy, *Université de Lausanne, Faculté des sciences sociales et politiques, IEPI*

Prof. Daniel Kübler, Universität Zürich, Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Dr. Katharina Manderscheid, Universität Luzern, Soziologisches Seminar

Prof. Jörg Matthes, *Universität Zürich, Institut für Publizistikwissenschaft und Medienforschung IPMZ*

Dr. Stephan Egger, Universität St. Gallen, Soziologisches Seminar

Dr. Andrée Helminger, Universität Zürich, Psychologisches Institut, Sozialpsychologie

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

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

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

Prof. Jachen Curdin Nett, Berner Fachhochschule, Soziale Arbeit

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

Dr. Susanna Niehaus, Hochschule Luzern, Soziale Arbeit

Prof. Dorothea Christ, Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau, Abteilung Forschung

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

Presentations at Universities

March 12	Kick-off meeting contact points at FORS in Lausanne
March 19	Methods course on quantitative methods SSP, University of Lausanne
March 23	Research meeting at the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW, Aarau
May 6	Researchers' information exchange event at the Berner Fach- hochschule BFH
May 20	Presentation on FORS data services, Institute of Sociology, University of Geneva
June 10	Research meeting at the Ecole d'études sociales et péda- gogiques EESP, Lausanne
July 24/ 25	Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences, Lugano ¹⁾
August 28	University of St. Gallen (meeting with Dr. Stephan Egger)
September 7- 9	Swiss congress of sociology, University of Geneva ²⁾
September 10	Research meeting at the Berner Fachhochschule BFH
September 17	Research event for social science researchers (Journée de la recherche SSP), University of Lausanne ²⁾
October 16	Methods course at the Wirtschaftswissenschaftliches Zentrum (WWZ), University of Basel
October 22	Research meeting at the Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften ZHAW
November 3	Methods course at the Seminar of sociology, University of Lucerne
November 17	Research meeting at the Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau, Kreuzlingen

- 1) Attendance of opening event
- 2) Attendance with promotional material

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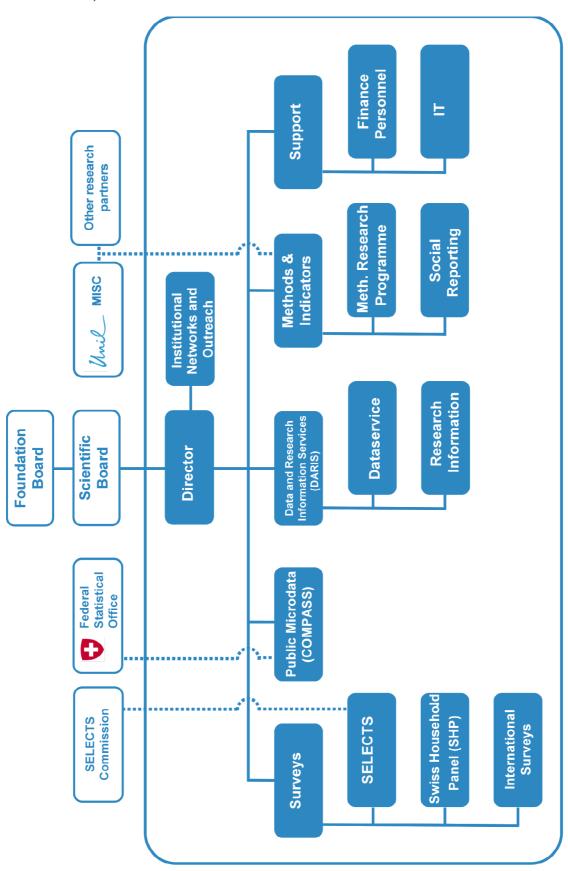
41

Staff Statistics

	N	31.12.09 %	N	31.12.08 %	N	01.01.08 %
Permanent Employees	33	100	27	100	19	100
<u>1. Sex</u>						
Male Female	17 16	52 48	15 12	56 44	13 6	68 32
2. Nationality						
CH other (B,D,F,I,NL,USA)	25 8	76 24	20 7	75 25	16 3	84 16
3. Mother language						
Swiss-German French Bilingual (incl. I,PL,Vietn) Other (E,G,NL)	12 11 4 6	36 33 13 18	8 10 4 5	29 37 16 18	5 9 4 1	26 48 21 5
4. Degrees received						
Professional formation Lic./Master/Diploma Dr. / Ph.D.	2 20 11	6 61 33	2 16 9	7 59 34	2 13 4	11 68 21
5. Disciplines						
Sociology Political Science (Social) Psychology Other social sciences Mathematics IT Clerk	9 6 5 7 2 2 2	27 18 16 21 6 6	7 4 6 4 2 2 2	25 16 22 16 7 7	5 4 4 0 1 3 2	26 21 21 0 5 16
6. Degree of Employment						
Full time Part time (50%~90%)	10 23	31 69	9 18	33 67	7 12	37 63

Organizational Chart

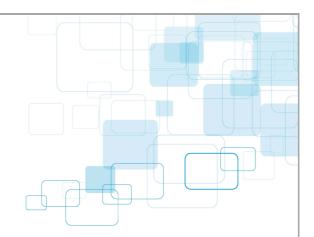
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List of Abbreviations

CCS Comparative Candidate Survey

CESSDA Council of European Social Science Data Archives

CNEF Cross-National Equivalent File

COMPASS Communication Portal for Accessing Social Statistics
COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology

DARIS Data and Research Information Services

DDI Data Documentation Initiative

ECPR European Consortium for Political Research
SER State Secretariate for Education and Research
ELSST European Language Social Science Thesaurus

EQUALSOC Economic Change, Quality of Life and Social Cohesion

ERIC European Research Infrastructure Consortium

ESFRI European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures

ESRA European Survey Research Association

ESS European Social Survey

IEMS Institute of Health Economics and Management, U Lausanne

ISSP International Social Survey Programme

LIS Luxembourg Income Study

MISC Methodology, Inequalities, and Social Change, U Lausanne

NCCR National Centre of Competence in Research

PUS Public Use Sample

REPCONG Representation and Policy Congruence in Europe

SELECTS Swiss Electoral Studies

SFSO Swiss Federal Statistical Office

SHARE Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

SHP Swiss Household Panel

SSH Social Sciences and Humanities

TREE Transitions from Education to Employment
WAPOR World Association for Public Opinion Research