

Annual Report 2010

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At a Glance

- Threefold FORS rationale: combine forces – grow competences – create synergies (*p. 4-6*)
- FORS data services user statistics reveal a steady increase in datasets disseminated across years (*p. 15-16*)
- Qualitative data archiving facilities available (*p. 16*)
- Enhanced documentation such as official statistical data codebooks and guidelines for international comparisons can be downloaded from COMPASS site (*p. 19-20*)
- Continuous development of methodological research on three axes: non-response – mixed mode interviewing – language, translation, and measurement equivalence (*p. 22-26*)
- Social Report 2012 to focus on generation questions (*p. 26-28*)
- Lugano Summer School classes fully booked, with an average of 21 participants per course (*p. 28*)
- FORS Work Programme 2012-16 and financial planning submitted to the State Secretariate (*p. 32*)
- Strategic decision made to redesign FORS IT systems (*p. 32*)
- “FORS – your key to data”: key-shaped USB sticks containing essential FORS documentation ready for distribution as promotional material (*p. 33*)
- New register based sampling frame of the Federal Statistical Office accessible to FORS infrastructure surveys, guaranteeing for the best quality address sampling available in Switzerland currently (*p. 36*)
- Participation of FORS in FP 7 projects and proposals widened and deepened (*p. 38-39*)
- FORS performance indicators implemented, baseline figures available for 2010 (*p. 40-49*)

1 Guiding Principles for 2010 and Beyond

1.1 FORS Rationale

FORS is based upon three principles: combine forces – grow competences – create synergies.

1.1.1 Combine Forces

The infrastructural part of FORS combines specific scholarly know-how and experience that existed before in a rather dispersed and isolated way:

- **Data production:** High quality state of the art surveys like the Swiss Household Panel, the Swiss Election Study, the Swiss ESS, MOSAiCH/ISSP, and European Values Survey EVS are run within the same institution now. This facilitates considerably regular formal and informal exchange on scholarly, organisational, and resource related matters. Negotiations with survey agencies profit from the accumulation of know-how and from the fact of being an important client.
- **Data documentation, access, and distribution:** Standard documentation profiles can be more easily designed, implemented, and suited to the data producers' and users' needs if production happens inside the same organisation. The same applies to accessing and distributing data, whether they are at the FORS data service or physically deposited elsewhere, for example at the Federal Statistical Office or in data banks abroad.
- **Research information:** The collection and structuring of information on social science empirical research in Switzerland is essential for researchers in order to be able to check for colleagues working on the same or similar research questions. Several thousands of project descriptions are at disposal that give an encompassing overview of topics, methods, and researchers nationwide. This registry is linked to similar registries in Switzerland and abroad, and is updated at regular intervals.

FORS has created organisational units and groups that perform these tasks (see sections 2.1-2.3). They are combined under the labels of SURVEYS, DARIS (Data and Research Information Services), and COMPASS (Communication Portal for Accessing Social Statistics).

1.1.2 Grow Competences

FORS' infrastructural services rely strongly on their own research and publications. A key focus is on research methodology.

- **Methodological research:** Three topics have been identified that are of central importance to FORS surveys and that are at the same time widely discussed in the international scientific community: the mixing of interview modes (e.g., combining face-to-face and web interviewing) that might allow respondents to choose their preferred mode; issues in language, translation, and measurement equivalence, especially salient in a multilingual context where the majority language is actually not written (the Swiss-German dialects); and the analysis of non-response, which is paramount in a country that systematically shows low response rates as compared to countries of similar size and socio-economic structure.
- **Research projects:** Substantive research at FORS concentrates on questions of social dynamics, social change, and social inequalities. Other topics are linked to research mandated by federal or cantonal government agencies. All research projects are acquired competitively from national and/or international funding bodies. In preparing and realising research projects FORS actively seeks collaboration with university institutes and other academic research institutions.
- **Publications:** Scholarly publications include articles in peer-reviewed journals and edited books. Additionally, FORS informs the non-academic interested public on the results of its work. Good relations to media have been established and are actively maintained.

FORS research is directed by senior scientists in all organisational units and groups. This guarantees for a continuing transfer of knowledge between research and infrastructures and for attractive possibilities to acquire a proven research record. The "Methods and Indicators" unit coordinates research activities and pools human resources for research.

1.1.3 Create Synergies

Synergies can be found in many aspects of FORS activities. Some of the important ones are the following:

- **Social Report:** This is a publication That in regular four-year intervals unites 75 indicators in the fields of economy, politics, social change, culture, and environment. The indicators are drawn from FORS' own data bases and from other sources like the Federal Statistical Office. The indicators are presented in graphics with a short commentary. Additionally there are analytic chapters on each of the thematic fields authored by distinguished scholars. This is an innovative combination of data presentation and illustration with scientific analysis unique to the Social Report. It is produced in three languages (German, French, English).
- **Research partnerships:** Such partnerships exist with the colleagues of the Social Sciences Faculty at the host University of Lausanne, especially with the unit MISC

(Methods, Inequalities, Social Change), which was created in parallel to FORS. The new National Centre of Competence in Research "*Overcoming Vulnerability – Life Course Perspectives*", also hosted by the University of Lausanne, will strengthen collaborative relationships especially by establishing a joint panel survey (see section 3.1). There are research partnerships with other institutes in Switzerland and abroad as well.

- **Lugano Summer School on Methods:** The scientific director of the Summer School is a member of the FORS Scientific Board. In this way discussions in the Board can directly feed into the planning of the courses and vice-versa. FORS senior researchers teach at the Summer School, and Summer School courses profit from FORS databases like the Household Panel, which is used to train participants in the analysis of longitudinal data.
- **Conferences, workshops:** FORS researchers do of course contribute to scholarly exchange internationally. But FORS is also actively creating synergies by inviting scholars to Lausanne for focused workshops such as the Nonresponse group in 2009, the Comparative Survey Design and Implementation workshop CSDI and the Swiss-German-Austrian joint workshop on election research in 2010, or for large-scale conferences like those of the World Association for Public Opinion Research WAPOR in 2009 and the upcoming 2011 European Survey Research Association ESRA conference.
- **Networking:** Participating in different multilateral networks and institutions from the rather informal (e.g., CSDI) to the highly formalised (e.g., ESFRI), and from science driven (e.g., ESS Scientific Advisory Board) to policy driven (e.g., EU FP 7 Programme Committee on socio-economic sciences and humanities), creates active involvement in international developments, relationships based on personal commitment and, last but not least, experience and know-how in how to engage in international collaboration.

All these synergies are closely related to the topic of **outreach**. The more forces are combined to allow for growing competences, the more synergies will have a positive effect on national and international, scholarly and generalised outreach – and the better FORS will approach what is described in the following section as its strategic goals.

1.2 Strategic Goals

Data production, data documentation and diffusion, data user consulting, and methodological research form a unity of strongly interdependent scientific activities: Only data of the highest achievable quality that are fully documented according to state of the art standards and that are accessible in a convenient way will properly serve cutting edge work in the social sciences; to guarantee for this, active involvement in sound methodological research is essential.

This was, is, and will be the guiding framework behind FORS and all its activities. Moreover, while FORS is **supplying data** for scholarly and public debate, it is also

extracting meaning from data: substantive research and scholarly as well as general interest publications – like for example the Social Report – are at the core of FORS. Substantive research is acquired competitively from national and/or international funding bodies. FORS collaborates actively with university social science research institutes or with other academic research institutions like for example the NCCR “*Overcoming Vulnerabilities – Life Course Perspectives*” (LIVES) by stimulating, preparing, and conducting research projects, as well as by producing joint scholarly publications.

The outreach of FORS is primarily aimed at the scientific community: enhancing methods in empirical social research, improving the quality standard and usability of empirical data, encouraging the use of existing data by researchers (secondary analysis), and participating in scholarly debates are key issues. But FORS can not and does not limit itself to academia alone. Its voice has to be heard by decision makers, media, and the interested public when it comes to reflecting, analysing, and explaining social conditions and change.

While public funding of an institution like FORS raises legitimate expectations with regard to public outreach, this must not lead to the misunderstanding that FORS takes an active political role. Its function is rather that of an objective expert for those questions for which empirical social science research evidence can be useful. Given the broad scope of the data and analyses produced and documented by FORS, this is a considerable task in itself.

The goals to be reached for FORS are multi-faceted:

- To be a recognised centre of expertise in **secondary data analysis**: by producing and making available empirical – quantitative *and* qualitative – data; by providing user-friendly data access; by actively fostering the use of existing data sets in research and teaching; by doing state of the art substantive research and publishing research results.
- To be a recognised centre of expertise in cutting edge **methodological research and innovation**: by actively taking part in scholarly debates; by doing and presenting methodological research and experiments; by implementing innovative ways of practical empirical research; by aspiring to the highest possible quality standards.
- To be a recognised centre of expertise in **national and international networks**: by initiating and maintaining collaborative partnerships with similar social scientific institutes and institutions all over Switzerland and abroad; by actively participating in research policy developments touching social science and infrastructural topics; by contributing to the development of coordinated and technically as well as organisationally advanced forms of data access in Europe and worldwide.
- To be a recognised centre of expertise in **evidence-based consultation and advice**: by supporting researchers in the use of complex data; by counseling decision makers when it comes to making productive use of social science

evidence in policy making; by partnering with media in publishing research results relevant for a wider audience.

There are some basic guidelines to be followed when working toward the goals; these are presented in the next section.

1.3 Basic Guidelines

The European Conferences on Research Infrastructures ECRI have always pointed out that stable institutional and funding bases are at the core of any infrastructure that serves its goals successfully. In the case of FORS we might add four more elements that are crucial to realising the perspective set out in the preceding chapter.

1. **Find an optimal balance of research and service functions:** Methodological research and service functions – the latter including the production of new data for use by the research community – are mutually dependent. The quality of service functions benefits from the results of methodological research. Further, research is based on and can refer to practical experience gained in running surveys, documenting and distributing data, and advising scientists.

To find the optimal balance, it is essential that research and service functions are integrated to the highest possible degree. Maintaining the day to day functions as a service provider must not inhibit research activity that requires dedicated time and energy. Work conditions and resources have to be shaped and maintained to allow for this.

2. **Keep pace with the development of European data infrastructures:** In the years to come, secondary analysis of data will certainly gain importance as a mode of maximizing the value of existing datasets and saving on funds to be spent gathering new data. Thus the production, documentation, and accessibility of high quality datasets will be confronted with a growing demand from the side of researchers.

Consequently there will be a growing need for infrastructural support for data sharing. This need will foster the development of new standards and 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. FORS must have sufficient IT and human resources to address these important international developments.

3. **Maintain and enlarge scientific networks:** FORS as such is well networked nationally and internationally. However, networks rely more on persons and on personal relations than on institutions. Networks must not be dependent on a few individuals inside FORS only. All FORS scientific collaborators are encouraged to build

and maintain their networks with fellow scholars worldwide. This means being actively present at meetings and conferences, co-authoring and co-editing scientific publications, and hosting scholarly events at FORS.

On the national level, networks not only cover the scientific community but also an interested public outside academia. Regular contacts with media, public administrations, civil society organisations and – to a lesser degree – private companies are to be established and maintained. Again, the commitment of individual collaborators is a crucial factor for success.

4. **Attract highly qualified and motivated scientific staff:** Staff recruitment at FORS has always been and will continue to be centered on hiring trained social scientists with university degrees at the PhD or MA level. This results in a staff that is able and willing to conduct research projects and to publish accordingly. About one third of the FORS staff holds a PhD degree and many are therefore eligible to submit their own research proposals to funding institutions.

Staff members are expected to communicate with researchers inside and outside of academia and therefore must understand their concerns and ways of working. This is the base needed to accomplish the service and consulting functions that are an essential part of FORS and that contribute largely to FORS staying rooted in the social science community.

The rationale, goals, and guidelines described above underpin the whole range of FORS activities presented in the following chapters. First, we will deal with the core activities like surveys, data services, methodological research etc. (chapter 2). Then we will give an account of our scientific collaborations (chapter 3). Finally, we will present a number of performance indicators implemented in 2010 (chapter 4).

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. Several surveys are carried out by the three groups of the FORS Survey Unit.

The collaborators of the Survey 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, data checking and cleaning, are all conducted in-house at FORS. However, data collection is outsourced to independent private institutes, which reduces costs without compromising the scientific quality.

Data collections led at 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, which interviews annually a sample of the general resident population drawn in 1999 (2004 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 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 dedicated to health and ageing, is designed as a cohort study, which 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 2010 activities for these surveys.

2.1.1 Swiss Household Panel SHP

The survey: Five main tasks were achieved during the year 2010. First, 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. Second, the fieldwork for waves 11 and 6 was completed in February 2010. With regard to these waves, work related to data cleaning and preparation, (new)

variables construction, and (new) documentation (including teaching/support documents) were realised from March to October 2010 in order to prepare the data diffusion. The dissemination of data from these waves took place early November 2010. Third, the fieldwork for waves 12 and 7 was prepared for between February and August – mainly questionnaires (including a revised culture/leisure module), qualitative and quantitative pre-tests, communications to participating households, training of interviewers, implementation of new incentives –, and started in late August. Fourth, a revised version of the SHP data waves 1 to 11 (with a codebook, and new imputed rent and taxes variables) was provided to the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) in November 2010. Fifth, improvements for the SHP weights were achieved with the development of individual transitional longitudinal weights.

Publications/Conferences/Teaching (see respective lists in the Appendix for details): SHP staff published five SHP working papers, one PaVie working paper, one book chapter, ten articles (among others, in the Swiss Journal of Sociology, Electoral Studies, the International Journal of Comparative Sociology, the Marriage & Family Review, Sociologie, and the Journal of Leisure Research), and contributed to a special issue of the Swiss Journal of Sociology on research using panel data in Switzerland. In addition, the SHP scientific report 2009 was submitted to the Swiss National Science Foundation in June 2010 (and accepted by the National Research Council), and editorial work was carried out for the coming special issue of the Swiss Journal of Sociology devoted to “Persistent Social Inequalities” (02/2012). Moreover, the first SHP Methodological Workshop took place on June 8-11 at the University of Lausanne. The first part was devoted to an introduction to the use of the SHP longitudinal data, and the second to Multilevel Models for social scientists. The Workshop was attended by 22 participants. Finally, the SHP group contributed to eleven conferences and gave nine presentations in the framework of master courses or seminars.

2.1.2 International Surveys

2.1.2.1 European Social Survey ESS

2010 was the year of the fifth round of the ESS. Before and while working on the new edition of this international survey, the Swiss data of the previous rounds were prepared for archiving at the FORS data service and completed for the international releases. Because of work overload and lack of resources, a certain delay accumulated in this area during 2009. The data of ESS 2006 (Round 4) were deposited in June and published in the FORS data catalogue in November 2010. Data from Round 2 and Round 3 were completed with parent's ISCO-codes (Swiss and international) and revised as some errors were detected. The Swiss data of the ESS 2008 are ready to be archived, while the international release occurred in 2009 already.

Switzerland participated, along with Poland, in the “advance translation” project of ESS 2010. The goal of this project was to identify translation and cultural problems at an early stage during the design process of the ESS source questionnaire, and to help improving the source questionnaire for cross-cultural implementation. This experience

was very conclusive, and the ESS is currently thinking about implementing this procedure in the general questionnaire design and translation process.

In addition to the usual Multi-Trait-Multi-Method tests, the Swiss ESS questionnaire includes specific test/retests on questions with recurrent translation difficulties in order to collect reliable information to be used in future translations.

In collaboration with the ESS and Silke Schneider (Mannheim), a new coding frame was developed for the educational variable. It consists of a series of 23 new and refined codes on the basis of the European ISCED codes for better international comparability and to take into account the Bologna system at the tertiary level.¹ It allows recoding into different other classifications, such as previous ESS Rounds, the ISCED classification, and the official SFSO codes.

The fieldwork of the Swiss ESS began its fifth wave in October 2010. Based on a good collaboration with the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, FORS can now use the new register sampling frame for its infrastructure surveys (see section 3.2). The ESS 2010 was the very first survey based on this sampling frame. For this reason, some analyses testing the quality of this sampling frame as compared to the two previous frames used for ESS round 3 and 4 are planned; their results will be presented at the ESRA 2011 conference. These analyses will include the findings of the non-respondent survey, which will be done after the main fieldwork with all definitive refusals and non-contacts as well as with 300 respondents of the main survey.

Additionally, an incentive test was implemented in the ESS 2010 fieldwork: 20% of the sample were given an unconditional incentive (30 CHF cash sent along with the first information letter), whereas the other participants could choose between cash, voucher, and donation to nonprofit organisations after the completed interview.

FORS decided to participate in the new ESS mixed mode experiment project, which will be carried out during the ESS 2012 Round 6. The necessary funding for this collaborative project will be integrated in the general mixed mode proposal of FORS, to be submitted to the Swiss NSF at the end of March 2011 (see section 2.4.2).

On July 1st Dr. Michèle Ernst Stähli assumed the function of the Swiss National Coordinator to the ESS and principal applicant vis-à-vis the Swiss NSF. Dr. Ernst Stähli is a sociologist by training with ample professional experience in survey research; she now heads the FORS International Surveys group. She represented the Swiss team at the final meeting of the ESS Infrastructure Preparatory Phase consortium in Brussels on November 10, which closed the preparatory phase and launched the ESS ERIC Steering Committee.

As a member to the ESS Scientific Advisory Board, the FORS director participated in the two meetings of this Board in Brussels (March 23 and June 10). The June meeting was held back to back with a meeting of the ESS Funders' Forum where the main national funders of the ESS surveys were present. In a joint meeting key strategic issues connected to the upcoming new ESS ERIC scheme were discussed.

¹ See Schneider, Silke L. 2009. "Confusing Credentials: The Cross-Nationally Comparable Measurement of Educational Attainment." PhD thesis, University of Oxford, Nuffield College, Oxford.

2.1.2.2 MOSAiCH / ISSP

The Swiss data of the ISSP 2008 were deposited for international release in September 2009, and a first version of the file is available since April 2010. The final release was published in December 2010. The Swiss data of ISSP 2009 were deposited for international release in March 2010, but are not available yet. The Swiss dataset of MOSAiCH 2008/09, including ISSP 2008 and 2009, is available through the FORS Nesstar server since March 2010.

Respondents of the MOSAiCH 2009 survey received a 16-page colour booklet with selected results in June 2010.

FORS participated, along with several other countries, in the pilot survey of the ISSP 2011 on health. This pilot was done as a self administered survey, giving the choice of paper or web questionnaire. The sampling frame was a purchased database of 2000 addresses in the Canton Vaud. Only 8% of the respondents answered by web. A surprisingly high response rate of 43% was reached within less than four months of fieldwork and with two reminders. The fieldwork ended in February 2010, and the data were deposited for international use in March 2010. A report was sent to the respondents in form of a nine-page colour hand-out with some pertinent results.

During 2010, the new MOSAiCH 2010/2011 survey was designed and translated. It includes the ISSP 2010 on the environment, the ISSP 2011 on health, the continuation of the series initiated by the “Eurobarometers in Switzerland” giving information on the evolution of Swiss opinions towards the European Union, and a revised socio-demographic module. Since the ISSP has introduced substantial revisions in the background variables, this was a good moment to review the whole module and to give it an enhanced coherence: The new educational variable from the ESS was introduced (see section 2.1.2.1), information on professional background was systematized, and the household composition part was redesigned.

The MOSAiCH 2010/2011 survey will be fielded in March 2011. It will include a non-response survey.

2.1.2.3 European Values Study EVS

A first international release of the EVS 2008, including the Swiss data, was made available in July 2010. There will be no Swiss Nesstar publication of these data, as no specific added value can be offered (no country-specific questions). The Swiss dataset will however be deposited in the DARIS catalogue with restricted access, including additional details on certain geographical and sociodemographic variables (such as education).

2.1.2.4 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 started in 2004 with eleven countries, including Switzerland, and has expanded now, for wave four, to all EU member states (27 plus associ-

ated 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).

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

2010 was entirely dedicated to fieldwork preparation. A pilot study was conducted in March and a pretest study in June. Whereas the questionnaire was tested internally by the scientific collaborators working on SHARE during the pilot phase of the study, the pretest study was conducted by LINK using a quota sampling approach. During the pretest, 181 interviews were conducted. For each of these phases, training sessions were provided by MEA for country trainers and by LINK for interviewers. All documents were updated in all three languages according to MEA's instructions.

Initially planned for November 2010, fieldwork for wave four will begin in February 2011. In Switzerland, about 4'000 respondents will be interviewed face-to-face. The whole sample can be divided into a longitudinal and a refresher component. For the longitudinal sample, all respondents (about 1'200 individuals) who have participated in earlier SHARE waves will be re-interviewed. For the refresher sample (about 2'800 individuals), specific addresses will be drawn by the SFSO from the person-level registry that has been established recently (see section 3.2).

2.1.3 Swiss Electoral Studies SELECTS

A key activity of SELECTS during 2010 was the preparation for the different data collections for the national elections 2011. SELECTS launched a call for modules to open the study content to interested researchers. Nine proposals for questionnaire modules were submitted, of which four were chosen by the SELECTS commission after a peer-review process in spring 2010. A further call was launched for PhD projects. The four modules and three PhD projects became part of the SELECTS funding application for 2011-2012 to the Swiss National Science Foundation.

The proposal was approved by the Swiss NSF in November 2010. This will allow conducting three different surveys in 2011:

- a large post-electoral survey with an oversampling of small cantons,
- a candidate survey, and
- a rolling cross section survey (RCS).

In the rolling cross section survey SELECTS will interview 80 citizens every day during a period of 41 days prior to the election, complemented by a short post-election survey.

The RCS will allow study of the influence of campaign dynamics on voting behaviour and opinion formation processes during the election campaign.

In 2010, SELECTS released a new cumulative dataset, which combines all available datasets of Swiss election studies between 1971 and 2007, and which contains extensive documentation in 2010.

The main scientific publication by the SELECTS 2007 study was published in autumn 2010 in the form of a special issue of the Swiss Political Science Review (see publication list in the Appendix). The volume, edited by Georg Lutz (FORS), Thomas Milic (University of Zurich) and Marco R. Steenbergen (University of Bern) includes 10 contributions by 17 authors. Pascal Sciarini, Chair of the SELECTS commission and Georg Lutz, the SELECTS project director, presented a summary of the results in a media conference in Bern on October 29. All major Swiss newspapers covered the presentation the following day.

An effort was made in 2010 to strengthen the exchange with other election studies. SELECTS initiated and organized a workshop with the principal investigators of the Austrian, German and Swiss election studies in Lausanne on October 18/19. Election studies have become more complex and include different methods and components now. As a consequence the requirements on management, coordination, and implementation have increased considerably. The meeting allowed for in-depth discussion about improving innovative instruments such as online-panels, rolling cross section surveys, candidate surveys, or media analyses. Since all participants found this exchange extremely useful, a follow-up conference is planned in Berlin in autumn 2011.

2.2 Data and Research Information Services DARIS

2.2.1 Data Service

Usage and workflow: In 2010 there was intensified interest in data archived at the FORS data service among researchers in Switzerland. Usage statistics reveal a steady increase in datasets disseminated across years (table 1). In 2010, there were 1'453 datasets downloaded from our FORS Nesstar server or from dedicated webpages (i.e., for Pisa, SELECTS cumulative file, and Vox), or ordered directly from our data service.

Table 1: Number of datasets disseminated

Year	Nesstar	Pisa	SELECTS (cumulative file)	Vox	Data service (other)	Total
2008	324	30	49	153	72	628
2009	539	23	43	160	197	962
2010	1'098	16	14	171	154	1'453
Total	1'961	69	106	484	423	3'043

This increase is due in large part to more frequent use of data from our Nesstar server, especially for teaching purposes at Swiss universities. Ninety-five percent of Nesstar

users were from within Switzerland. Further, increased use is likely related to the publication of additional important datasets to the Nesstar server during 2010, including:

- 1 for MOSAiCH – 2009
- 13 for VoxIt: 3 ballots/10 projects
- 8 for Sicherheit (Security): 2001-2008

Qualitative data archiving: After the preparatory work of 2009, Daris established its capacity for qualitative data archiving in 2010, and formally made this possibility available to researchers. In June, FORS convened a workshop of experts on qualitative research, including three researchers from Swiss universities, and three international experts on archiving of qualitative data. An important result of the meeting was agreement on standards, contracts, procedures, and details of policy in line with best practice internationally.

Following the June workshop, we created a webpage on the DARIS website aimed at researchers doing qualitative work.² The page announces our capacity for archiving qualitative research data and provides some helpful resources and links. Also following the June meeting, we developed and finalised a policy and procedure paper based on the workshop discussions, publicly available on the qualitative research webpage. This work included creation and finalising of contracts for both deposit and use of archived qualitative data at DARIS.

To encourage researchers to preserve their qualitative data at DARIS and to make their data available to others for reuse, we also produced a guide for deposit, in order to walk them through the steps of preparing their project data for archiving.³

Finally, in 2010 DARIS developed an IT policy regarding issues around archiving of qualitative data. The work, primarily carried out by an employee of the University of Lausanne's data archive department (who was serving two months as a "civiliste" at DARIS), culminated in a 45-page report, including recommendations for policy and future IT development.

New datasets and special projects: During 2010, DARIS published the following Swiss-based datasets/projects:

- Meinungsbild zur Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitik der Schweiz - 2009
- La politique européenne de la Suisse vue par les acteurs étatiques: échantillon de contrôle - 1997
- Comportement des écoliers suisses en matière de santé - 2006
- Befragung Jugendlicher von der Schulzeit ins Erwachsenenalter - 1979-2002
- TREE- Swiss Youth Longitudinal Study wave 0 - 2000
- TREE- Swiss Youth Longitudinal Study wave 1 - 2001

² <http://www2.unil.ch/daris/spip.php?rubrique137&lang=en>

³ <http://www2.unil.ch/daris/spip.php?rubrique59&lang=en>

- TREE- Swiss Youth Longitudinal Study wave 2 - 2002
- TREE- Swiss Youth Longitudinal Study wave 3 - 2003
- TREE- Swiss Youth Longitudinal Study wave 4 - 2004
- TREE- Swiss Youth Longitudinal Study wave 5 - 2005
- TREE- Swiss Youth Longitudinal Study wave 6 - 2006
- TREE- Swiss Youth Longitudinal Study wave 7 - 2007
- European Social Survey, Switzerland - 2006
- Swiss national election studies, cumulated file 1971-2007
- Umfrage zur Nutzung von Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien (ICT) in Schweizer Schulen bei ICT-Verantwortlichen/Schulleitungen - 2007
- Umfrage zur Nutzung von Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien (ICT) in Schweizer Schulen bei Lehrenden - 2007
- Enquête standardisée sur les représentations de la guerre, Royaume-Uni - 2007
- MOSAiCH: Enquête sur la religion, les inégalités sociales et la citoyenneté – 2009

In 2010, data from TREE (Transitions from Education to Employment) were made available through a dedicated page within the DARIS website.⁴ On another special project, DARIS laid the groundwork for the archiving of data from the "Optimus Study," a multinational research project coordinated in Switzerland on victim experiences among children and young people, with a focus on sexual assaults. This included working with the project coordinator and researchers on how the data should be organised and prepared, as well as deposit and user contracts. The data will be delivered to FORS in 2011, and will be available for secondary analyses in January 2014, after a period of embargo.

2.2.2 Research Inventory

The annual survey 2009/10 for the research inventory was very successful (513 new entries, 206 updates). During 2010, we further refined the questionnaire, the web interface, and have adopted a more personalized approach to getting relevant research information from the researchers. We made the print questionnaire and the web capture form for research projects available in English, which is especially useful for the growing number of foreign researchers in Switzerland.

We set up an Internet-based Strategic Watch System to monitor the personnel and the 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 Switzerland. Also, this allowed us to add 2'700 persons to our researcher database in 2010.

The already existing data sharing agreements with the Swiss Federal Administration ARAMIS, the "Schweizer Zentrum für Heil- und Sonderpädagogik SZH/Centre suisse de pédagogie spécialisée CSPS", and the "Schweizerische Koordinationsstelle für

⁴ <http://www2.unil.ch/daris/spip.php?rubrique141&lang=en>

Bildungsforschung SKBF/Centre suisse de coordination pour la recherche en éducation CSRE” have continued. Other data sharing agreements with university research data-bases are being discussed.

Also during 2010, an increasing number of research project descriptions were indexed by Google and therefore enjoy more visibility on the Internet. Further, preparations have been made to increase integration into academic and non-academic social networks in order to diffuse relevant information (new datasets, events, calls for papers, etc.) to a larger audience.

2.2.3 Other Activities

Promotion: As part of its ongoing promotional activities, DARIS issued its "FORS Data Bulletin" in February and September. Each edition included information on recently released data and other DARIS/FORS activities and events of interest to the research community. The FORS Data Bulletin is sent by email to more than 4'000 social science researchers in Switzerland. In addition, Daris staff members gave presentations on our services at several Swiss universities and research institutions during 2010.

International collaboration: In 2010, FORS secured a place within a European FP7 project entitled "Data without Boundaries". The four-year project is set to begin in February 2011 and will involve facilitating access to and sharing of official statistical data (see section 3.3). As member of a consortium of 27 European partners, FORS will support work on building a European-wide accreditation and authentication system, as well as on strengthening of the network of National Statistics Institutes, and on enriching documentation of Eurostat data according to cutting edge international standards and tools.

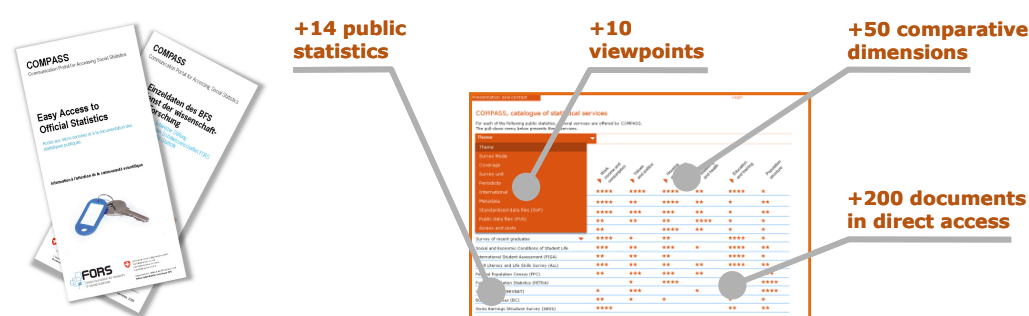
In late 2010, DARIS helped to prepare an FP7 proposal for a project to conduct the preparatory work to establish a regional social science data archive in the western Balkans (see section 3.3). If accepted by the European Commission, the project could begin in late 2011, with significant participation on the part of DARIS and two other CESSDA member organisations.

Daris was active internationally in 2010 on other fronts as well:

- In January, DARIS hosted for three days a staff member from the Swedish National Data Archive.
- In February, DARIS contributed to the further development of the ELSST international multilingual thesaurus, with translation of new terms in French.
- Also in February, the head of DARIS attended a workshop in Brussels on e-infrastructures.
- In March, DARIS hosted a two day visit by Peter Granda from the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in Michigan, United States.
- In May, the head of DARIS taught a two-day workshop on social science data management in Pristina, Kosovo, as part of the Swiss-funded Regional Research Promotion Programme (RRPP).
- In July, the head of DARIS visited the Swedish National Data Archive in Gothenburg.

- In September, DARIS hosted the visit of Yukiko Asai from the Japanese Social Science Data Archive at the University of Tokyo.
- In October, the head of DARIS attended the CESSDA General Assembly in Cologne, Germany.
- In December, FORS/DARIS hosted the visit of five members from the Lithuanian Data Archive to discuss data services and survey research.

2.3 Communication Portal for Accessing Social Statistics COMPASS



In 2010 COMPASS worked side by side with the research community to help researchers make the most of official statistics. On top of carrying out promotional activities, COMPASS contributed to enhance documentation of SFSO surveys as well as the statistical offer. Voicing researchers' concerns, COMPASS also started various negotiations with the SFSO, for instance on the price policy for data.

The COMPASS catalogue, developed in 2009, stresses the comparative dimension of public surveys. Researchers can rapidly evaluate characteristics and advantages of specific surveys, while comparing them with the other surveys available.

In 2010, COMPASS extended this by designing survey-specific documentation allowing full description of the data sets delivered to researchers. A prototype codebook was generated, which will progressively be applied to all surveys. Codebooks will provide easily accessible and detailed information to researchers working with statistical microdata. They will not only allow description of the main characteristics of the survey, but also provide information at the variable-level. Furthermore, they will also reference documents provided by the Statistical Office, for example those offering technical or analytical support. To develop the codebook prototype, COMPASS used open access software initially developed by the World Bank (IHSN Microdata Management Toolkit) as well as the documentation software Nesstar Publisher, accessible free of charge.

Acquisition of technology and know-how followed assessment of needs, both at the administration and researchers' end. Prototypes were presented to several partners at the SFSO in November and to a panel of researchers in December.

A considerable amount of work was done in 2010 with regard to the constitution of Public Use Samples (PUS), in particular for the Swiss Health Survey (SHS 2002 and 2007) and for the International Student Assessment (PISA 2006). Specific know-how was acquired on statistical disclosure control (a training was followed at Eurostat).

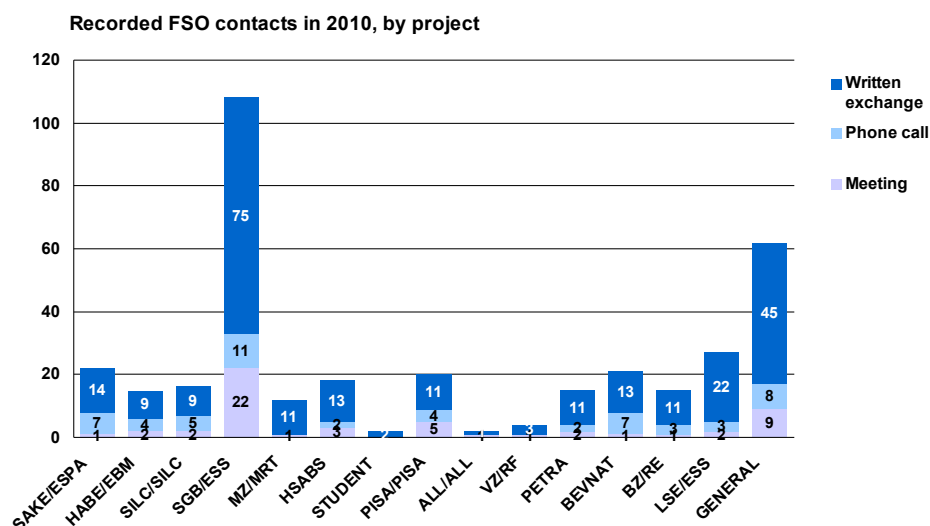
Following the SFSO wish to publish the Swiss Health Survey PUS based on 2007 data in 2012, COMPASS firstly constituted a PUS based on 2002 data. By the end of 2010, all elements required to disseminate the 2002 PUS were brought together. Its publication is expected for summer 2011.

In the course of 2010, COMPASS constituted a specific documentation aimed at researchers interested in comparing the SFSO main surveys with their international equivalents. Internationally comparable surveys were described and analyzed following a homogeneous structure, answering questions such as the extent to which surveys follow international guidelines, the possibilities of international comparisons, and the availability of microdata at the international level. As a result, 13 publications in three languages were generated (see list in the Publications section of the Appendix). These comparative documents have been added to the COMPASS catalogue.

The price policy currently in use at the SFSO may discourage researchers from requesting official microdata. This situation led COMPASS to suggest an amendment to the price regulation, based on the principle of open access. The suggestion is as follows: researchers who commit to publish their research according to the principle of open access (publishing in open access journals or depositing their research on open access servers) receive the data they request free of charge. Talks with the SFSO on this issue are ongoing.

At the international level, COMPASS set up links with sister institutions as a result of bilateral contacts (CentERdata, the Netherlands), via the CESSDA Expert Seminar as well as during a training on statistical disclosure control provided by Eurostat in Luxembourg. This international activity will be further developed by the participation of COMPASS in the FP 7 project "Data without Boundaries" on access to official statistical data (see section 3.3). COMPASS will offer its expertise on network building, which is based on its experience with the SFSO.

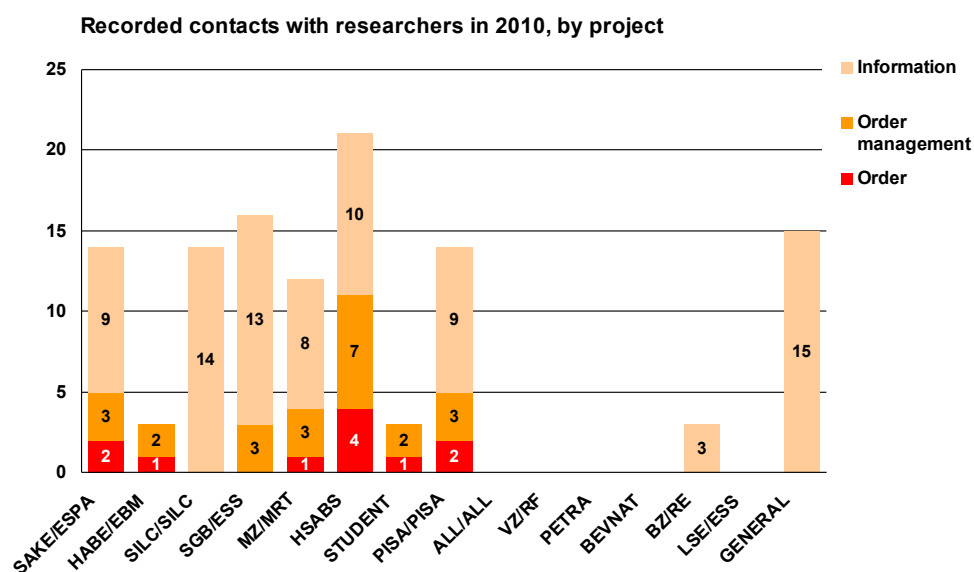
The analysis of the intensity of exchanges with SFSO partners reflects the evolution of the COMPASS activity. In 2010, contacts were particularly important for the Swiss Health Survey due to the constitution of the PUS.



Number of contacts between COMPASS and SFSO partners in 2010

(see list of projects at the end of this section for an explanation of the acronyms)

In 2010, COMPASS developed the monitoring of its contacts with researchers. This system allows the follow-up of data requests and aims at establishing transparency in the delivery process. As it turns out, COMPASS is more frequently being approached for surveys on households and education than it is for registry data, both at the population and the business level.



Number of contacts between COMPASS and researchers in 2010

(see list of projects at the end of this section for an explanation of the acronyms)

Members of the COMPASS team promoted COMPASS to the Swiss research community and other national and international institutions in 2010. Actions were undertaken in universities and schools of higher education, as well as in libraries.

To support presentations given at universities throughout the year, the COMPASS team developed new promotional material made of leaflets and posters. Leaflets were distributed to all Swiss institutes that train researchers in the social sciences as well as to all researchers listed in the Swiss research inventory. As a matter of routine, the SFSO further distributes leaflets to all researchers requesting data.

Many Swiss university libraries now promote the COMPASS online catalogue. This results from an information campaign during the first semester of 2010.

The Steering Committee FORS-SFSO chaired by Prof. Peter Farago met in Neuchâtel on April 9 and in Lausanne on October 8, 2010. Two members were replaced: Mr Beat Henzirohs by Mr Dieter Koch at the SFSO end and Dr. Brian Kleiner by Andreas Perret at FORS. Claudio Wassmer, member of the COMPASS team, joined in an advisory capacity.

Swiss Federal Statistical Office surveys in the COMPASS portfolio:

SAKE/ESPA	Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS)
HABE/EBM	Household Budget Survey (HBS)
SILC/SILC	Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)
SGB/ESS	Swiss Health Survey
MZ/MRT	Microcensus on Travel Behaviour
HSABS	Swiss Higher Education Graduates Survey
STUDENT	Social and Economic Conditions of Student Life
PISA/PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
ALL/ALL	Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALL)
VZ/RF	Federal Population Census
PETRA	Foreign Population Statistics (PETRA)
BEVNAT	Vital Statistics (BEVNAT)
BZ/RE	Business Census
LSE/ESS	Swiss Structure of Earnings Survey

2.4 Methodological Research

Topics in all the three FORS methodological research programme modules (non-response, mixed mode interviewing, and translation and equivalence issues) were designed to fit well into the survey methodology landscape and its development in Switzerland. With respect to new developments, the recent availability of the new harmonized national individual register sampling frame by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) promises new and exciting possibilities for all three research modules (see section 3.2). The switch to a new sampling frame can be used not only for much more detailed nonresponse analyses, but also to analyze differences of survey data quality in repeated cross-sections. Such comparisons are planned in the ESS round 5 and in the MOSAiCH 2010/2011.

In 2010, 18 presentations were given, mostly at scientific conferences, and 20 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and working papers were published by FORS staff in the methodological domain. FORS methodological research activities generally produce recommendations for improving the representation of the target population in surveys, for preventing nonresponse or mitigating bias from item or unit nonresponse or from measurement errors, or for reducing fieldwork costs.

2.4.1 Analysis of Non-response

To inform the scientific community about longitudinal social science survey data in Switzerland, and about the possible use of it, a special issue of the Swiss Journal of Sociology “Social Science Research with Panel Data in Switzerland” was guest-edited mainly by members of FORS in 2010 (Lipps et al. 2010). Regarding the SHP, its randomized interviewer-respondent and interviewer-call assignments within and across waves was utilized for a number of papers on interviewer effects. One paper (Lipps 2010b) showed that older male interviewers are the most successful in obtaining cooperation, irrespective of gender/agegroup matching and controlling for interviewer experience. It was suspected that interviewer authority might play a role in reducing attrition in telephone panels.

Another paper using data from the SHP presents a new concept to analyze attrition in panel surveys (Voorpostel 2010). Rather than analyzing wave to wave transitions, the author distinguishes three groups of panel members by their degree of panel loyalty: those who report in each wave, those who drop out temporarily, and those who drop out permanently. In a paper building on this concept (Voorpostel and Lipps, *forthcoming*), the question of whether changes in responses were indicative of subsequent respondent dropout was analyzed. It could be shown that changes in some issues well precede attrition, and mostly with respect to dropping out permanently.

Details of an incentive experiment conducted in 2006 to decrease attrition in the SHP were analyzed and published in 2010 (Lipps 2010a). Even though evidence from the literature stating that unconditional incentives are superior to conditional incentives was confirmed, the value of the incentives (10-15 CHF per household) was probably too small to have large effects in the SHP. As a consequence and a cost-benefit calculation, from 2007 on conditional non-cash incentives (15 CHF) were introduced for all individuals as well as an unconditional incentive (50 CHF) for reluctant households. Most recently, an unconditional incentive (20 CHF) was used for all respondents, and an additional incentive (50 CHF) if a (multi)person household answers completely. The low attrition rates during the last waves demonstrate the success of this measure.

Using data from the ESS, interviewer experience was evaluated with respect to obtaining contact and cooperation, and for producing more homogeneous cooperation, in four countries. While interviewers who conduct refusal conversion contacts are not more efficient than those with more experience in general, there is a tendency for a threshold to be used with respect to efficiency in obtaining cooperation. This paper was presented at the “Comparative Survey Design and Implementation” workshop in Lausanne and was published in ‘Field Methods’ (Lipps and Pollien 2010).

A book chapter gives an overview of the past, present, and future challenges and options of telephone surveys in Switzerland (Ernst Stähli, *forthcoming*). The main conclusions are that the fixed telephone number directories are no longer a sufficient sampling frame for high quality surveys in Switzerland. A piloting paper about the possibilities of using the individual register sampling frame for a population survey in the Canton of Lucerne for analysing coverage and nonresponse bias was accepted as another chapter (Lipps and Kissau, *forthcoming*). The main finding was that matching rates that result from simple (i.e., automatic) matching procedures to link names and (listed) telephone numbers can well be improved if more effort is invested. For example, by sending a return card, an additional 5% of the unmatched people return the card with a contact number. A third contribution by members of FORS to this volume investigates possibilities to weight for bias that is caused by the use of a phone directory in different steps of a survey (Joye et al., *forthcoming*).

At the seminar “Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSSII) – Survey design and quality”, a paper on non-response issues and survey design implications was presented (Joye and Sapin 2010). It discussed new sources of errors connected with increasingly complex survey designs with the aim of defining guidelines for new standards. At the ISA/RC33 conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, a paper on hard-to-reach respondents was presented (Joye et al. 2010b), including their political opinions using non-response follow-up surveys.

2.4.2 Mixed Mode Interviewing

Although considered interesting by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the joint FORS-MISC proposal for an experiment on mixing survey modes was unfortunately rejected. However, FORS was encouraged to submit a revised version, preferably together with the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. FORS will draft a new proposal using the ESS as the base survey and will submit to the NSF by end of March 2011. The proposal will also include findings from an international mixed-mode project in the ESS. In a joint meeting, the SFSO recognised that a mixed mode project is an important step towards successful future surveys in Switzerland. The SFSO therefore agreed to participate in the study as a co-applicant and by funding a part of the experiment.

A paper on survey mode effects (Jäckle et al. 2010) was published that reviews theories about why different survey modes can lead to differences in survey responses, as well as methods to test for and assess mode effects. Illustrations are based on the ESS, which is conducting a program of methodological research on mixing modes of data collection (see also Roberts et al. 2010d).

2.4.3 Language, Translation, and Measurement Equivalence

A paper about the results of the 2009 exploratory investigations of dialect-based adaptations by Swiss German speaking telephone interviewers was published in the FORS working paper series (Renschler et al. 2010). The findings indicated that in the effort to render survey questions appropriate for Swiss German speaking respondents, interviewers alter them, in many cases also changing their meaning. In addition, a paper

called “Mapping the linguistic terrain: languages and dialects of national surveys” was presented at the CSDI workshop in Lausanne (Kleiner et al. 2010a). The paper proposed a new study for gaining a fuller picture of the role of multilingualism and dialect variation in national and cross-national survey research.

At the ISA/RC33 conference in Gothenburg, a paper on the relevance of correspondence analysis models to assess the impact of wording variants was presented (Joye et al. 2010b). Analyses were based on the test-retest experiment carried out in the framework of the European Value Study EVS 2008. At the same conference, a paper titled “Respondent language proficiency and survey data quality” was presented (Kleiner et al. 2010b). The paper provided results from analyses of item non-response in two surveys conducted by FORS within Switzerland. It was shown that foreigners from non-neighbouring countries had higher levels of item non-response than other participants, possibly due to poorer language competence in the three Swiss national languages in which the surveys were conducted.

2.4.4 Other Methodological and Collaborative Studies

A joint FORS/MISC taskforce examined representation of national minorities in three Swiss surveys (SHP, ESS, and LFS) and whether existing solutions to reduce bias are effective. The main preliminary results were that minorities are in fact underrepresented in survey data, especially those with a lower educational level, and that by using lump weights for all foreigners, foreigners sharing one of the Swiss national languages were in fact overrepresented. Foreigners must therefore at least be distinguished by those with a “close” culture and language from others. These results will be presented at the ESRA conference 2011 in Lausanne. To improve the information base of both responding and non-responding individuals, FORS plans a closer cooperation with the SFSO, producer of the LFS, to possibly obtain data from the individual registers.

A paper on survey-climate in Switzerland was presented at the ISA/RC33 conference in Gothenburg together with members from MISC (Joye et al. 2010a). Based on MOSAiCH 2009, it was found that two dimensions - costs for the respondent and social utility - can be used to establish a reduced scale to standard measures of survey climate, which could be used more largely and on an international level.

One paper (Lipps and Lutz 2010) found that interviewers' and their respondents' political opinions on the same issues are positively correlated. This shows that even in telephone surveys there are communicative channels through which interviewers reveal their own political attitudes, and that socially desired answers are given. In addition, a cross-national comparative ISER Working paper on data quality in telephone surveys and the effect of questionnaire length (Roberts et al. 2010c) was published in cooperation with members from the University of Essex. Also, a number of conference papers were presented on measurement errors (Roberts et al. 2010a; Roberts et al. 2010b; Sturgis et al. 2010a), and a working paper (Sturgis et al. 2010b) was published on interpretations of middle categories as true refusals. Finally, a book chapter (Roberts 2010) explores a number of complex issues concerning the measurement of social attitudes in surveys. It describes potential sources of variability in self-reports of attitudes,

including cognitive processes, questionnaire design, and factors affecting the response behaviour of survey respondents.

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.

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 the free access to the complete LIS data bases. 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).

In October 2010, FORS organised for the second time a one-day seminar on LIS at the University of Bern for all interested researchers. Paul Alkemade, micro-data expert and statistician for LIS, introduced the project, its current state, as well as new developments and possibilities. Dr. Hanno Scholtz (University of Bern) reported about his scientific work on income inequalities and his experiences with LIS. Working sessions emphasized scientific and practical aspects of using LIS databases. Researchers attended from all over Switzerland, including from Lucerne, St Gall, Bern, Lausanne, and Zurich. This seminar series will be continued.

2.6 Social Report 2012

The preparation of the 2012 edition of the Swiss Social Report started in January 2010. As a first step a time-table was laid out, a series of decisions on the structure and content of the future report were made, and the two main working groups – the Pilot Group and the Sounding Board – were constituted. The preparation phase led to the formulation of a strategy paper, in which the steps of the project are specified and the form of the new social report is discussed. The 2012 Report will focus on questions related to generations and ageism topics.

The Pilot Group is made up of Prof. Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel), Prof. René Levy (University of Lausanne), Prof. Dominique Joye (University of Lausanne), Prof. François Höpflinger (University of Zürich), Prof. Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello (University of Bern), Prof. Peter Farago (FORS), and Dr. Felix Bühlmann (FORS). The group met on five occasions:

- The strategy paper was discussed and decisions on the form and structure of the report were made on April 1.
- The Internet solution was discussed, the themes of the essays were determined, and a more detailed planning of the indicators was accepted on May 20.
- The Pilot Group made a final decision on the Internet solution and discussed the indicators of chapter 1 on June 28.
- The Pilot Group decided on the authors of the essays and re-discussed the indicators of chapter 1 on August 13.
- The group began to discuss the indicators of chapter 2 on October 15.

The Sounding Board is composed of the following members: Heinz Altorfer (Migros Kulturprozent), Prof. Laura Bernardi (University of Lausanne), Prof. Jean-François Bickel (HES-SO), Prof. Giuliano Bonoli (IDHEAP Lausanne), Ludwig Gärtner (Bundesamt für Sozialversicherung), Dr. Spartaco Greppi (SUPSI), Prof. François Höpflinger (University of Zürich), Dr. Cornelia Hummel (University of Geneva), Prof. Dominique Joye (University of Lausanne), Prof. René Levy (University of Lausanne), Prof. Christian Marazzi (SUPSI), Thomas Meyer (TREE, University of Basel), Prof. Michael Nollert (University of Fribourg), Prof. Ulrich Otto (FH St. Gallen), Prof. Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello (University of Bern), Prof. Claudine Sauvain-Dugerdil (University of Geneva), Prof. Alain Schoenenberger (University of Neuchâtel), Prof. Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel), Prof. Eric Widmer (University of Geneva), and Dr. Markus Zürcher (SAGW). The Sounding Board met for the first time on June 17 in Bern to discuss the strategy paper, which was approved by the Board.

During its meeting of August 13 the Pilot Group decided to invite the following authors to write essays for the Social Report 2012: Prof. Marc Szydlik (on Generational Transfers and Inequalities between Generations), Dr. Olivier Moeschler (on Cultural Consumption and Generations), Prof. Walter Rehberg (on Ageism in Switzerland), Dr. Kathrin Kissau (on Political Participation of Young Adults), and Prof. Vincent Kaufmann (on The Accessibility of Infrastructures and Generations). They have all kindly accepted this invitation. The five authors submitted sketches of their contributions. They will be closely monitored in the writing process.

In close collaboration with the FORS IT team, a concept for the webpage was elaborated and approved by the Pilot Group. It is planned to build a content management system based on the software package SPIP, which will assist the project team in the production of the indicators. A professional graphic designer was mandated to create a graphic concept for the page.

In collaboration with the illustrator Walo von Büren, Prof. François Höpflinger and Dr. Felix Bühlmann are continually preparing the data and producing the indicators. At the end of the year 2010 a good part of the indicators, metadata, and short texts for the first two chapters had been produced.

2.7 Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences

The 14th Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences took place from August 20 – September 3, 2010, hosted by the Università della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano. As in the preceding years all classes were fully booked.

During the first week the following courses were held:

- Prof. Kelvyn Jones: Multilevel models: practical applications (28 participants);
- Profs. Peter Schmidt/Eldad Davidov: Structural Equation Modelling (SEM I) (25 participants);
- Prof Max Bergman: Qualitative Interviewing (20 participants);

and during the second week:

- Dr. Oliver Lipps/Ursina Kuhn: Introduction to Panel Data Analysis (21 participants);
- Prof. Véronique Mottier: Qualitative Data Analysis: Interpretive Research Strategies (19 participants);
- Prof. Micheal Gibbert: Case Studies: Design, Methods, and Reporting (14 participants).

14% of the participants attended two courses. The optional two day preparatory/refresh workshop preceding the Summer School (led by Prof. Eugen Horber) had 8 participants.

85% of the participants were PhD students. The largest group (26%) of this year's participants was working in the field of business studies, followed by psychology (19%) and education sciences (13%).

14% of the participants were studying at foreign universities (in Croatia, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Sweden).

2.8 Third Party Funded Projects

FORS participates in the EUROCORES Collaborative Research Project "Representation and Policy Congruence in Europe" REPCONG.⁵ This project was mainly concerned with research and conference participation in 2010. The team members from four different countries met once in Mannheim to present and discuss their current activities.

In their publications the Lausanne team focused on five different topics concerning the differences of political preferences between citizens and elites: First, the REPCONG team analyzed the influence of financial resources on representation. A second line of research focused on unequal representation of different age groups while a third inter-

⁵ The European Collaborative Research Scheme EUROCORES is funded by the European Science Foundation ESF (www.esf.org/eurocores). REPCONG is one of six projects in the research programme on „Cross-national and Multi-level Analysis of Human Values, Institutions and Behaviour“ HumVIB (www.esf.org/humvib).

est lay in the congruence between citizens and their preferred party in Swiss popular votes. The team also investigated the differences between citizens' subjective evaluations of congruence and their factual, substantive congruence, as well as congruence on different policy issues between candidates and their electorate in the Swiss 2007 elections. The papers were presented at various occasions during the year, e.g. at the Swiss Political Science Association meeting in Geneva, at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago, at the Conference of the Council for European Studies in Montreal, as well as at the REPCONG workshop in Mannheim.

Furthermore, the REPCONG project team organized a workshop on "Inequality and Representation in Europe", which will take place in January 2011 at the Trinational Conference of the SVPW, DVPW and ÖGPW. This workshop was awarded an additional grant by the EUROCORES program to cover participants' travel expenses.

Another third party funded project that is hosted by FORS is "Political Participation of Young Adults in Switzerland" (CH@YOUPART). Financed by the education division of the State Secretariat for Education and Research SER, this project directed by FORS senior researcher Dr. Kathrin Kissau analyses the political behaviour of young adults. For this a standalone online survey with 1000 young adults aged 18-25 in Switzerland was run in autumn 2010. The results of this survey will be assessed in the coming year and compared to data of a similar research project in the European Union.

Additionally, interviews with students as well as participants of the "Jugendsession" in Bern on political interests and activities were carried out. Discussions with representatives of associations working with young adults and promoting civil engagement and political participation also gave valuable insights on issues and problems that exist regarding political participation of young adults in Switzerland.

FORS will continue 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 FORS' ultimate 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 Secretariat for Education and Research and the Swiss National Science Foundation). The list of the members of the Board as of December 31, 2010 is attached to this report (see Appendix).

In 2010 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 11, 2010*, the Board audited the accounts and the Annual Report 2009. The Board approved of an amendment to the administrative

contractual agreement with the host university, which gives FORS the opportunity to receive additional financial support from the university if needed (see section 3.1). The most important substantial item on the agenda of this meeting was the preparatory debate on the strategic guidelines of the proposal to be submitted to the State Secretariate for Education and Research to secure the federal subsidies for the period 2012-16 (see section 2.9.3). The Board agreed on the principle that all current activities of FORS should be continued and stabilised and that there should be additional resources available to be dedicated to methodological research. The final proposal, which includes the Work Programme 2012-16, was circulated with the Board, approved, and submitted in June.

The second Foundation Board meeting of the year was held on *December 14, 2010*, during which the Board decided on the FORS budget 2011. The main topic of this meeting was the future IT strategy of FORS. Following a presentation by the mandated IT consultant, the Board approved unanimously of the development and implementation of a newly designed IT solution common to all FORS units and groups called FORSbase (see section 2.9.3).

The *joint meeting* of the Boards, chaired by the FORS President, on March 11, 2010 dealt mainly with questions of monitoring performance and the draft system of performance indicators presented by FORS. Numerous relevant comments were made, which were to be taken into account when refining the indicators and implementing them for the first time. With respect to the strategic guidelines for the Work Programme 2012-16 and the proposal to the State Secretariate (see section 2.9.3), the position of both Boards was reinforced that FORS basically should continue to develop and strengthen the whole current range of activities.

In 2010, one member left the Foundation Board: Prof. Bernard Voutat, representative of the University of Lausanne. On behalf of the Foundation, the President acknowledged the commitment of Prof. Voutat who played an important role in the preparation phase of FORS and in establishing the links between the new organisation and the Social and Political Sciences Faculty of the University of Lausanne.

According to the rules set out in the Deed of Foundation, the University of Lausanne nominated the incumbent Dean of the Social and Political Sciences Faculty, Prof. René Knüsel, as a new member to the Board (see updated list of members in the Appendix). The President welcomed him at the meeting of December 14 and thanked him for his 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 *March 11 and 12, 2010*.

The presentations of the Annual Reports 2009 by FORS and MISC were welcomed by the Board and resulted in lively discussions on several aspects of the activities of these units, such as the quest for an overarching philosophy, questions of methodological vs. substantive research, and publication issues (FORS working papers, Annual Report).

These points were taken up in further debates throughout the year, especially with respect to the Work Programme 2012-16.⁶

An important part of the meeting was dedicated to presentations of methodological research projects on nonresponse and translation issues by FORS senior researchers. The Board was pleased to discuss results of scientific research done at FORS; some of them were published in peer reviewed journals later on (see list of publications in the Appendix).

The final part of the meeting was focused on the strategic development of FORS in preparation of the Work Programme that was to be submitted to the State Secretariate for Education and Research (see section 2.9.3). The Board agreed on the principle that continuous development of all FORS activities was desirable, and that a balance between service and research functions has to be reached.

The composition of the Scientific Board did not change in 2010 (see 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 at least once per month. 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 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 July 20-21. The main issues were as follows:

- One of the central concerns at FORS is to find and maintain an optimal balance of research and service functions (see section 1.3). To implement concrete steps in this direction, an operational definition of such a balance is needed. The Executive Board will seek to find such a definition in due time.
- Many researchers at FORS collaborate on a project base with colleagues in Switzerland and abroad. However, there is no systematic evidence on the structure of these collaborations. An internal survey was subsequently done to provide some more information on this topic (see section 3.3).
- The newly established NCCR “Overcoming Vulnerabilities – Life Course Perspectives” (LIVES) will be an important scientific partner for FORS. Substantive as well as institutional impacts of this collaboration were discussed.
- FORS IT is still very much linked to what has been transferred from the predecessor organisations. Especially the IT base of DARIS is an end-of-life solution, which will have to be replaced soon in order to stay compatible with

⁶ See chapter 1, which presents the general introductory part of the Work Programme.

international developments in the field. However, it was determined that choosing any new solution should be preceded by an analysis of the current situation and the choice of a defined strategic IT development option.

Based on the last point, an IT consultant company was subsequently mandated to look into FORS IT from a professional point of view and to suggest a general approach to renewing FORS IT. The consultants organised three workshops with the Executive Board and did numerous interviews with internal and external stakeholders. Their proposition to create a common state-of-the-art base for all FORS IT operations (project FORSbase) was approved by the Executive Board and subsequently by the Foundation Board (see section 2.9.1). The project will be implemented in a stepwise approach between 2011 and 2015, starting with the DARIS system. The impact of the international projects FORS is involved in (see section 3.3) will be taken into account. The FORSbase project team will be led by the head of the support unit.

One of the most important issues of the first half of the year was the proposal to be submitted to the State Secretariate for Education and Research to secure the federal subsidies for the period 2012-16. The proposal includes a work programme and financial planning for this period. Following the suggestion of the FORS boards (see sections 2.9.1 and 2.9.2), the Work Programme covers all fields of activity of FORS. All units and groups contributed to the programme. Chapter 1 of this Annual Report presents the main strategic considerations that lay the ground for the Work Programme.

A key element of the decision-making procedure on this proposal was an assessment on the current state of FORS and the Work Programme to be delivered to the State Secretariate by the Swiss Science and Technology Council SSTC. The vice-president of the Council, Prof. Franz Schultheis⁷, who authored the assessment, visited FORS on November 26 to meet and discuss with senior staff. FORS replied orally and in written form to a series of questions of the Council, among others on the utilisation of FORS services by the scientific community in Switzerland; detailed user statistics were presented in a 21-page paper.

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 35 permanent staff employed at FORS by the end of 2010. 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. One additional staff member works within FORS but is employed by the Social and Political Sciences Faculty of the University of Lausanne; her task is to coordinate the preparation of the new inter-university master's programme on "Public Opinion and Survey Research" (see section 3.2).

⁷ Franz Schultheis is professor for sociology at the University of St-Gall and was formerly member of the National Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation.

As compared to 2009, there were no major changes in the number nor the composition of staff in 2010. Staff members originate from seven different nationalities and are native speakers of eight 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 2010. The seminar was well attended, mostly by collaborators of FORS, but also by interested researchers of university institutes. The seminars are organised by FORS senior researcher Dr. Marieke Voorpostel (see Appendix for the complete list of seminars held in 2010).

A half-day staff excursion, followed by a dinner, took place on June 18. A Christmas party was held on December 20.

2.10 Communication

In 2010 communication activities for FORS were continued and enhanced. The newsletter was published again twice, in May and December. For each edition, close to 4'000 researchers received information about research and data developments in Switzerland. The newsletter was dedicated in May to a new masters course in public opinion and survey research at Swiss universities (see section 3.2), and in December to a new international project within the 7th framework programme of the EU in which FORS is participating with 25 partner institutions ("Data without Boundaries", see section 3.3). Various groups within FORS produced new flyers, leaflets, and posters, such as COMPASS, the SHP, and SHARE. These are destined to go to the scientific community as well as to survey respondents and households.

In order to increase the visibility of the institution in a creative way, FORS also produced several hundred 4-GB USB sticks containing all the essential documentation on FORS services and projects. They are shaped like a key with a laser inscription saying "FORS – your key to data". These sticks have been distributed to various key persons that contribute to the successful accomplishment of our tasks, e.g., board members, the contact persons at Swiss universities, staff. They are also a handy gift for visitors from foreign partner institutions.

An important window towards the outside world is our website, which was further customized to bring together in an even more consistent way the webpages. The two groups that remained to be merged into the standard FORS webdesign – SELECTS and the SHP – are now fully integrated. As before, all information is available in three languages. In terms of image, the features and pages are now altogether standardized to correspond fully to a single corporate design.

Another major focus of communication activities in 2010 was to continue exchange with the scientific community. Several oral presentations at social science institutions were organised with the aim of providing information about FORS and its services, and sharing knowledge and know-how on survey research and methods (see list of presentations in the Appendix). Keeping the scientific community informed by outreach activities (on site visits) is an endeavour that deserves the highest priority. It is undertaken proactively, and according to the needs and requests of the contact points. By the end of the year, on the whole, more than a dozen occasions for such exchanges developed. As before, these oral presentations were mainly integrated into 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. We noticed that spontaneous requests for participation of FORS staff at seminars, workshops, and congresses became more frequent.

The FORS Working Paper Series publishes papers related to methodological aspects of survey research or substantive research. The Series is generally based on survey data collected within FORS. It accepts manuscripts for consideration from scholars within and from outside FORS. Manuscripts submitted are papers that represent work-in-progress. The Series is intended to provide an early and relatively fast means of publication prior to further development of the work.

In the second year of the FORS Working Paper Series, the Series received a total of five manuscripts, four of which were reviewed, revised and published.⁸ Most of the contributions came from within FORS, but we also received an external contribution (2010-04, see Appendix). In total, the FORS Working Paper Series now consists of six papers, the majority of which are methodological studies. The responsible editor of the Series is FORS senior researcher Dr. Marieke Voorpostel.

The regular internal news bulletin “Inside FORS” 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. It is much appreciated by the staff, as it contains detailed information about activities and projects, and useful links.

⁸ One submission did not meet the requirements of the Series, as it was considerably longer than 10'000 words.

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 with the possibility of prolongation. From the administrative side several central services are involved, mainly the Human Resources and IT departments.

In 2010 the administrative agreement was amended by a new paragraph guaranteeing an additional subsidy by the University of Lausanne to FORS under the condition that this would be necessary to avoid financial shortcomings.

The collaboration with the University of Lausanne research unit on Methodology, Inequalities and Social Change MISC continued to be fruitful in methodological as well as in substantive projects. Several collaborative projects of FORS and MISC continued in 2010 (see section 2.4).

There have been collaborations with other institutes of the Social and Political Science Faculty as well, especially with the Institute for Life Course Studies PAVIE and the Institute of Applied Mathematics IMA.

An important continuing collaboration is the Methods and Research Meetings, a joint seminar series of FORS, IMA, and MISC, organized by Kathrin Kissau (FORS), Marieke Voorpostel (FORS), Jean-Philippe Antonietti (IMA), André Berchtold (IMA), Jacques-Antoine Gauthier (MISC), and Eva Green (MISC). 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 2010.

The invitational programme sponsored by the University of Lausanne continued to fund two postdoctoral fellows, who have been implied in joint research activities with FORS and MISC. Additionally a number of colleagues from Europe and overseas have been visiting FORS for scholarly exchanges, among them Elisabeth Libau (SOEP/DIW Berlin), Eric Balster and Alerk Amin (CentERdata, Tilburg), Prof. York Sure and Oliver Hopt (GESIS Mannheim/Cologne), Dr. Peter Granda (ICPSR, University of Michigan), and Yukiko Asai (University of Tokyo).

3.2 National Partners

3.2.1 Swiss National Science Foundation

As the funder of important activities at FORS (i.e., the large surveys, the Social Report, the Swiss participation in the Luxembourg Income Study LIS), the Swiss National Science Foundation is a key partner to FORS. To discuss strategic issues of common concern, the President and the Director of FORS met the President of the SNSF, the Chair of its social sciences and humanities division, the representative of the SNSF to the Foundation Board, and senior SNSF staff on June 29, 2010. The following topics were discussed:

- Periodicity of SNSF grants for FORS research infrastructures: An agreement was reached that the periodicity of these grants should be extended to four years in order to be in parallel with the Confederation subsidy. SNSF will explore possibilities to adapt their regulations accordingly.
- Support for methodological research: There was a consensus that the SNSF does not in principle exclude funding methodological research projects provided that the scientific quality criteria have been met in the review procedure. The SNSF encourages FORS to look for scientific collaborations with and cofunding by interested partners for such proposals.
- Overhead contributions: For the time being it is not possible for the SNSF to grant overhead contributions for research infrastructures. This concerns the FORS infrastructure surveys as well, although their main investment is in manpower and not in hardware like laboratories or the like. The SNSF will look into possibilities to eventually change the respective rules to find a solution better adapted to social science research infrastructures.

3.2.2 Swiss Federal Statistical Office

The collaboration with the Swiss Federal Statistical Office has made good progress, in strategic as well as in operational terms (see section 2.3). It was remarkably enhanced in 2010 by the possibility for FORS to access the new register-based sampling frame for its infrastructure surveys. This guarantees for the best quality address sampling currently available in Switzerland. Sampling does not have to be restricted to households with registered landline telephones, and it is cost efficient since specific samples like SELECTS (Swiss citizens) or SHARE (population aged 50 plus) can be selected directly without expensive screening procedures. The samples are actually drawn by the SFSO based on the definitions provided by FORS. The ESS round 5, which was fielded in autumn 2010, was the first FORS survey to benefit from this new feature (see section 2.1.2.1).

3.2.3 Initiative for a Master's on "Public Opinion and Survey Research"

In 2010 FORS took the initiative to establish an inter-university master's programme on "Public Opinion and Survey Research". Studying public opinion has gained importance in recent years while at the same time the market and social research institutions are on the move. New survey and data analysis methods require a sound training. Yet until now there has been no comprehensive and coherent training in this field available in Switzerland, unlike in neighbouring countries. This initiative seeks to fill this gap. It aims at professionalizing quantitative research, promoting interdisciplinarity and creating a Swiss research, teaching, and cooperation network for survey and opinion research.

So far, the prospective partners are the Faculty of economics of the University of Neuchâtel, the Faculty of social and political sciences of the University of Lausanne and the Faculty for cultural studies and social sciences of the University of Lucerne. Associated to the initiative are the Federal Statistical Office and the Association of Swiss Market and Social Researchers (VSMS). It is intended to enlarge the network in the future by joining more faculties to the initiative.

The master's programme will offer a methodological, analytical, and theoretical training in survey research and opinion formation, and requires 90 ECTS credits. It consists of a core part, an elective part, an optional internship, and a master's thesis. The mandatory, method-centered core part includes three modules: "Theory of opinion formation", "Survey methods", and "Data analysis and visualisation".

3.2.4 Contact Points

The network of contact points that was already significantly expanded in 2009, was further enlarged in 2010. Several new experts joined the network from universities and universities of applied sciences, more recently from the University of Zurich (IPMZ) and the University of Bern (institute of sociology). One person changed institution and became the contact person at his new work place (University of Applied Sciences of Fribourg), and two other persons were replaced by colleagues. Some larger universities have more than one contact point, as for example Zurich, where each major institute for the social sciences has its own, but also Geneva and Bern have more than one representative (see complete list of contact points in the Appendix).

Suggestions from representatives are continuously collected and put into practice. Besides some suggestions for modifications, and improvements of services, there have also been comments that point out the usefulness of FORS' services for researchers and teachers, and that need no specific action.

In many cases, the contact persons work with our data sets regularly, both within their research projects and for teaching. They are quite naturally ambassadors for our institution and secondary analysis, without any special assignment. For example, in Neuchâtel, all the students from the various disciplines (geography, social psychology, sociology, etc.) interested in quantitative methods attend the seminar of the person who is part of our network of contact points. He reaches by himself approximately a hundred students every year and promotes data from the Nesstar server (in particular ESS data). Other contexts are similar, for example in Lausanne, Basel, Bern etc. In some ex-

ceptional cases, the contact person is more familiar with qualitative techniques, as for the USI. Such a mixture of interests is very positive and wished for, especially in the light of recent developments to include more systematically qualitative research data at FORS (see section 2.2.1).

The exchanges with our national contact points that were organised throughout the year on a bilateral basis (see section 2.10) allowed for a genuine consolidation of the ties between the scientific community and FORS. Each visit on site allowed for a valuable insight into the needs and expectations of the researchers. Until now, these are situated mainly in the field of the services we provide (data), but information about methodological aspects of survey data are equally requested and appreciated. Detailed information about the needs and interests of researchers eventually also facilitates more research-driven collaborations, for example in the domain of methodological research projects.

3.3 International Commitments

In 2010, FORS continued and reinforced its involvement in the development of European research infrastructures:

- The FORS director chaired two meetings of the ESFRI Thematic Working Group Social Sciences and Humanities. Both meetings were held at the Swiss Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education SwissCore in Brussels on January 26 and June 15 respectively. While the first meeting was mainly dedicated to an exchange on the goals and the work programme of the group, the second brought together representatives of all five social sciences and humanities initiatives on the ESFRI roadmap in order to facilitate their collaboration for a FP 7 proposal on common needs. The proposal was subsequently submitted in autumn 2010.
- FORS is 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.
- FORS is a member of the FP 7 project “Data without Boundaries”, which will enhance the collaboration between social science data archives and national statistical institutes in a number of respects. After having passed the thresholds of the scientific evaluation, the negotiations with the Commission were successfully finished by autumn 2010. The project will start in early 2011 (see section 2.2.3).
- FORS participated in the FP 7 proposal “Support for the Establishment of National/Regional Social Science Data Archives SERSCIDA”, which aims at the establishment of archives in the western Balkans. This is a follow-up of the leading of a workshop by FORS senior staff on this topic in Pristina, Kosovo, in May 2010 (see section 2.2.3).

- The FORS director was appointed member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the German sister organisation GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences.

Apart from these institutional commitments FORS staff have wide ranging scientific collaboration relationships. To shed more light on these collaborations, an internal survey was done with all scientific collaborators. As it turned out, there are currently more than 100 scientific collaborative contacts. Two thirds of the collaborators have several contacts each. The contacts concentrate largely on topics connected with survey methodology, sociology, and political science. About one third of the links are international, one third are nationwide, and one third regional or local. International and national links are expected to be widened in the future.

International scholarly collaboration was also promoted by attendance of FORS researchers at a number of conferences (e.g., the Euroscience Open Forum in Torino, the European Survey Research Association ESRA in Warsaw, the Priority Programme on Survey Methodology PPSM in Bremen), or hosting international conferences and workshops at FORS (such as the Comparative Survey Design and Implementation workshop CSDI and the Swiss-German-Austrian joint workshop on election research in 2010, see the complete list in chapter 4, indicator 6.2). 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.

Collaborative links with the German Socio-economic Panel SOEP were reinforced by a six week professional stay of FORS SHP researcher Ursina Kuhn in Berlin. In her work in Berlin she concentrated mainly on questions of imputation and comparative analysis of household income data. Several papers are expected to be presented and published as a follow-up.

Finally, SELECTS has become member of the COST Action "The True European Voter". The Action aims at strengthening the network of national election studies in Europe and to build a common comparative survey dataset of national election studies. A meeting took place in October 2010 in Lisbon with representatives from about 30 national election studies throughout Europe. SELECTS will contribute to the data collection effort.

4 Performance Indicators

As part of the evaluation process, and with the review and approval of its Foundation Board, FORS developed and tested in 2010 an internal performance monitoring system with measures that can be used over time to assess progress toward institutional objectives. This system is based on a conceptual framework that links overall FORS objectives to key activities, and then to specific indicators. 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.

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>)
2.3	Number of visits to Daris and Compass webpages
	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 participants
6.5	Number of copies of the Social Report sold or distributed

FORS implemented its indicator based performance measuring for the first time this year. The figures given are, therefore, a baseline against which the results in the following years will have to be benchmarked. Currently any assessment of the figures has to be qualitative and has to take into account contextual factors as well.

In the remainder of this chapter the figures for the year 2010 are presented. The order and numbering refer to the summary table above.

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 **859** such datasets were distributed by FORS to researchers in Switzerland in 2010. This is a considerable number given the size of the Swiss community of empirical researchers. The somewhat low figure for SELECTS reflects the fact that 2010 was the year just before the next elections, so the most recent dataset available – dating back to 2007 – is less current than the others in the list.

Study	Datasets
European Social Survey (ESS)	306
Swiss Household Panel (SHP)	284
Swiss Electoral Studies (SELECTS)	150
MOSAiCH-ISSP	119
Total	859

In addition to the distribution by FORS, ESS and ISSP data can also be downloaded from the international websites of these projects. The European Values Study (EVS) is 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 the indicator underestimates the use of international survey data for this reason.

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.

In all, there were **115** publications in 2010 making use of data from studies conducted by FORS. Two-thirds of these were articles in peer-reviewed journals, around 15% were book chapters, 10% were working papers, and 5% were books. Close to 15% of all publications concentrated on methodological questions.

SHP, ESS, and EVS data were each used in 25% of these publications, 19% used Selects data, and 5% used MOSAiCH-ISSP data.

The fact that two out of three publications using data from FORS surveys were articles in peer reviewed journals points to a considerable impact of FORS data on scholarly debate. However, the absolute number of 115 publications is but a start. Most probably not all relevant publications could be identified.

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 2010, to our knowledge **22** teachers/professors used FORS data for teaching purposes in seminars and courses. 14 teachers/professors used Nesstar datasets (directly downloadable online, including the ESS, MOSAiCH, and Selects), and 8 used SHP data for teaching.

The classes/seminars took place at the universities of Basel, Bern, Geneva, Fribourg, Lausanne, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, Zurich, as well as the EESP and IDHEAP in Lausanne.

Teaching is clearly a field with potential where FORS data are under-utilised for the time being. Again, even if accounting for a possible underreporting, this figure is not the goal FORS aims at. On the positive side it has to be noted that these teachers and courses are spread all over the country.

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 VoxIt).

In 2010, **1'453** datasets held within the FORS data service were either downloaded or distributed by FTP. Since there are around 400 different datasets stored currently at FORS, the figure indicates significant demand for certain of these, like, for example, the so-called "VoxIt" files, a cumulative dataset containing post-votation surveys covering the last 30 years.

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, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, and Austria.

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 2009/2010, **513** new project descriptions were added to the research inventory. This represents a growth of about 6%, reflecting the steady flow of new research projects being recorded in the inventory. Additionally, **196** project descriptions were updated during the same period of time.

75% of the new projects were being carried out by research groups affiliated with universities and universities of applied science. The vast majority of these

research projects are situated in five core disciplines (sociology, education science, political science, economics, and psychology).

2.3 Number of visits to Daris and Compass webpages

This indicator is an indirect measure of researcher interest in and use of Daris and Compass services.

During 2010, there were a total of **10'698** visits to the Daris and Compass websites. Nearly 85% of visitors were from Switzerland. Germany, France, Italy, UK, and Austria – ordered by number of visits – accounted for another 10% of traffic. This signals that FORS is already well rooted in the Swiss context. Since international collaborations, as with FP 7 projects, are expected to increase in the future (see section 3.3), the share of hits from abroad could grow as well.

For Daris, the most visited pages were the annual survey and data access pages, whereas for Compass the vast majority of visitors accessed the statistical services catalogue.

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

This indicator requires recording and documentation of all relevant contacts, across units. No results exist for 2010, since a tool first had to be developed to allow capture of such contacts. The programming was recently completed and the tool is now available online. FORS staff have already been instructed in how to record their contacts using the tool. Results for the full year of 2011 will be presented in the next annual report.

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., SHP, ESS, SHARE, MOSAiCH, SELECTS, and the Social Report). The sums reported might fluctuate over time depending on duration and funding schemes of individual projects.

In 2010, the funding total for third-party financed projects was **175'104 CHF**, including 112'104 for the project REPCONG, and 63'000 for the project CH@YOUPART. The overall figure might increase in the future. The mid-term

financial planning until 2016 estimates the yearly average amount of third-party funding to be around 250'000 CHF.

REPCONG involves a study of direct democracy and policy congruence between citizens and elites. The project is carried out in four European countries (Austria, Germany, Ireland and Switzerland) and is supported by the European Science Foundation (ESF) as part of the Eurocores HumVIB programme. The Swiss part of the project is financed by the SNSF.

CH@YOUPART is a project on political participation of young adults in Switzerland, with the support of the State Secretariat for Education and Research of the Federal Department of Home Affairs.

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 2010, FORS staff members had a total of **42** publications, including 22 articles in peer-reviewed journals, such as the International Journal of Comparative Sociology, European Sociological Review, Electoral Studies, and the European Journal of Operational Research, among others.

Type of publication	Number
Peer-reviewed articles	22
Book sections	5
Edited books	4
Working papers and book reviews	11
Total	42

Out of these publications, **16** (38%) treated methodological issues in survey research, with 8 of these in peer-reviewed journals such as the International Journal of Public Health, Survey Research Methods, and the Swiss Journal of Sociology, among others.

Taking the number of eligible scientific collaborators into account (29 with Master's degree or above), it appears that on the average three out of four scientific collaborators published a scholarly text this year. However, there is still potential for an even better performance, since in reality there is a cleavage between collaborators who contribute more often, and others who contribute less. FORS aspires to motivate all scientific collaborators to publish regularly in scholarly media.

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 **59** presentations at national and international scientific conferences and workshops, e.g., at the ISA world Congress of Sociology, the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, and the “*Dreiländertagung*” of the Austrian, German and Swiss Associations for Political Science.

Type	Number
Scientific Conferences	46
Other Presentations	13
Total	59

18 (30%) of these presentations were focused on methodological issues, with 14 of these at scientific conferences, such as the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Gothenburg, the 7th CSDI workshop, Lausanne, and the Panel Methods Workshop, Mannheim.

Just as is the case with publications (see indicator 5.1), these figures signal a considerable level of activity, which, however, is somewhat unevenly distributed among FORS staff. It is envisaged that this will improve in the future.

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 2010, FORS staff members were involved in **60** collaborative projects with outside organizations. Almost half of these were with individuals from the

French-speaking part of Switzerland. This is due in particular to the close ties of some collaborators with other institutions in Lausanne (in particular Pavie and MISC). Close to half of the collaborations with foreign institutions involved Germany. In the future, such collaborations should be regionally more diversified, in Switzerland as well as abroad.

Region / Country	Collaborations
French-speaking part of Switzerland	29
German-speaking part of Switzerland	4
Italian-speaking part of Switzerland	2
Germany	12
North America	6
United Kingdom	3
The Netherlands	2
Spain	1
Finland	1
Total	60

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.

In 2010, FORS organised and conducted **15** different workshops and seminars. 11 of these were international in character with regard to the speakers and/or the participants.

Event	Month
Seminar GESIS, on QDDS questionnaire design tool	January
Seminar CentERdata, on Questasy survey design tool	March
Workshop of Comparative Survey Design and Implementation (CSDI)	March
Seminar Peter Granda, ICSPR University of Michigan	March
Workshop on COCON	May
Workshop SHP on data management with SPSS/STATA	June
Workshop SHP on multilevel models for longitudinal research	June
Expert workshop on qualitative data archiving	June
Seminar Elisabeth Liebau, Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung	August
Seminar Yukiko Asai, University of Tokyo	September
Workshop on Luxembourg Income Study	October
Workshop SELECTS/GLES/AUTNES on electoral studies	October
Workshop with Lithuanian Data Archive	December
<i>FORS/IMA/MISC research and methods seminar series</i>	<i>Continuous</i>
<i>FORS lunch seminars</i>	<i>Continuous</i>

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, 9 FORS staff members taught in 2010. They gave **308** teaching hours in 13 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. Around 60% of the teaching hours were provided in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, 20% in the German-speaking part, 10% in the Italian-speaking part, and 10% abroad.

Thus, around one third 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 participants

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 2010 FORS summer school in Lugano involved **111** participants. Among them, 96 were from Switzerland, 4 from Germany and Italy, 2 from Sweden, and 1 each from Croatia, Japan, Liechtenstein, Norway, and the UK. All courses were fully booked.

Among the 78 participants from Swiss Universities and Institutes of Technology, 50% were from the French-speaking part, 35% from the German-speaking part, and 15% from the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland. The other Swiss participants came mainly from Universities of Applied Science. The distribution of the disciplines represented was as follows:

Discipline	Participants
Business Studies	29
Psychology	25
Education	14
Sociology	10
Communication Studies	9
Political Science	8
Economics	3
Other	13
Total	111

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.

As the Social Report appears every four years only, and since most of the copies are sold shortly after publication, the total number of copies sold and distributed since the publication of the current Social Report in early 2009 is given.

Of the **592** copies that were distributed, 491 (83%) were sold. These figures are quite remarkable taking the size of the market for such publications into account.

Language	Sold	Distributed	Total delivered
German	324	52	376
French	167	49	216
Total	491	101	592

200 copies of the English version were distributed by the publisher in return for the FORS contribution to printing costs; 16 copies of the English version were sold.

Appendix: Facts and Figures

Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

- Budowski, Monica, Robin **Tillmann**, Wiebke Keim, and Michèle Amacker. 2010. Conceptualizing "precarious prosperity": Empirical and theoretical elements for debate. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 51, no. 4: 268-288.
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- Lipps**, Oliver, and Alexandre **Pollien**. 2010. Effects of Interviewer Experience on Components of Nonresponse in the European Social Survey. *Field Methods*, <http://fieldmethods.org>.
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- Tillmann**, Robin. 2010. Une société de classes moyennes ? Le cas de la société suisse contemporaine. *Sociologie* 1, no. 2: 253-271.
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- Voorpostel**, Marieke, and Djamila Schans. 2010. De relatie tussen volwassen broers en zussen in autochtone en allochtone families. *Migrantenstudies* 26, no. 3: 241-261.
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- Kuhn**, Ursina. 2010. Monthly wages in the Swiss Household Panel. SHP Working Paper 2/10. FORS, April.
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- Lutz**, Georg. 2010. Book review: Frey, Timotheos (2009). Die Christdemokratie in Westeuropa: Der schmale Grat zum Erfolg. *Swiss Political Science Review* 16, no. 2: 309-313.
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Presentations

Scientific conferences

- Bernauer, Julian, Nathalie Giger, and Jan **Rosset**. 2010. The Substantial Representation of Subconstituency Interests in European Democracies. Paper presented at the 68th Annual MPSA Conference, April 22, Chicago, United States.
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- Joye**, Dominique, and Marlène **Sapin**. 2010. Questioning nonrespondents and implication for survey design. Paper presented at the Practical Survey Design Seminar, November 8, Leinsweiler, Germany.
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- Kissau**, Kathrin, Georg **Lutz**, and Jan **Rosset**. 2010. Demographic Change and Political Representation. Paper presented at the "Policy Representation in Europe" Workshop, May 28, Mannheim, Germany.
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- Kuhn**, Ursina. 2010. Activation and persuasion effects in electoral campaigns - A comparative analysis of household panel data. Paper presented at the SOEP conference, June 30, Berlin, Germany.
- Kuhn**, Ursina. 2010. Das Schweizer Haushalt Panel. Paper presented at the SOEP Brown Bag Seminar, November 10, Berlin, Germany.
- Lipps**, Oliver. 2010. Effects of Interviewer Experience on Components of Nonresponse in the European Social Survey. Paper presented at the 7th International Workshop on Comparative Survey Design and Implementation (CSDI), March 26, Lausanne, Switzerland.
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- Renschler**, Isabelle. 2010. The effect of methodology on data. Paper presented at the Journée de la recherche SSP, September 23, Université de Lausanne.
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- Rosset**, Jan, Nathalie Giger, and Julian Bernauer. 2011. Political Representation of the Poor and Economic Inequality: A Comparative Analysis. Paper presented at the Dreiländertagung, January 14, Basel.
- Ryser**, Valérie-Anne, Laura Bernardi, and Jean-Marie Le Goff. 2010. The fertility gap in Switzerland: from childbearing intentions to their realization. Paper presented at the European Society on Family Relations 5th Congress, September 29, Milan, Italy.
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Sturgis, Patrick, Patten Smith, Bobby Duffy, and Caroline **Roberts**. 2010a. Happy! Or can't get no satisfaction? Concept equivalence in the measurement of subjective well-being presented at the 65th Annual Conference American Association for Public Opinion Research, May 14, Chicago, USA.

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Lipps, Oliver. 2010. „Contact time optimization in panel surveys.“ FORS Working Paper Series, paper 2010-2. Lausanne: FORS.

Renschler, Isabelle, Brian **Kleiner**, and Martina **Bichsel**. 2010. „Dialect-driven interviewer adaptation: Experiences from Switzerland.“ FORS Working Paper Series, paper 2010-3. Lausanne: FORS.

Greppi, Spartaco, Mario Lucchini, Jenny Assi, and Christian Marazzi. 2010. „The determinants of fixed-term contracts in contemporary Switzerland.“ FORS Working Paper Series, paper 2010-4. Lausanne: FORS.

Teaching

- Bühlmann, Felix.** 3-5 February 2010. "Sequence analysis with the R package TraMineR." University of Manchester, Centre for Socio-Cultural Research, doctorate level course.
- Bühlmann, Felix.** Winter semester 2010. "Colloque de lecture sur les indicateurs sociaux: génération, cohortes, parcours de vie." University of Neuchâtel, Institute for Sociology, bachelor level course.
- Bühlmann, Felix.** Winter semester 2010. "Sekundärdatenanalyse in den Sozialwissenschaften: Generationen, Kohorten, Lebensläufe." University of Lucerne, Institute for Sociology, master level course.
- Kleiner, Brian, and Oliver Lipps.** 27-28 May 2010. "Data management and secondary analysis." University of Fribourg, Regional Research Promotion Programme, workshop for researchers and doctoral students in the Western Balkans, Pristina, Kosovo.
- Lipps, Oliver.** Winter semester 2010. "Erhebung, Aufbereitung und Analyse komplexer sozialwissenschaftlicher Befragungsdaten." University of Basel, Institute for Sociology, graduate level seminar.
- Lipps, Oliver, and Ursina Kuhn.** 30 August – 3 September 2010. "Introduction to panel data analysis." FORS and Università della Svizzera italiana Lugano, Summer School course.
- Lutz, Georg.** 1 September 2010. "Elections and Conflict." Swisspeace, continuing education lecture.
- Rosset, Jan.** Spring semester 2010. "Analyse des données quantitatives en science politique." University of Lausanne, Institute for Political Science, bachelor level seminar.
- Rosset, Jan.** Winter semester 2010. "Méthodes quantitatives." University of Lausanne, Institute for Political Science, master level seminar.
- Ryser, Valérie-Anne, Ursina Kuhn, and Florence Lebert.** 10 June 2010. "Introduction to Swiss Household Panel data analysis." FORS, doctorate and advanced researcher level workshop.
- Wernli, Boris.** Spring semester 2010. "Grandes enquêtes – analyses empiriques." University of Lausanne, faculty SSP, Bachelor level course.
- Wernli, Boris.** 2 September 2010. "Advanced methods in survey data analysis." IDHEAP Lausanne, doctoral level lecture.
- Wernli, Boris.** 7 and 13 September 2010. "Enquêtes: conception, réalisation, analyse, interpretation." University of Lausanne, university library, continuing education lectures.

Methods and Research Meetings

February 23 : Michael Herrmann (*sotomo Zurich*)

“Spatial Metaphors” or How to make political landscapes and social spaces visible

March 30 : Mélanie Cicognani (*Institute of Applied Mathematics, University of Lausanne*)

Traitement de données manquantes: comparaison de plusieurs méthodes

April 27: Marlène Sapin (*FORS*)

Configurations familiales et santé mentale: une application de l'analyse de réseaux à un suivi longitudinal de patients

May 25: Ulf-Dietrich Reips (*Department of Psychology, University of Bilbao*)

Conducting research on the internet

October 5: Christiane Ruffieux (*Cantonal and University Hospital CHUV Lausanne*)

Des jeux de hasard à l'évidence statistique: quelques repères historiques

November 2: Henry-Arnaud Thévenet (*Institute of Applied Mathematics, University of Lausanne*)

Evolution d'une structure de pensée dynamique de l'émergence des représentations sociales

December 7: Véronique Jaquier (*Institute of Criminology, University of Lausanne*)

Maximiser a posteriori la comparabilité de données quantitatives

Lunch Seminars

January 20: Oliver Lipps

Do female and male interviewers produce different answers on attitude questions?

(with Georg Lutz)

February 17: Ursina Kuhn

The effect of electoral campaigns on voting intentions: An analysis of panel data from Switzerland, Germany and Great Britain

March 24: Marieke Voorpostel

Attrition in the Swiss Household Panel: Does change predict drop-out?

(with Oliver Lipps)

April 21: Valérie-Anne Ryser

Terminal decline and subjective well-being changes in old and very old age

May 26: Felix Bühlmann

Routes into the British service class: Feeder logics according to gender and occupational groups

June 23: Brian Kleiner

Effects of respondent understanding and language proficiency on data quality in the SHP and MOSAiCH

(with Oliver Lipps and Eliane Ferrez)

September 22: Marieke Voorpostel

Parental characteristics and intergenerational transmission of party preference: Evidence from Switzerland

October 20: Boris Wernli

Déconstruction du mode de vie familiale et investissement ménager en Suisse

November 17: Oliver Lipps

Experiences with an individual register sample telephone survey in Switzerland

(with Kathrin Kissau)

December 15: Georg Lutz

Why polls can go wrong: On the difficulty of predicting referenda outcomes with polls in Switzerland

(with Nicolas Pekari)

Contact Points

Universities:

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

Dr. Michelle Beyeler, *Universität Bern, Institut für Politikwissenschaft*

Prof. Ben Jann, *Universität Bern, Institut für Soziologie*

Maurizia Masia, *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/Anouk Gyssler, *Pädagogische Hochschule Aarau, Institut Forschung und Entwicklung FHNW*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Outreach Activities

January 7 – 8	Swiss Political Science Association, Annual Congress, University of Geneva
March 8	Research Meeting at the IPMZ (Institute of Mass Communication and Media Research), University of Zurich
March 26	Methods seminar at the Conference of the Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research, Lucerne
April 4	Methods seminar in political sciences (I), University of Lausanne
April 22	Methods seminar in political sciences (II), University of Lausanne
June 15	Research Meeting at the SUPSI (Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana), Manno/ Lugano
June 15	Research Meeting at USI (Università della svizzera italiana), Lugano
July 11 – 17	World Congress of sociology (ISA), Göteborg
August 20 – Sept. 3	Swiss Summer School, Lugano
September 23	Faculty Research Meeting in the social sciences, University of Lausanne
September 23	Information desk at the University of Lausanne during the „Journée de la recherche SSP“
October 18	Master Course in political sciences, University of Lausanne
December 8	Research Meeting at URSP (Unité de recherche pour le pilotage des systèmes pédagogiques), University of Lausanne
December 14	Research Meeting at the University of Bern, Institute of sociology

Governing Bodies

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as of Dec. 31, 2010

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as of Dec. 31, 2010

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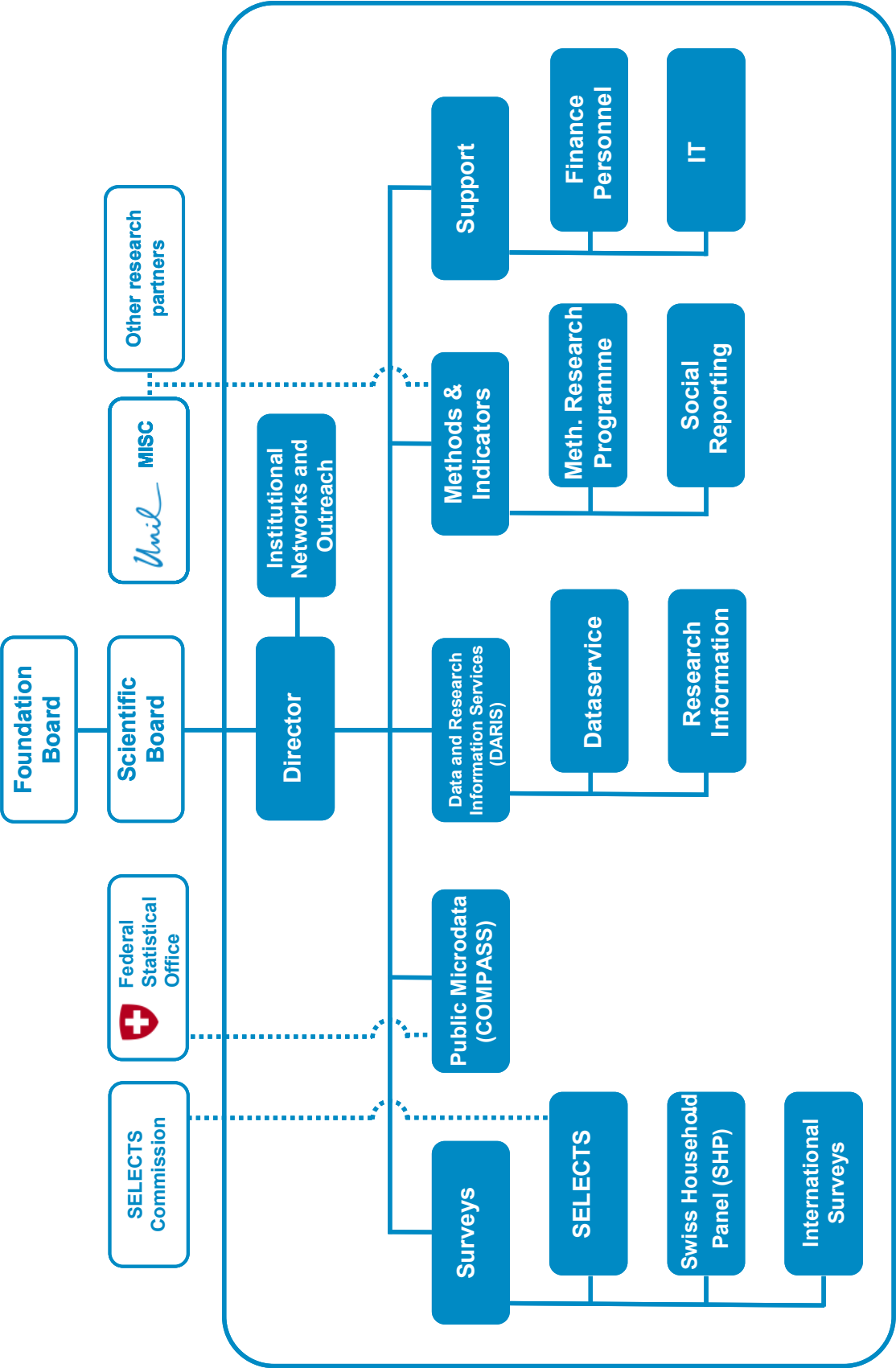
Prof. Milad **Zarin-Nejadan**
University of Neuchâtel

Staff Statistics

	31.12.10		01.01.10		01.01.08	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<i>Permanent Employees</i>	35	100	33	100	19	100
<u>1. Sex</u>						
Male	18	51	17	52	13	68
Female	17	49	16	48	6	32
<u>2. Nationality</u>						
CH	27	77	25	76	16	84
other (B,D,F,I,NL,USA)	8	23	8	24	3	16
<u>3. Mother language</u>						
Swiss-German	12	34	12	36	5	26
French	12	34	11	33	9	48
Bilingual (incl. I,PL,FIN,Vietn)	5	14	4	13	4	21
other (E,G,NL)	6	17	6	18	1	5
<u>4. Degrees received</u>						
Professional formation	2	6	2	6	2	11
Lic./Master/Diploma	21	60	20	61	13	68
Dr. / Ph.D.	12	34	11	33	4	21
<u>5. Disciplines</u>						
Sociology	11	31	9	27	5	26
Political Science	6	17	6	18	4	21
(Social) Psychology	5	14	5	16	4	21
other social sciences	7	20	7	21	0	0
Mathematics	2	6	2	6	1	5
IT	2	6	2	6	3	16
Clerk	2	6	2	6	2	11
<u>6. Degree of Employment</u>						
Full time	10	29	10	31	7	37
Part time (50%-90%)	25	71	23	69	12	63

Organizational Chart

as of Dec. 31, 2010



Poster (English version)



Explore. Understand. Share.

FORS is a national centre of expertise in the social sciences. Its primary activities consist of:

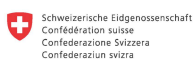
production of survey data, including national and international surveys

dissemination of data for use in secondary analysis

research in empirical social sciences, with focus on survey methodology

consulting services for researchers in Switzerland and abroad

FORS is supported by



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List of Abbreviations

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
CSDI	Comparative Survey Design and Implementation
DARIS	Data and Research Information Services
ECPR	European Consortium for Political Research
ELSST	European Language Social Science Thesaurus
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
ESFRI	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
ESRA	European Survey Research Association
ESF	European Science Foundation
ESS	European Social Survey
EVS	European Values Study
EUROCORES	European Collaborative Research Scheme
ICPSR	Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
IEMS	Institute of Health Economics and Management, U Lausanne
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISSP	International Social Survey Programme
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LIS	Luxembourg Income Study
MEA	Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging
MISC	Methodology, Inequalities, and Social Change, U Lausanne
MOSAiCH	Measurement and Observation of Social Attitudes in Switzerland
NCCR	National Centre of Competence in Research
PUS	Public Use Sample
QMSS	Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences
REPCONG	Representation and Policy Congruence in Europe
RCS	Rolling cross section survey
SELECTS	Swiss Electoral Studies
SER	State Secretariate for Education and Research
SFSO	Swiss Federal Statistical Office
SHARE	Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe
SHP	Swiss Household Panel
SNSF	Swiss National Science Foundation
SOEP	Socio-economic Panel
SSH	Social Sciences and Humanities
SSTC	Swiss Science and Technology Council
TREE	Transitions from Education to Employment
WAPOR	World Association for Public Opinion Research