

FORS 

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# Annual Report 2022

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# 1. Editorial from the FORS Director

## Shaping a positive environment for social science infrastructures

Research infrastructures are important in many scientific disciplines as they organise many long-term and collaborative undertakings relevant to entire research communities. FORS not only hosts such infrastructure projects as the national data archive and centre for national and international surveys; FORS also actively contributes to strengthening the position of SSH infrastructures in the long term and ensuring good coordination between existing projects and initiatives.

An important activity to improve the situation of research infrastructures in 2022 was the position paper "[Social Sciences and Humanities Research Infrastructures in Switzerland](#)". The paper was published in August 2022 and signed by more than 150 researchers. As in many other countries, the prioritisation of infrastructures is increasingly done through a national roadmap process. In the current Swiss roadmap update, which will be published in 2023, the need for social science and humanities infrastructure was not well considered. As the current situation is unsatisfactory for the social sciences and humanities, the position paper proposes several improvements in the roadmap process as well as in the funding environment. Events were held in May 2022 and January 2023 to discuss the main points of this position paper with various stakeholders and researchers involved in infrastructures. This paper was also important in bringing together key stakeholders to think about how existing national RIs can better work together in the future and how synergies can be created. FORS will work together with different partners towards the creation of a cluster of SSH infrastructures in Switzerland to enable regular and systematic exchanges in the future.

FORS is also actively contributing to some new infrastructure initiatives.

- » Swiss participation in the Gender and Generation Program GGP was positively evaluated by the Swiss National Science Foundation in 2022 and is expected to be included as important in the next national infrastructure roadmap in 2023. As this is the only new social science initiative identified as strategically significant on the new roadmap, it will also be important to secure funding from 2025 onwards.
- » FORS hosts the secretariat of the newly established Consortium of National Election Studies (CNES) since 2022. CNES is the network of scientific national election studies that conducts voter surveys on national general elections. CNES promotes the sharing of data, knowledge, and standards on national elections and election studies to improve understanding of electoral behaviour and electoral democracies through national and comparative election research. This now complements the coordination activities of larger projects that FORS is already conducting, such as ISSP and CCS.

- » FORS will be actively involved in the administration and data collection of a newly funded survey series on popular votes. This academic project, involving all of Switzerland's political science institutes, will launch in spring 2023 with data collections over a period of four years and is expected to be established as a permanent infrastructure after the initial four-year funding phase.
- » Based on a proposal from the Science, Education and Culture Committees, the Council of States has unanimously agreed to suggest drafting a new law on the secondary use of existing data for the fall of 2022. If the National Council also agrees, work on this law will begin in 2023. Together with ongoing efforts by the Federal Statistical Office to provide metadata and better data access, this will likely improve the ability to use administrative and sensitive data for research, which is of growing importance. FORS, together with its linkhub.ch partners, will actively contribute to this debate in 2023 and beyond.

While all of these developments are, of course, of strategic importance to FORS and to the social science community at large, they represent only a relatively small part of FORS' activities. Most of the work, as this annual report shows, is devoted to the high-quality services, tools, and research in which all FORS staff are involved on a daily basis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Georg Lutz', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Dr. Georg Lutz, Director

## 2. Surveys

FORS is responsible for a number of national and international surveys, mostly funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The surveys described below are part of the standard FORS data collection funded during the period 2021-2024. FORS academic surveys can also use the sample frame “Stichprobenrahmen für Haushalts- und Personenbefragungen SRPH” of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO). This sample frame is based on official registers and allows high-precision sampling of individuals resident within Switzerland. The sample frame centralises information from cantonal and communal population registers which are updated on a quarterly basis.

In addition to these surveys financed by the SNSF, a whole series of projects, sometimes very innovative and with high scientific added value, were carried out by the Data Collection and Analysis Team (see [7. Data collection and analysis DCA](#)). Often conducted in close collaboration with their clients, they were financed by third-party funds from researchers or public entities.

### 2.1 Swiss Household Panel SHP

#### Five principal tasks

The fieldwork for the four SHP samples, started at the end of August 2021, was completed in mid-March 2022. This concerned wave 23 of the SHP\_I (2 362 households and 3 602 individuals interviewed), wave 18 of the SHP\_II (1 093 households and 1 598 individuals interviewed), wave 9 of the SHP\_III (1 618 households and 2 449 individuals interviewed), and wave 2 of the SHP\_IV (3 247 households and 5 478 individuals interviewed). In total 8 320 households and 13 127 individuals participated. For detailed information about participation rates, we refer to [https://forscenter.ch/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/participation\\_w1-w23.pdf](https://forscenter.ch/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/participation_w1-w23.pdf).

The SHP team achieved five principal tasks in 2021:

1. The main mode of interviewing remains CATI for the older samples (SHP\_I to SHP\_III). Less than 1% in these three samples is interviewed face-to-face, whereas around 2% participated by web (CAWI) on the household level and 12% (SHP\_II and SHP\_III) on the individual level. Web is a bit less common on the individual level in the oldest sample (SHP\_I, 9.6%). The most recent sample (SHP\_IV) followed a different design (using CATI if a telephone number was available, and CAWI otherwise) than the first wave completed in 2021, thus being a real mixed-mode survey.

In the second wave, 60% of household questionnaires were completed by CATI and 40% by CAWI. For the individual questionnaires this was 55% and 45% respectively. A total of 139 interviewers and supervisors from MIS Trend carried out the telephone interviews (84 in Bern, 55 in Lausanne) and managed the online data collection. The average duration of the individual CATI questionnaire was relatively long with 43 minutes for the SHP\_I, SHP\_II and SHP\_III; for the SHP\_IV it was even longer as it contained an additional module on social origin not administered in the first wave. It lasted 49 minutes (41 minutes for the CAWI version of the questionnaire). The rotating modules administered in this wave were religion and psychological scales, and two new questions about attitudes regarding single parents and parents in same-sex couples were added.

From April to December the SHP team carried out the work related to data checking, cleaning and preparation, construction of variables, and documentation in order to prepare the data dissemination via SWISSUbase at the beginning of 2023. The dissemination package contains the following data sets: Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) data, imputed income and wealth data, interviewer data, annual household and individual data, unique files (such as social origin), and syntaxes. It also contains documentation such as questionnaires and a restructured user guide.

2. Between February and August, the SHP team prepared the fieldwork for waves 24 (SHP\_I), 19 (SHP\_II), 10 (SHP\_III), and 3 (SHP\_IV). This involved the preparation of the questionnaires (integrating annual changes and adaptations), a quantitative pre-test (creation of scenarios to test the programming of the questionnaire), communication to participating households (various letters and newsletters), updating the interviewer manual and training the interviewers (several sessions in Bern and Lausanne). The fieldwork started as planned at the end of August 2022. Rotating modules administered in this wave are social network and leisure & culture in a shortened version to decrease interview duration.
3. The tasks associated with data harmonisation took place during this period as well. A revised and harmonised version of the SHP data waves 1 to 23 (1999 to 2021), along with a codebook, was prepared for inclusion in the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) at the beginning of 2023 (see <https://www.cnefdata.org/>). The CNEF focuses mainly on employment, income, and health and includes detailed harmonised variables that require additional recoding and imputations. It contains equivalently defined variables for the world's largest household panels. The SHP has been a longstanding partner in this cross-national collaboration. The SHP data are also included in the Comparative Panel File (CPF) project. CPF delivers the syntax to harmonise

data from large household panels, supporting the social science community in the analysis of comparative life course data. Although the SHP is in contact with the CPF, the SHP-team is not involved in the preparation of the syntax for the harmonised variables.

4. The 7th SHP Methodological Workshop took place at the University of Lausanne on June 7-10. The first part of the workshop was devoted to “Panel event designs and panel regression models”. The course was given by Dr. Marco Giesselmann from the University of Zurich. The first day was dedicated to the basics of panel data analysis (analytical properties and benefits of panel data, simple change scores, difference-in-difference designs, panel event designs, and individual questions). The second day was devoted to the basics of panel regression (one-way and two-way fixed effects regression, first differences regression, and discussion of exercises). The third day was devoted to advanced issues of panel regression (random effects regression, hybrid regression, binary dependent variables, and effect heterogeneity and staggered effects). The last day, organised by members of the SHP team, was dedicated to an introduction to the SHP (presenting the main aims, data collection, structure of the data and data organisation). The workshop was attended by 17 participants, who gave very positive feedback on the workshop.
5. An important task in the second half of 2021 was an evaluation of the SHP, including shaping the direction of the SHP in the near future. This resulted in a report (“The Swiss Household Panel towards the future: Report of the evaluation of 2021”) submitted to the FORS Executive Board in February 2022. The report was also presented at a meeting of the FORS Scientific Advisory Board in March. At this meeting, the Scientific Advisory Board has validated the creation of an SHP scientific commission. The main task of this commission will be to ensure the quality and relevance of the SHP data and metadata and to strengthen the SHP social science research network amongst Swiss universities, and beyond. The commission is composed of 9 members: Prof. Daniel Oesch (University of Lausanne, Chair), Dr. Jonathan Burton (University of Essex), Dr. Marco Giesselmann (University of Zurich), Dr. Markus Grabka (DIW Berlin), Prof. Elisabeth Gutjahr (Haute école de travail social Fribourg), Dr. Oriane Sarrasin (University of Lausanne), Dr. Annette Scherpenzeel (Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research), Prof. Rainer Winkelmann (University of Zurich), and Prof. Boris Wernli (FORS). Following the meeting, the SHP team started to work with experts on new topics to be introduced in the questionnaire, including migration, digitalisation and new types of employment. Further, following feedback from SHP users during the evaluation, the team is working on improving and reorganising the documentation of the SHP.

## 2.2 International Surveys

2022 was centred on MOSAiCH 2022 with the preparation of the next edition and archiving of the previous one, the field end and data preparation of ESS Round 10, and finally for SHARE, the field of Wave 9 and the preparation of the Wave 10 paper questionnaire. Synergies and collaborations between these international surveys are numerous, not only internally at FORS but also on the international level through projects such as ESS Sustain 2, where EVS and ESS collaborate, or the SSHOC project (Social Science and Humanities Open Science Cloud).

### ESS

The European Social Survey (ESS) is an academically driven cross-national survey that has been conducted every two years across Europe since 2002, with very high-quality standards. Switzerland has participated in each round since the very beginning. This general population survey measures the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of diverse populations in more than thirty nations.

#### Fieldwork

The fieldwork of the ESS Round 10 (with rotating parts on the topics “Democracy” and “Digital social contacts”) started on 4 May 2021 and finished on 2 May 2022, with 1523 valid interviews. This exceptionally long field period is due to the coronavirus pandemic and low interviewer capacity. To mitigate refusals, the possibility to hold the whole interview through video was offered, displaying the showcards and the faces of the interviewer and the respondent on the screen. 50 valid interviews could be fielded through this mode, representing less than 1% of the response rate. However, the offer reassured participants that health risks were being taken seriously. Finally, the cooperation rate was at a normal level. The final response rate of 49.5% is slightly lower than the one of the previous editions, also because of the long field period. It can, however, be considered as satisfactory given the difficulties encountered on the field. Many ESS countries have experienced drastic drops of their response rate during this Round mostly because of the coronavirus pandemic, and not only those who had to decide to switch to self-completion.

#### Data

The survey agency delivered the final interview raw data on 4 May and the contact data on 12 May 2022. The cleaning and coding of the survey and contact data and the preparation of the documentation was achieved by end of May and delivered on time to the ESS data archive Sikt in Bergen, Norway. This procedure has been extremely rapid thanks to the intermediate data deliveries in 2021. Our data then went through two processing phases and was released in edition 2 of the international data in December 2022



together with data from 14 other countries. There still are 6 countries who could not deliver their data for the second release and should be included in the next one.

The complete Swiss ESS Round 10 data, with some additional information in regard to the international dataset, will also be published by FORS in SWISSUbase during 2023.

In addition to the mentioned second release of the ESS10 survey and contact data, during 2022 the ESS data archive also published the first edition of the ESS10 data with 10 countries. The latest published user statistics (by end of May 2022) document over 200 000 registered users (5 700 from Switzerland), and over 290 000 downloaded datasets. The ESS bibliography records over 8 500 scientific publications using the ESS data, 223 from authors from Switzerland (9th place), meaning that there is a high demand for ESS data overall and in Switzerland.

### **Preparation**

The survey agency for ESS Round 11, which has to be fielded face-to-face, was chosen through a tender process in June 2022. The same agency was chosen as for the past Rounds. The translation process started in October 2022 and was still ongoing at the end of the year. The start of the field is expected in March 2023.

### **International**

In March, July and October 2022 the ERIC NC Forum Meetings took place virtually and in Budapest. The main topics of these meetings were: Learning from the Round 10 fields, the rotating modules for Round 11 “Gender in Contemporary Europe” and “Social Inequalities in Health”, preparation of Round 11, and preparation of the transition to self-completion expected in Round 13 in 2027.

The ESS ERIC General Assembly met in April and October, with FORS Director Georg Lutz representing Switzerland. Switzerland is also represented in other governing boards: The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB; Christian Staerklé, University of Lausanne) and the Methods Advisory Board (MAB; Caroline Roberts, FORS and University of Lausanne). The SAB has chosen the rotating modules for Round 12, both being repeated: “Attitudes towards immigration” and “Personal and social wellbeing”.

As of October 2022, the ESS ERIC includes 27 member countries, 1 member candidate, 1 observer country (Switzerland) and 1 confirmed guest country, reaching at least 30 participating countries in Round 11. It is thus the Research Infrastructure Consortium with the most members.

**MOSAiCH / ISSP** During 2022, the fifth edition of the annual MOSAiCH survey took place. This self-completion survey (web-paper, push-to-web design) is conducted in several parts and realised internally. The content is defined by the ISSP and a public call for contribution addressing the Swiss research community. In 2022, the central topic was “Family and Changing Gender Roles”. The second part included a module on Assisted Reproductive Technologies, a module with a comprehensive set of questions on gender ideologies, behaviours, and identities and an experimental investigation on how to measure more complex sex and gender identities. During 2022, the team prepared and finalised the data preparation and documentation of MOSAiCH 2022 for a release in early 2023. The preparation of the 2023 edition of MOSAiCH has been carried out. At the international level of the ISSP, the team ran the ISSP secretariat, organised the ISSP General Assembly and launched an impressive series of promotion activities.

### **Field and research**

MOSAiCH 2023 is composed of the ISSP 2022 module on Family and Changing Gender Roles (a module repeated for the fifth time) and questions from three different proposals, involving 10 researchers of Switzerland and abroad. The topics of the chosen proposals are: *Knowledge and Attitudes towards Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) in Switzerland*, *Gender Ideologies, Behaviours, and Identities*, and *Moving beyond the binary – Examining the advantages and challenges of a more complex sex and gender identity measure*. While the preparation of the MOSAiCH 2022 questionnaire was mostly completed during 2021 (call, evaluation of the proposals, development of the new questions, and translations of the ISSP and call questions), the survey was set up in early 2022. The MOSAiCH Commission decided to run the 2022 edition in two parts, with all respondents of the first part being invited to the second part in the mode of their first response. The second part includes an experimental design.

The fieldwork of MOSAiCH 2022 started at the end of February 2022 and ended in July, based on the optimised contact procedure used since 2019. At the time of writing this report, the data has not been published yet. The final response rate (RR) should be roughly around 42% for the first part and 28% for the second part, which is similar to 2020, when an experiment with incentives has been run. In 2022 we decided to again test if the use of the digital incentive TWINT has improved. The result in 2020 was quite deceiving, the RR being comparable to the lottery incentive. The coronavirus pandemic has boosted the use of this electronic payment tool in Switzerland, so we attributed 1/3 of the gross sample to this unconditional digital incentive (value 10 CHF), whereas 2/3 received 10 CHF cash. The RR for the cash incentive was significantly lower than in 2020 and 2021, which might

be related to the topic. The digital incentive worked even worse than in 2020, so this alternative to the obsolete postal cheques cannot be seriously considered for the near future.

In addition, a last wave of the MOSAiCH-COVID-19 panel was fielded using the 'FORS Connect Panel', mainly based on respondents recruited after the previous MOSAiCH editions and starting with the MOSAiCH-COVID-19 Panel. Only a very reduced number of questions could be repeated, as this first wave of the 'FORS Connect Panel' also included other projects. The field ran in July-August 2022. 899 MOSAiCH-COVID-19 respondents participated in this survey.

### **2023 preparations**

The public call for question contributions to the MOSAiCH 2023 edition, including the ISSP 'National Identity and Citizenship' module, was published in early January 2022. The Scientific MOSAiCH Commission received and evaluated four proposals. During the evaluation meeting in June, it was decided to retain three of them, involving 10 researchers from Switzerland and abroad. One proposal has an experimental design. The questions will be administered in a single follow-up wave to the ISSP questionnaire. The accepted questions have been elaborated by the 'International Surveys' team in collaboration with the proposing authors. Qualitative tests were performed by the authors, and a quantitative pretest was implemented for two proposals and a new MOSAiCH question using the second wave of the 'FORS Connect Panel'. All the questions have been translated into the national languages with the usual TRAPD procedure, as the ISSP questionnaire.

### **Data**

The complete MOSAiCH 2021 dataset, including ISSP 2021 (Health and Health Care II) and all data related to the Call, was documented and published in SWISSUbase in February 2022. The international ISSP-archive at GESIS published the final release of ISSP 2019 'Social Inequality V', containing 29 countries, and a first release of ISSP 2020 'Environment IV' with 14 countries, both including Swiss data.

The GESIS archive has over 50 000 registered users (over 1 000 from Switzerland) and in 2022 distributed over 10 000 ISSP datasets including Swiss data. The Swiss archive distributed around 200 MOSAiCH and ISSP datafiles.

### ISSP international

The annual ISSP General Assembly (GA) was held in Bratislava, Slovakia, in June 2022. Thanks to the hybrid formula, 45 countries attended the meeting (29 in person and 16 online). Only two of the 43 member countries were missing. As the Swiss representative, secretariat and organiser of the GA, four collaborators from Switzerland were present. The GA discussed and voted on the items of the 2023 'National Identity and Citizenship' module and the topics of the 2024 'Digital Societies' module. The proposed and accepted topic for the 2025 module is "Work Orientation V", a module previously fielded in 2015. Some updates and revisions on the Working Principles were discussed and amended with the purpose of improving the weighting of the data. The Methodology Committee (MC) prepared a report with recommendations about the possibility to consider probability panels in the ISSP. Together with the Mode Group, the MC also discussed the importance of mixed-mode when using web data collection. Finally, eight methodological and substantial papers were presented during the Research Session. The next General Assembly venues will be Reykjavik, Iceland in 2023, and Australia is willing to host in 2024.

Beside the organisation of the annual General Assembly in Bratislava in June and the daily business, the ISSP secretariat launched many promotion activities in 2022. The new website has about 200 visits per day and the newly launched Twitter account assures a regular presence (831 followers). Two ISSP panels were organised at the WAPOR 2022 Conference in November and an ISSP session set up for the ESRA 2023 conference. A first ISSP User Conference (on social inequality) was held online in December 2022. Given the positive feedback, the ISSP secretariat is planning to organise an online conference annually. The next conference is scheduled for October/November 2023 with a call for abstracts published in August, in coordination with the Call for Papers for the IJS Special Issue. The full papers for the IJS Special Issue on ISSP 2019 (Social Inequalities) were due at the end of December 2022.

### EVS

The EVS has seen three new data releases in 2022. This year also saw the publication of the new *Atlas of European Values*, a book that offers large insights in current developments of European values. It offers charts and maps as well as scholarly analyses using EVS data. The book is freely downloadable. The EVS bibliography now comprises more than 2 800 publications, and data downloads reached similar levels as in the previous year (around 10K downloads for all datasets combined), which shows a high demand for the data. This is also reflected in the high traffic of the EVS website and respective social media channels. The EVS also continued the collaboration with the European Social Survey (ESS) within the H2020-

funded project SUSTAIN II. An article was published that investigated the comparability of variables that are fielded in both surveys but in slightly different operationalisations. An EVS-related module is going to be fielded in the CRONOS panel and data will be ready by June 2023. The EVS/ESS regular module is being discussed for inclusion in the ESS Round 13 in 2027.

### **International**

The annual General Assembly of the EVS took place in-person in September 2022. The focus was on new statutes that restructure the organisation of the infrastructure. It was later adopted in an electronic vote. The change includes a restructuring of the infrastructure, reducing the bodies to two entities: the Executive Committee, deciding on strategic issues, and a Scientific Committee being responsible for the scientific development of the infrastructure. The new structure adds flexibility to the organisation. The General Assembly also discussed the future of the EVS. The country contacts showed a clear preference for the continuation of a fully-fledged EVS over a merger with the ESS but also for benefitting from collaborations with ESS.

The renewal of the governing bodies was adopted in an electronic vote and a call for candidates was released in the fall. As there were no other candidates than those proposed, no election was needed. Michael Ochsner from FORS was voted Chair of the Scientific Committee in its first session and is thus also an ex officio member of the Executive Committee.

### **Data**

Three data files have been published in 2022: 1) The third version of the EVS Trend Files, comprising five EVS waves covering almost 40 years and 160 surveys from 49 countries, 2) The fourth release of the joint EVS/WVS data combining the Common Core of the EVS 2017 and WVS7 covering 100 surveys from 90 countries between 2017 and 2022, and 3) The Integrated Values Study combining version 3 of the EVS and WVS Trend Files using a syntax that integrates the two datasets that combine 450 surveys from 115 countries. In 2022 the GESIS archive distributed around 10 000 EVS datasets including Swiss data.

In 2022, SHARE activities were divided between the operational activities related to the main Wave 9 data collection and research activities promoting and using SHARE data.

### **Operational activities**

The main Wave 9 data collection started in October 2021 and ended in September 2022. The objective was to realise about 2 300 interviews in the longitudinal sample and to pursue the interviews of the refreshment sample, whose exploitation had to be interrupted in Wave 8 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Wave 9 main data collection proved to be more difficult than expected, again due to the sanitary situation. Given the sharp increase in the number of infections linked to the Omicron variant, the Swiss SHARE team suspended face-to-face interviews in January and February 2022 to protect participants and interviewers. This interruption inevitably affected the Wave 9 outcome. In the end, 1 800 interviews were realised in the longitudinal sample in Switzerland, corresponding to an overall retention rate of 70%, and 80 additional interviews were carried out in the refreshment sample (in addition to the 190 already conducted in Wave 8). In Wave 9, a paper-and-pencil questionnaire on social cognition was distributed to Swiss participants following their SHARE interview. 1 701 participants completed this questionnaire (94.5% of the respondent having done a SHARE interview in Wave 9).

In parallel, a new paper-and-pencil questionnaire on health literacy and end-of-life literacy was developed for SHARE wave 10.

The Swiss SHARE team attended the following SHARE meetings:

- » SHARE Wave 9 mid-term meeting (30-31 March, online).
- » SHARE Operator meeting (14 September) and SHARE Wave 10 preparation meeting (14-16 September) in Helsinki.

### **Promotional activities**

The Swiss SHARE team also worked on several projects to promote the use of SHARE data in the scientific community and to explain the value of SHARE data among the general population.

SHARE data were presented at the Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Gerontology and Vulnerability (CIGEV) and at the La Source School of Nursing.

- » A workshop entitled « Dans la peau de ma mamie » was set up and presented at the UNIL open days, les Mystères de l'UniL, welcoming more than 500 participants over four days.
- » A panel care brochure presenting some key results of the SHARE COVID-19 survey was created and will be sent to the Swiss participants of the SHARE survey in early 2023.
- » The Swiss SHARE team started preparing a workshop on the development of in end-of-life (EOL) care planning in Switzerland on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the introduction of advance directives (AD) in the Swiss Civil Code. This event will bring together a panel of experts, professionals and policy and public health stakeholders involved in EOL care and planning in Switzerland and Europe. The event will take place in March 2023 at the UNIL.

### Research activities

The Swiss SHARE team is currently working on three research axes.

The first axis concerns research activities on social, regional, health and attitudinal determinants in EOL care and planning for older adults in collaboration with the Palliative and Supportive Care Service and the Institute of Humanities in Medicine of Lausanne University Hospital and the UNIL. In 2022, five papers were published, and five others were submitted in international scientific peer-reviewed journals. Research regarding EOL care and planning for the older population was presented at the following conferences and workshops:

- » Workshop « Soins palliatifs à travers les humanités médicales » (March 15, CHUV, Lausanne)
- » 12th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care (May 18-20, 2022, online)
- » 22nd World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics (June 12-16, online)
- » National Research Day Palliative Care (August 25, Bern)
- » Swiss Public Health Conference 2022 (September 13-14, Bern)
- » 7th Public Health Palliative Care International Conference (September 20-23, Bruges)
- » SHARE User Conference (October 5-7, Bled)
- » The annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (November 2-6, Indianapolis)

The second research axis concerns the analysis of the data related to the Leenaards questionnaire on technology use that is carried out in collaboration with the Center for Gerontology of the University of Zurich. The data, collected during the second SHARE COVID-19 questionnaire, were prepared for analysis and are currently analysed, e.g., through a descriptive paper about the use of digital communication tools during the COVID-19 pandemic in the population of older adults.

Finally, the last research axis concerns the reinforcement of the collaboration with the Geneva Centre for Interdisciplinary Study of Gerontology and Vulnerability (CIGEV). A collaborative research project has been started combining SHARE Wave 8 data on cognition and data on technology use collected among Swiss SHARE participants using a paper-and-pencil questionnaire fielded in 2021. Preliminary results were presented at the workshop on “Cognition, decisions, and well-being in later life” which took place in Lausanne on 15-16 December 2022.

The Swiss SHARE team has also applied for three grants from the SNSF and the Velux Foundation to fund further research projects related to SHARE data.



## 2.3 Political surveys

In 2022, the activities of the Political Surveys (POLS) team were divided into three main tasks.

### Selects Data

The Selects Panel Survey, which was originally set up as a three-wave campaign panel in 2019, has since been continued with yearly follow-up waves. In January, data from the 2021 annual wave was integrated into the cumulative dataset (Waves 1-5) and published on SWISSUbase. The 2021 wave includes a total of 2 323 valid interviews (response rate of 80.7% on the basis of all Wave 3 respondents that consented to be recontacted). In addition to the core questions that are repeated every year, the 2021 wave includes many questions focusing on citizens' preferences and attitudes towards the coronavirus pandemic.

### Selects Fieldwork Preparation

Fieldwork preparation for the 2022 wave (Wave 6) took place between April and late August. This involved work related to the development and translation of the questionnaire, communication with respondents, and the preparation of an incentive experiment (half of the sample members that were identified as low-propensity respondents after Wave 3 were promised a conditional cash incentive of 20 CHF, the other half was promised participation in a raffle of 5 x 300 CHF). In addition to the standard panel questions, the questionnaire included various questions on timely topics, such as the war in Ukraine, energy shortages and COVID-19. The online survey was realised internally at FORS and was in the field between 26 September and 6 November. 2 848 respondents, whose consent was obtained at the end of Wave 3, were invited to participate in the 2022 wave. After data cleaning, a total of 2 178 valid interviews remained, which corresponds to an AAPOR 2 response rate of 76.5%. Between early November and the end of December, the POLS team carried out the work related to data checking, cleaning and preparation, variables construction and documentation. The updated cumulative dataset (waves 1-6) will be released on SWISSUbase in January 2023.

### Research and Outreach

A main achievement was the publication of a special issue on "The 2019 Swiss national elections" in the Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR) in June 2022, co-edited by the POLS team leader. The 11 published articles all use data from one or several of the four components of the Selects 2019 study (candidate survey, post-election survey, panel survey, media study) and some of them link the Selects data with other data sources, such as official statistics, political newspaper ads or party manifestos. Some also combine the new data with evidence from earlier Selects surveys. POLS team members were co- authors of four special issue contributions. The

special issue brings together a large variety of contributions dealing with the influence of issues and issue competition, the structure of attitudes towards immigration and international cooperation and a series of non-policy factors such as campaign consultants and the rise of female representation in Switzerland.

POLS team members presented ongoing research on the stability of issue ownership perceptions and the multidimensionality of EU attitudes at several national and international conferences. Moreover, the team engaged in outreach activities, such as a blog contribution on DeFacto about attitudes towards the COVID-19 certificate, a short report on results from the Selects panel waves 1-5 published on our website, several media appearances, as well as the presentation of Selects data to political science students at the University of Zurich.

Another milestone was the funding by the SNSF of the four-year research project “Swiss Direct Democracy in the 21st century” (SDD-21). The POLS team leader is a co-PI of this project, which brings together political scientists from eight Swiss universities and the Liechtenstein Institute to investigate the influence of advertising campaigns and digital media on the mobilisation and opinion-formation of citizens, as well as the effect of individual moral attitudes and political sophistication on voting decisions. FORS will be responsible for the data collection, which starts after the June vote in 2023. After each vote, a new representative sample of citizens will be interviewed online and asked to join a long-term panel that runs until 2027.

### Preparation of Selects 2023

In May, the POLS team published a call for questions for the various surveys planned for 2023. Fourteen research teams from Switzerland and abroad submitted a proposal. Over the summer, the proposals were evaluated by two international experts. In early November, the Selects commission met and accepted ten proposals (fully or partially). The exact wording will be decided between the authors and the POLS team in early 2023.

### 3. Data and research information services DARISS

2022 was a year of self-assessment with DARISS, stimulated especially by an external evaluation of the unit in September by several members of the FORS Scientific Advisory Board. Leading up to the evaluation, which was mandated by the funder and the FORS Foundation Board, DARISS conducted an in-depth user assessment by way of over 50 interviews with researchers who have used its services in one way or another. This included interviews with three main groups: researchers who had deposited their projects but not their data; researchers who had deposited their data; and key stakeholders, such as presidents of professional associations and institute leaders within universities. The findings from these interviews were analysed and then introduced into the evaluation. The evaluation itself was very positive and confirmed the unit's current overall objectives, scope, and strategy. Going forward, DARISS will endeavour to follow the various recommendations of the committee.

In other key developments, DARISS began in 2022 to refocus some of its data management support activities to include more “train-the-trainer” events, with the idea of strengthening front-line support for researchers within universities, so that researchers will be better able to share their data in SWISSUbase. Also, in 2022, DARISS successfully completed a full year of use with SWISSUbase, which replaced FORSbase in January as its archiving platform.

#### Data archive

In addition to using SWISSUbase for all of 2022, the Data Archive Services (DAS) group participated fully in the SWISSUbase Operational Group, which works within the consortium towards the design and development of platform features. Also, DAS continued to be involved in producing guides and materials for SWISSUbase, and provided several trainings for consortium partner Data Service Units (DSUs).

The DAS group archived 60 datasets in 2022, compared to 60 in 2021, and 117 in 2020. Among those, 62% (37) were new datasets, and the rest (23) concerned updates of existing datasets due to new data or corrections. This brings the number of datasets currently published in FORSbase to 841. 2 085 datasets were downloaded from FORSbase in 2022 ([see Chapter 8. Performance Indicators](#)). At the end of 2022, the number of active users of FORSbase decreased to about 3 400, compared to about 8 800 in 2021, this due to the migration in 2022 from FORSbase to SWISSUbase. It is anticipated that the number will rise to near the previous levels as previous FORSbase users claim their accounts in SWISSUbase over time. All in all, the research inventory comprised over 12 000 project descriptions, with 352 newly published entries by the end of 2022.

Through its core activities, the DAS group guided researchers from multiple research projects at various institutions in Switzerland and abroad in best practices for sharing their research data. The group also regularly helps students and researchers find data for secondary analyses.

As in previous years, the DAS group continued with the updating of policies, contracts and documentation relative to data deposit, archiving and access at FORS. Much of this was included in a submission in June 2022 of an application for renewal of the CoreTrustSeal certification. Finally, members of the data archive group continued in 2022 their involvement as task members or task leaders in international projects related to archiving and research infrastructure, including the H2020 project SSHOC, CESSDA Training, CESSDA Widening projects, as well as a new European project “eRImote” (see [Chapter 5: International collaborations](#)).

### Data promotion

As part of its active data solicitation strategy, DARISS continued to reach out to the PIs of newly funded SNSF projects, as well as pursued its efforts to reach out to the underrepresented disciplines of psychology, economics and education. In particular, we took the opportunity of the DARISS evaluation to reach out to key stakeholders of these disciplines, as well as other important stakeholders with institutional, strategic and/or practical influence within the Swiss social science research landscape. We conducted 15 interviews (online or face-to-face) which allowed us to establish high-level contacts and promote our services, as well as better understand the needs of the research community. The face-to-face meetings conducted were extremely valuable and already in 2022 led to new opportunities, such as the presentation of services during strategic meetings at the disciplinary level. These efforts will be pursued in 2023 with the establishment of further institutional partnerships.

As a way to better promote its services and SWISSUbase, DARISS also offered a first train-the-trainer course which targeted those involved in the provision of data management support in Switzerland, namely data stewards, data management support staff, data managers, and librarians. Some 35 participants representing the main Swiss universities and universities of applied sciences enrolled in a two and a half-day course, and showed strong interest to be part of a network of data professionals, which FORS will further develop in 2023.

In 2022 DARISS reinforced its efforts to promote data re-use by means of webinars, as well as a paper prize competition. DARISS offered two webinars: a general one to present SWISSUbase main features for the social sciences, and a more specific one to guide participants in how to access data through SWISSUbase for re-use purposes. DARISS also launched the first edition of a paper competition based on FORS data, which resulted in the award of three prizes.

## Data management

As in previous years, the group continued to provide data management trainings during 2022 on day-to-day data management, with a growing demand for presentations and trainings on ethical and legal issues around sensitive data.

DARISS organised two half-day train-the-trainer workshops, which focused on 10 key data management questions. DARISS also reconducted its data management webinar series, with four new webinars on the topics of informed consent, data documentation, quantitative data anonymisation and qualitative data anonymisation. Other contributions included:

- » A data management workshop at the University of Fribourg (March)
- » A workshop at the HES-SO Wallis on Open data and challenges for social work research (April)
- » A presentation at the Open science day of the HES-SO on ethical challenges and open research data (May)
- » A workshop at the Open Science Summer School of the University of Zürich on dealing with sensitive data (July)
- » A workshop on ethics and data protection at the Ethics committee of the University of Neuchatel (September)
- » A workshop on informed consent and anonymisation at the HETSL (May)
- » A presentation at the 'Atelier Digit-Hum' in Paris on reflexive data management from an archiving point of view (October)
- » A workshop on ethics and data protection at the retreat commission R&D of the Chamber of Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts of swissuniversities (October)
- » A presentation on data protection as part of a CUSO workshop on research data (October)
- » A presentation on data management and FORS services at the CHUV (October)
- » A presentation on working with sensitive data in the social sciences and humanities as part of the Zürich Lunch and learn series (November)

- » A workshop on FORS data management services and the use of SWISSUbase at the University of Basel graduate campus (November)
- » A presentation on data sharing and reuse in educational research at the PH Bern (November)
- » A presentation on data protection and open research data as part of a workshop organised by FORS in Bern on safe access to sensitive data (November)
- » A public course on ethical and legal challenges of digital data at the University of Lausanne (December)
- » A presentation on the documentation of research data at the University of Lausanne (December)
- » A workshop on sensitive data in the context of open data at the faculty of psychology of the University of Basel (December)

In 2022 DARISS also published a FORS Guide on data protection considerations in Switzerland, and completed the first draft of three other Guides to be published early 2023: one on data sharing, one on qualitative data anonymisation and one on data citation.

## 4. Infrastructure and Development INDEV

**IT developments** In 2022, the IT group continued to work on the SWISSUbase platform implementation with three releases and an infrastructure migration.

The improvements to the SMT applications and the development work to migrate SHP have started and are on track to complete in 2023.

The IT team was also responsible for some changes in the FORS technical infrastructure that is relevant for the upcoming office migration: The physical telephony has been migrated to Microsoft Teams and the roll-out of this application is also ready to be used for chat functions. All desktop computers have been replaced with laptops in order to adapt to the future work environment

Our Forscenter website was integrated with the bibliographic database Zotero that now contains all recent publications with our data from the following surveys: ESS, EVS, MOSAiCH, Selects and SHP.

In addition to updating various websites, the new CNES and ISSP websites were developed. Furthermore, the service provider Infomaniak now hosts the ticketing system for paid FORS events.

**SWISSUbase** SWISSUbase is the archiving tool and service for Swiss research data that FORS has developed in collaboration with the UNIL and Zurich. It was officially launched for the entire Swiss social sciences community in December 2021 after all metadata and data were migrated from FORSbase to SWISSUbase.

In September 2022, the LaRS (Language Repository of Switzerland), operated by the University of Zurich, launched the archiving service for the linguistics community in Switzerland. SWISSUbase currently has about 3 400 active users and features over 12 000 studies and over 800 datasets. 2 085 datasets were downloaded from SWISSUbase in 2022.

During 2022, extended functionalities were added to the SWISSUbase application, the user experience was improved and the metadata schema for linguistics was fine-tuned.

Major efforts have been deployed to strengthen the services that are an integral part of the platform. The SWISSUbase DSU Network was created and officially initiated at the SWISSUbase Launch Event in September 2022.

FORS has conducted workshops for the partner institutions on how to set up Data Service Units (DSUs) at the partner institutions and provided guidance on various relevant policies. Hands-on training sessions for the DSU members on the data curation processes on the SWISSUbase platform were conducted at the University of Zurich, and the UNIL and Data Tools and Services group supported LaRS and the FORS Data Service in the creation of materials and guides for data depositors.

Many promotional activities were carried out: a webinar for the Swiss social sciences community, promotion of LaRS to the Swiss linguistics community, and the creation of a new promotional video, a general SWISSUbase flyer and a LaRS-specific flyer. SWISSUbase has also created its own YouTube and Twitter channel to promote news, features and events.

The current partner institutions have formed a simple association as the legal form of the SWISSUbase consortium. New partner institutions will also become members of the association and the contract has been adapted to facilitate the process of legally becoming a new member institution. The business model and the contribution fees have also been approved by the partner institutions and are available as annexes to the contractual agreement. The University of Neuchâtel and the University of Lucerne have agreed to become members of the SWISSUbase association in 2023.

During 2022, for the purpose of reaching potential new partners, online presentations and demonstrations were held at St. Gall University of Teacher Education, Valais University of Teacher Education, University of Svizzera Italiana, University of St. Gall, and the Swiss Personal Health Network.

On the technical side, the process of development, testing and release has been further improved and streamlined which will allow for four yearly releases of the application in the future to continuously offer improved usability and new functionalities for data producers, data consumers and data curators.

The testing was carried out by the IT team, DARISS and representatives from the different DSUs. Bugs and missing features have been recorded in a common bug tracking tool and the prioritisation of future implementation steps have been agreed upon with the partner institutions.



### **DaSCH**

The work on the collaboration between FORS and DaSCH continued in 2022. Several meetings took place between FORS and the DaSCH management representatives to define the collaboration agreement and the future cooperation and interoperability of the two institutions.

### **Connectome**

FORS has continued to participate as a data provider in the SWITCH-led Connectome project in collaboration with DaSCH, EPFL Blue Brain, eXascale Infolab, SATW, SAGW, BCUL and SWITCH. The Research Data Connectome connects and organises scientific (meta)data sustainably across disciplines to make it widely accessible, interoperable and valuable. Swiss research data that has been collected in domain or institutional silos will be easily connected via the Connectome Knowledge Graph, a data representation most suitable for research, education, and innovation purposes. This graph contains valuable linked research information on research projects, research grants, datasets, publications, organisations and people.

The aim is to have the metadata of data resources available in SWISSUbase harvested, enriched and linked to resources from other data providers to increase the discoverability of the data accessible on SWISSUbase.

### **LiRI**

LiRI, the Linguistic Research Infrastructure at the University of Zurich, provides a Virtual Research Infrastructure for the linguistics research community. Several meetings have been held between SWISSUbase and LiRI to align the data production and the data curation workflows as well as to define the specifications of the API that will allow for the integration and automatic ingest of linguistic data into SWISSUbase. This final specification of the API has been defined and the implementation is planned for the first quarter of 2023.

### **FAIRware**

Following an invitation by the SNSF, the INDEV unit participated in the FAIRWARE project led by the Center for Biomedical Informatics Research (BMIR) at Stanford University.

In order to meet the challenges posed by automation of the FAIR principles across a range of disciplines, the objective was to allow for quick generation of metadata templates for the description of datasets and other outputs within a given research discipline. The FAIRware tool will use these templates to provide researchers with actionable, real-time advice on how they can structure their datasets to maximise re-use at the point of creation as well as increased findability and discoverability of the data.

Several meetings and a workshop were conducted with representatives from the Swiss clinical psychology community to assess and help improve the usability of the FAIRware workbench for the social sciences.

## 5. Scientific collaborations

### Host university

The University of Lausanne hosts FORS and provides, as an in-kind contribution, the office space and IT and human resources services for more than 60 FORS staff members. The UNIL also funds a joint research programme that allows for the full or partial recruitment of 14 staff at different levels (equivalent to 12 FTEs). In addition, three FORS staff members hold professorial positions at the SSP faculty.

The joint programme aims to enhance the recognition of FORS and the UNIL as leading institutions for social science research at the national and international level. It seeks to enhance quantitative skills and expertise in Switzerland, improve survey methodologies, drive innovation in both methodologies and substantive research in social sciences, and encourage dialogue among various stakeholders in the field of social science methods. The modalities of the program are fixed in a convention between FORS and the SSP faculty of the UNIL. A steering committee, consisting of three members of FORS and three members of the SSP faculty is responsible for steering this program. This committee meets several times a year.

Each year, this programme results in a considerable number of publications and other scientific papers based on the data produced at FORS. In 2022 the new platform [DReMSS](#) (Developments in Research and Methods of the Social Sciences) was launched, and it aims to promote and create synergies between the activities developed by FORS and the SSP. Another activity of this collaboration is the jointly organised Methodological and Research meetings, where invited guests as well as researchers from FORS or the UNIL regularly exchange views on methodological issues (see [chapter 8.2 Events](#)). Members of the SSP faculty also regularly attend FORS events and vice versa. The researchers involved in this programme make a significant contribution to methodological teaching at various levels of the SSP faculty. Formal meetings between the FORS Directorate and the SSP Faculty Dean's Office are held twice a year to ensure the good functioning of this collaboration. The link with the Rectorate of the University of Lausanne is also ensured by the fact that a member of the Rectorate is also President of the FORS Foundation Board.

## National collaborations

FORS collaborators contributed to a number of different and separately funded research projects:

- » “Explaining the Reluctance of Swiss-German Parents in the Uptake of All-day Childcare and Schooling”, Dr. Laura Bernardi (UNIL) and Marieke Heers (FORS), funded by the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW/ASSH).
- » [“Parental Investment in Children’s Education in Migrant Families in Switzerland \(PICE\)”](#), Dr. Sandra Hupka Brunner (UniBe) and Marieke Heers (FORS), funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).
- » “WELLWAYS: Critical events and transitions in family and work and multidimensional wellbeing”, Dr. Laura Bernardi (UNIL) and Marieke Voorpostel (FORS), funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, 2019-2022.
- » “Swiss Direct Democracy in the 21st Century”, Daniel Kübler (UZH/ZDA Aarau), Anke Tresch (FORS/UNIL), Marc Bühlmann (UniBern), Denise Traber (UniBasel), Lionel Marquis (UNIL), funded by FNS SHS, February 2023 – January 2027.
- » “The making of political careers: evaluating the role of trade unions in the pathway of workers to elected office in Switzerland”, Line Rennwald (FORS) and André Mach, the Swiss Social Archives, Research Ellen Rifkin Hill, August 2022-July 2024. Using a historical lens, this project aims to analyse the political careers of union officials since the 1930s in Switzerland. The ambition is to shed new light on the underrepresentation of the working class in parliaments and its causes. The core of the project consists in the identification of “traditional” pathways of trade union officials to elected office and the support provided by trade unions.

FORS participates actively in **SWISS INSIGHTS**, the association promotes market, opinion and social research in general and scientific research in particular in Switzerland (former “Swiss association of market and social research vsms/asms”). A FORS staff member is representing on the client side in the Managing Board and is responsible for the domain “Regulation Data Science and International collaborations.

FORS is involved in building [linkhub.ch](#), a joint initiative by different research projects and institutions to facilitate access to data for future research. FORS initiated and leads the project. Partners are the Swiss network on Fiscal Federalism, the Centre of expertise LIVES, NCCR on the move, the SwissRDL and TREE. linkhub.ch supports data linkage in the fields of social sciences and medicine to deliver relevant knowledge for society.

Linkhub.ch participated in a parliamentary hearing on a possible new Federal law on the secondary use of data that is supposed to regulate, among other things, access and linking of administrative data. Linkhub.ch was also involved in exchanges with the SFSO how to make admin data easier available in the future.

## International collaborations

At the international level, FORS continued its involvement in the establishment and development of European and international research infrastructures. These activities are important to connect Switzerland to European and international research infrastructures and to increase the international visibility of the Swiss social sciences. FORS currently hosts the secretariat of three international cooperation projects; ISSP, CSS and CNES.

- » **International Social Survey Programme (ISSP).** Switzerland has taken over the secretariat for ISSP from GESIS in autumn 2021. The secretariat is appointed for a period of three years (renewable once) and takes over all organisational and coordinating tasks of this survey programme, which has around 50 members from all over the world and covers many cultures and languages (see also above under ISSP).
- » **Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS).** FORS has had a coordinating role for CCS for several years and the work includes harmonising, integrating and disseminating CCS data via SWISSUbase. In June, the last release of the CCS Module II dataset was made available, with a total of 30 elections in 21 countries. In August, a call for CCS Module III data was published. By the end of the year, we received data from six countries for a first data release (scheduled for April 2023).
- » **Consortium of National Election Studies (CNES)** was established in November in Amsterdam; FORS was chosen to host the CNES secretariat for an initial four-year period and has opened a position as Scientific Coordinator for this purpose (recruitment ongoing). CNES promotes the exchange of data, knowledge and standards on national elections to improve the understanding of electoral democracies through comparative election research. CNES will represent the interests of national election studies in the future European infrastructure project Monitoring Electoral Democracies (MEDem).
- » FORS continues to be involved in setting up the **Monitoring Electoral Democracies (MEDem)** project, which aims to link various comparative political science projects (including CCS and CNES) and the ESFRI roadmap status in 2025. FORS plans to host the “Centre for Survey Data” as part of the MEDem consortium. Work is underway to establish the MEDem consortium with Austria as the host country.
- » FORS is collaborating with the UNIL and researchers in Switzerland to become part of the **Gender and Generations Programme (GGP)** and establish the national data collection node. An application for Switzerland to join GGP was submitted at the end of 2021 and

underwent a positive evaluation in 2022 to be included in the next national infrastructure roadmap. A discussion on how to fund GGP will take place in 2023.

- » The FORS Director represented Switzerland in the **ESFRI Strategic Working Group on Social and Cultural Innovation** and chaired the group. This working group is responsible in the social sciences and humanities for the preparation of the ESFRI Landscape Analysis and the assessment of new projects to be included in the ESFRI Roadmap published in 2021. Swiss participation in ESFRI was discontinued by ESFRI in autumn 2022 and the FORS Director stepped down as chair after a transition period at the end of the year.
- » The SERI has delegated the official representation of Switzerland in the social science **European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERIC)** to FORS some years ago. Switzerland has an observer status in each of these ERICs. The FORS Director represents Switzerland in the General Assemblies of the CESSDA ERIC and the ESS ERIC, which each held two meetings in 2022. The Head of the Survey unit represents Switzerland in the General Assembly of SHARE. SHARE had two meetings of the General Assembly in 2022. FORS collaborators actively take part in the coordinating bodies of all the three organisations. The Swiss parliament created the conditions in 2022 to become full members of ERICs in principle. As a consequence, SERI will take over the representation in the different General Assemblies in 2023.
- » FORS is responsible for **representing Switzerland in various other European and International projects**. FORS collaborators represent Switzerland in the ISSP Annual meeting, which decides on modules for the coming period. They also represent Switzerland in the governing bodies of various political science networks, such as the Comparative Study of Electoral System (CSES), the Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS) and the European Value Study (EVS).
- » **The European Language Social Science Thesaurus (ELSST)** is a multilingual thesaurus for the social sciences developed by CESSDA ERIC and its national Service Providers under the lead of UKDA, the British Service Provider. In 2022, the FORS archive staff was primarily involved in developing and reviewing terms hierarchies regarding gender identity and sexual orientation. Another activity was the translation of new or reviewed terms, definitions and note fields into French.
- » In relation to the **CESSDA Data Archiving Guide (DAG)**, this year we co-led a full-day training event on 13 October. The event was specifically geared towards new staff in data archives and included theoretical inputs on the topics of pre-ingest, ingest and FAIR as well as some playful elements and hands-on work on concrete issues in small groups.

- » Together with other CESSDA Service Providers, the FORS archive team developed the **CESSDA Resource Directory** in 2018, which is a curated inventory of existing resources to support activities of data archive professionals in order to build sustainable and mature data archives and support the development of new services and features within existing data archives. In 2022, the resources included in the directory were updated with new resources from all CESSDA Service Providers. Moreover, all metadata were reviewed based on the newly developed policy and development strategy. As the tool is mature enough, it was presented to CESSDA teams. Finally, a leaflet presenting the Resource Directory to users was elaborated.
- » Together with other CESSDA service providers, the FORS archive team developed the **CESSDA Mentorship Programme** in 2019. In 2022, the FORS archive team was mentoring the Italian CESSDA Service Provider DASSI in the establishment of their data service. Two Italian colleagues visited FORS during three days in September. They discussed a variety of topics with experts from FORS data archive, IT and management. Together with SND and GESIS, respectively CESSDA Swedish and German Service Providers, the FORS archive team developed a new concept for the CESSDA Mentorship Programme.
- » The European project **SSHOC – Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud** – ended in 2022. In 2022, FORS was involved in finalising deliverables for a task on remote access to sensitive data, as well as on completing tasks on data citation and translation of occupation classification terms.
- » FORS completed a second year as task leader in the European **RiTrainPlus** project. The purpose of the task is to design, develop, and implement an accredited training course for research infrastructure managers on data management and data policy.
- » The European project **eRemote** began in June 2022. FORS is involved in a work package that aims to create and maintain a database of resources on remote access for research infrastructures.
- » The **CESSDA Journals Outreach** project published several deliverables and held an international online workshop on the collaboration between journals and data archives, with respect to the sharing of data used in publications.
- » The **CESSDA New Data Types** project was completed in 2022, including an online international workshop in November on handling challenging new data types from an archival perspective.



## 6. Methodological Research

In 2022, most methodological research at FORS was based on randomised experiments, which are the gold standard for testing design effects in surveys. Although experiments increase the time devoted to the survey design, and since data collection and documentation activities had priority as usual, the FORS staff and affiliated researchers published six articles in peer reviewed journals and gave six conference presentations. Surveys used included the SHP IV pilot, the EVS, MOSAiCH/ISSP, and the Selects Panel. In addition, FORS continued working on topics related to our methodological research programme, in collaboration with members of the UNIL SSP faculty and beyond.

### Switching surveys to the web and mixing modes

Driven by cost reasons, shorter fieldwork times, and more transparency when conducted in-house, FORS continued research on switching from interviewer-based modes to push-to-web modes.

Additional savings are possible by using lower-valued incentives for specific respondents. The Selects team carried out two incentive experiments in Wave 5 and Wave 6 of the Selects Panel Survey. In Wave 5, respondents, who are more likely to participate, were randomised into a group receiving an unconditional incentive (10 CHF), as they already received in Wave 4, and a lottery (5 x 300 CHF) group. Response rates of the unconditional incentive only slightly outperformed those of the lottery, and there were only small differences regarding sample composition. These results were published in the online journal *Survey Methods: Insights from the Field (SMIF)*. In Wave 6, the low-participation propensity respondents were randomised into a group receiving (again) a conditional 20 CHF incentive, and a lottery group. The results showed a considerable drop of response rates in the lottery condition. In addition, the results from the incentive experiment from Wave 5 “carried over” to Wave 6. It is planned to submit these results as a research note to SMIF. Additionally, the incentive experiments from both waves were submitted for presentation to the ESRA 2023 conference.

Results based on experiments from the SHP IV pilot showed that the SHP can be switched from (mainly) telephone to (mainly) web without the risk of compromising data quality in terms of (unit and item) nonresponse and attrition. In that context, two papers have been published: the first one, (published in ‘Field Methods’, dealt with the dependency of item nonresponse on question characteristics (such as form and complexity) in web compared to telephone in the first wave. Distinguishing effects on don’t know, item refusals, and mid-scale responding, the web mode showed more don’t know responses and item refusals, but not more mid-scale responding. However, this relationship depended on the characteristics of

the question. The second paper, accepted for publication in the Journal of Official Statistics, examined answers to the household questionnaire where people were randomised to either keep the telephone mode or to change to the web mode after the first wave. When changing to the web, don't know answers increased moderately, while item refusals increased substantially. Both papers were submitted for presentation to the "15. Panelworkshop der Panelsurveys im deutschsprachigen Raum" 2023. When comparing the response rates and sample composition of the SHP IV pilot (web assigned at random) with the first two waves of the SHP IV (web assigned to households without landline), we found that a significant driver of differences in response rates and sample composition between the web group and the telephone group in the SHP IV results from the assignment of households without landline into the web group. A forthcoming book chapter (January 2023) will present an overview of the challenges involved in mixing modes in longitudinal surveys, including a synthesis of findings from the SHP IV pilot and the LIVES-FORS mixed mode experiment. It particularly devotes attention to the implications of mode effects for the study of vulnerable groups in life course research.

In collaboration with members of the University of Bern, FORS continued their studies of representativity using the framework developed in a FORS Guide published in 2021, emphasising the theoretical assumptions of the context of the analysis. This conceptual framework was used in the analysis of risk of bias regarding different designs and survey modes, using the mixed-mode matrix design experiment from the European Values Study 2017. The full framework was applied to the EVS experimental data, thus improving the previous analyses of the experiment, and the results presented at the General Online Research Conference in 2022. The results showed that representation is a context-dependent concept and must be analysed with the use of data in mind. In addition, the team members also explored the opportunities and limitations of the use of multiple imputation to analyse data collected with a matrix design. Still using data from the mixed-mode matrix design experiment in the EVS 2017, they investigate how much data is needed to draw valid conclusions. The results showed that multiple imputation allows for valid and relatively efficient estimates, even if variables from all splits are used, and zero cases have data on all variables. In this framework, the team also continued the collaboration with Germany and Iceland to test how imputation models can be applied in cross-national research.



## Turning cross-sectional surveys into panel surveys

To be able to observe members of the Selects 2019 Panel beyond the initially agreed-upon three waves, they needed to be asked for informed consent at the end of the third wave. A design challenge is how to ask for consent to maximise consent and subsequent participation. The Selects team ran an experiment to test three different consent forms: a procedure with a yes/no question asking whether respondents were willing or not to participate in further surveys, an opt-in design requiring active consent to stay in the panel, and an opt-out design with passive consent, requiring respondents to explicitly state that they do not want to be contacted in the future. While opt-out worked best, opt-in worked worst, and socio-demographic variables or political attitudes had small effects on giving consent. However, survey-related attitudes were different across the three designs, with the opt-out design attracting more respondents less interested in the survey. In terms of actual participation in the next wave conditional on giving consent to be recontacted, similar participation rates were found and with only few differences between the three options. These results were presented at the 7th Panel Survey Methods Workshop in 2022 in Lausanne, hosted by FORS.

FORS collaborators investigated the effects of attrition bias on results in different application situations regarding the multi-part survey situation of the MOSAiCH 2020 study and the COVID-19 online panel following MOSAiCH 2020. First results were presented at the CIPHER conference 2022, showing that there was only limited bias across waves in socio-demographic variables but an increasing bias regarding variables of interest. This showed that a simple check on socio-demographic variables does not suffice as an analysis for risk of bias in multi-part surveys and online panels. Researchers from the collaborative research programme DReMSS (from FORS and the SSP Faculty at the UNIL) engaged with members of the Data Collection and Analysis Team on the design and implementation of the FORS opt-in experimental panel 'FORS Connect'. This is a panel made up of a mix of former participants from FORS surveys, who were asked whether they would be willing to be recontacted for future surveys, and freshly-recruited members from a recruitment survey conducted in January 2022. The purpose of the panel is to provide an internal resource for conducting short ad-hoc survey experiments to test different survey design features and questionnaire content for FORS surveys, and other methodological innovations for social science research. In 2022, there were three waves of data collection (recruitment survey in January, Wave 1 in June, and Wave 2 in November).

Embedded in the recruitment survey were a number of experiments testing the effects of different survey design features on willingness to participate and to join the panel. These included 1) whether the sample member was invited to a regular panel versus a smartphone panel, 2) whether they were invited to the panel 'up-front' versus at the end of the substantive survey, 3) whether they were given a deadline with an expiring incentive versus no deadline or incentive change, and 4) whether they received detailed data privacy information versus a simplified privacy notice versus none.

Waves 1 and 2 provided FORS survey teams with the first opportunities to field test survey questions. Wave 1 also included an extension of the data privacy information experiment conducted in the recruitment survey to allow a more detailed analysis of moderators of the effects of information on participation.

### Searching for alternative/complementary data sources and survey techniques

Still continuing research about the question whether inexpensive data from other sources can supplement or replace survey data, FORS collaborators examined, for example, nonprobability-based access panels as a possible replacement for probability-based web surveys. In a study in the Selects 2015 framework, two probability-based web surveys and three opt-in panels were compared with regard to conditional distributions of sociodemographic variables, income, and voting behaviour. Findings, which indicate a lack of consistency and reproducibility in the results when using opt-in panels, were published in the Swiss Political Science Review. Additionally, FORS conducted (in collaboration with a doctoral student in the Methodology Department of the LSE) a highly innovative 'Data Donations' experiment in the framework of Wave 2 of the 'FORS Connect' panel. Participants were invited to upload data about their smartphone use from the Digital Wellbeing/Screen Time function of their smartphone. The experiment compared alternative ways of providing this information (screenshots, videos and self-reports) and different incentives. It was one of only a few attempts to collect data donation in the context of a survey. The data provided a rich resource for studying influences on public engagement in smartphone research and data quality.

The Selects-Civique smartphone study 2019 (collaboration with UNIL, the EPFL-Idiap Research Institute) investigated the potential for and barriers to app-based data collection in social surveys, allowing comparisons between a browser-based and an app-based survey design. Research based on data from this study so far concerned 1) an investigation of the role of data privacy attitudes in resistance to complete mobile data collection tasks (published in a special issue of the Journal of Survey Statistics and

Methodology), 2) assessment of the potential for app-based surveys to reduce respondent burden compared to browser-based surveys on mobile devices (published in the Journal of Official Statistics), 3) a study of the characteristics of people who do and don't read data privacy notices or who find them too long and complex to understand (presented in a MA thesis) and 4) a comparison with data from the main Selects survey of the effectiveness of alternative mobile optimisation strategies on participation and fieldwork progression (revised and resubmitted in Survey Research Methods).

Building on these works, new data has been collected in the context of the 'FORS Connect Panel' to further investigate, for example, sources of resistance to participate in mobile data collection tasks via a smartphone and testing ways of mitigating concerns and promoting participation. The Selects-Civique research continues to exploit administrative data from the register-based sample frame, combined with data from MOSAiCH to investigate nonresponse and noncoverage biases in mobile web surveys. These analyses will be extended in 2023 using data from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office's Omnibus surveys on internet use.

### Nonresponse, Measurement, and Equivalence issues

Since most literature agrees that the maximum length of web surveys is about 30 minutes, a team at FORS tested the optimal combination of incentives for the two parts of the MOSAiCH 2020 survey. While it was assumed that postal cheques are increasingly less well accepted due to the decreasing numbers of counters to cash the cheques, in the first round of MOSAiCH a 10 CHF postal cheque was compared to four alternative options (a 10 CHF TWINT/PayPal, a 10 CHF TWINT/PayPal with the option of cash on demand (10 CHF), a lottery, and a no incentive option). All sample members were randomly crossed in the second part with a lottery with three iPads, a lottery with 3x 300 CHF, and no incentive. Results from the first part showed that the 10 CHF cash incentive worked best, both in terms of response rate and response speed. Moreover, it seemed to attract more people with little political interest, who are generally underrepresented. A combination of cash in the first part and lottery in the second is relatively cost efficient, even though conditional effects were minor in the second part. These results were presented at the General Online Research Conference 2022.

In the framework of the broader ISSP project the possibility of mixing modes, through a push to web design, has become more prominent among ISSP members due to the experiences of the coronavirus pandemic. In this framework, a team of researchers of the collaborative programme between FORS and the SSP at UNIL, focused on comparing coverage, non-response and measurement equivalence in web and paper modes in

the ISSP 2020 data from Switzerland and Finland. Register data from both countries allowed comparing sample representativeness in terms of key sociodemographic indicators and a few key attitudinal variables. Overall, the preliminary analyses suggest that a push to web design is likely to improve data quality, as long as a complementary paper mode is offered in parallel. A first draft of the paper has been presented at the 75ths WAPOR conference 2022. An improved version will be presented at the upcoming ESRA 2023.

## New initiatives

A team of researchers from the collaborative research programme DReMSS (FORS-SSP) submitted a grant application to the SNSF in response to the call for the National Research Programme NRP80 'Covid-19 in Society'. The project aimed to assess the impact of the pandemic on data quality in FORS (and other) surveys conducted during the pandemic, and to assess how the pandemic impacted willingness to participate in digital data collection initiatives. Although the evaluation of the final grant was not awarded, future research collaborations are planned in the context of the ESS's transition to self-completion modes of data collection and a UK-based, ESRC-funded programme called 'Survey Data Collection Methods Collaboration: Securing the Future of Social Surveys'.

The aim of the collaboration is to conduct research focused on ensuring a) social surveys effectively capture complex phenomena across different modes of data collection and reflect experiences of everyone in society, b) social survey commissioners and users can effectively assess data quality and manage mode effects as data collection modes diversify, and c) methodological innovations in survey methods are developed, upskilling researchers and leading to improved survey practice.

## Nominations

Michael Ochsner was elected chair of the Scientific Committee of the European Values Study in December 2022. Oliver Lipps was appointed as a member of the Advisory Board of the StePLife Panel from 2022 onwards and of the SOEP Survey Committee at the DIW Berlin from 2023 on. In October, Marieke Voorpostel was appointed as a member of the Advisory Board of the Austrian Socio-Economic Panel. Georg Lutz was appointed member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade.

## 7. Data collection and analysis DCA

In addition to conducting FORS surveys internally, the DCA offers services for the whole survey lifecycle to the research community, as well as for academic institutions, the public sector, and non-profit organisations. These services have several goals. Naturally, they provide valuable additional sources of funding for FORS. More importantly, they serve as a way of training and maintaining the personnel in key competencies necessary for conducting reference quality surveys, as well as providing opportunities for continuous learning in new methods through innovative new mandates and methodological experiments.

The following projects were conducted or ongoing in 2022:

### **“Panel Lémanique”, Laboratory of Urban Sociology, EPFL 2022 – 2026**

The DCA was mandated by the EPFL to conduct a panel survey aimed at observing changes in the habits of the inhabitants of the Lake Geneva cross-border region in terms of mobility, housing, energy and resource consumption. The project is mainly financed by the Cantons of Vaud and Geneva. A pilot survey was conducted in the French part in the spring of 2022. A total of 2 000 people were contacted with four experimental groups and an overall response rate of approximately 19%. For the main survey conducted in the autumn, about 19 000 people were contacted in France and 30 000 in Switzerland with a response rate of 14% and 30% respectively. The overall project includes two waves of data collection each year between 2023 and 2026, with an additional GPS tracking wave in 2023.

### **“Personality and Civic Engagement Across the Adult Lifespan (Percival)” – Department of Psychology, University of Zurich 2022 – 2024**

Percival is a social psychology study commissioned by researchers from the University of Zurich. The study aims to investigate the development of personality and civic engagement among the Swiss population over time. In civic engagement, there are individual differences in the nature and extent of personal engagement. This research project aims to find out which personality traits are particularly relevant for the emergence of civic engagement. FORS is tasked with the data collection of five survey waves between September 2022 and November 2024. In the first wave, 16 000 residents of all three language regions in Switzerland were contacted and the fieldwork was completed at the end of November 2022. The second wave is planned for spring 2023.

### **“Actor Survey on Artificial Intelligence Policy Across Countries”, University of Lausanne and University of Geneva 2022 – 2023**

In collaboration with the UNIL and the University of Geneva, the DCA conducted an actor survey across several countries. The aim was to understand and compare the way in which the subject of artificial intelligence is treated politically by public policy actors in multiple fields (banking and finance, social welfare and health). Experts in artificial intelligence were also asked to participate. The survey was launched in Switzerland, France and Germany in 2022. The DCA has also been mandated to repeat the survey in the USA in 2023.

### **“Early Career Researcher Survey”, Swiss National Science Foundation 2022**

The DCA was mandated to realise the Early Career Researcher Survey among doctoral students, postdocs and further staff working in SNSF funded grants. Of the approximately 9 000 respondents invited, 47% took part in the survey. The questionnaire was prepared in collaboration with the SNSF and the DCA was in charge of conducting the survey, data analysis and report.

### **“Survey on Work and Study Climate”, University of Lausanne 2022-2023**

The DCA, with the collaboration of the UNIL’s rectorate and the Equal Opportunities Office, conducted a survey on the work and study climate at the UNIL measuring the well-being of personnel and students but also experiences of discrimination, psychological harassment and sexual harassment. The DCA analysed and reported the results in a public report that was widely covered by the media. The DCA was also interviewed for an article in the media and FORS was cited in numerous press articles as well as in the national TV news. Given the large amount of data of interest to be analysed in this project, the DCA also started working on a larger, more technical report to be finished in 2023.

### **“Employee Satisfaction Survey”, Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève 2022**

The IDHEAP has been mandated by the Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève (HUG) to conduct a study on the satisfaction of its staff. Within the framework of this project, the IDHEAP mandated FORS to carry out the survey fieldwork, which mainly consists of an online survey intended for all HUG personnel, with a complementary paper questionnaire for a predefined sub-population. The IDHEAP was responsible for the management of the whole project, the conceptualisation of the study, the creation of the questionnaire, the data analysis and the transmission of the results. A total of 5 535 employees responded to the survey between June and September 2022. In addition to conducting the fieldwork, the DCA revised the questionnaire proposed by the client and prepared the data for analysis.

### **“Employee Satisfaction Survey”, HES-SO Valais-Wallis 2021 – 2022**

The DCA was mandated by the HES-SO Valais-Wallis to reconduct an employee satisfaction survey, based on the survey done by FORS in 2018. The questionnaire was revised thoroughly, and various new themes were added. Adaptations were also needed to ensure comparability with 2018 despite the coronavirus pandemic. All employees were invited to participate in an online survey in autumn of 2021 and two reminders were sent. The response rate was 54%. The final report was submitted in early 2022 and presented to the employees in the summer of 2022.

### **“Employee Satisfaction Survey”, Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, 2022**

The DCA was mandated to realise an employee satisfaction survey for the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (SIB). The questionnaire was prepared in collaboration with SIB and the DCA was in charge of conducting the fieldwork, data analysis and report.

### **“Gender Equality in Schools and Preschools”, 2ème Observatoire 2020 – 2022**

Le deuxième Observatoire, a research and education institute on gender relations with support from the OAK foundation, mandated the DCA in 2020 to conduct an external evaluation and a monitoring of a project to promote gender equality among students and educational personnel in schools and preschools in the Canton of Geneva. The evaluation is made by means of collection and analysis of multi-method data (quantitative and qualitative). Based on the intervention’s theoretical model of change, the evaluation aims at measuring the predictors of attitudes and behavioural change. Due to the nature of the project and observations planned in schools and preschools, the advancement of the project has been slowed down, but continued in 2021 and 2022 and will be finished in 2023.

### **“Annual Mobility Survey”, University of Lausanne 2018 –**

After a break in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, FORS again conducted the annual survey on mobility among the students and staff of the UNIL. The survey analyses commuting habits and their evolution across time. Approximately 20 400 persons were contacted, out of which 19% responded. The thematic focus was on remote work and remote teaching.

### **“Biennial Mobility Survey”, EPFL 2019 –**

The EPFL has conducted a mobility survey of its students and employees since 2003. The DCA was first mandated to take over this survey in 2019 and the survey was realised again in the spring of 2021. The data from the 2021 survey was integrated into the cumulative dataset in 2022.



Preparations for the 2023 survey also started in 2022, with the revision of the questionnaire, as well as the definition of the specific modules to be included in the new edition.

#### **“Database and Survey on Past Doctoral Students”, Graduate Campus, University of Lausanne 2021 -**

The DCA was mandated in 2021 by the Graduate Campus of the UNIL to conduct the annual Graduate Campus PhD survey among the former PhD students who received their degree three years prior. The survey among former doctoral students who finished in 2019 was conducted in Autumn - Winter 2022. Around 300 people were contacted, and the response rate was approximately 38%. The data will be prepared and added to the cumulative file in early 2023.

#### **“Evaluation of the “P’tite Poubelle Verte””, Canton of Geneva 2020 - 2022**

The DCA collaborated with the consulting company Behaviour Change Expertise to conduct a survey on the use of the “P’tite Poubelle Verte”, a publicly funded kitchen waste recycling bin, for the canton of Geneva. The DCA provided support on the design of the questionnaire and was responsible for data collection. In the summer of 2020, a survey with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the use of the bin, as well as measuring the potential barriers to its use and understand recycling behaviour more generally, was conducted. The DCA also collaborated on an article on the results of the project, which was published in 2022 in Environmental Challenges. In 2022, the DCA fielded a second survey that aimed at measuring the impact of the information campaign that took place between the two surveys. The DCA also had the opportunity in the context of the project to include in the questionnaire an Implicit Association Test (IAT) on gender stereotypes to test the feasibility of implementing such a tool in an online questionnaire and exploring the use, validity and fidelity of such a tool in an applied research project.

#### **“Training Programme on Performance Indicators”, Cour des Comptes, Canton of Geneva 2021 - 2022**

In the context of a training programme on performance indicators, the Cour des Comptes of the Canton of Geneva asked the DCA to provide training in four modules on the measure of performance and the construction of indicators, survey methodology, data management and analysis, and the presentation and visualisation of results. Each module was comprised of a half-day course and a half-day feedback and discussion session based on group exercises. Three of the modules took place in late 2021 and one took place in early 2022.



### **“Survey on the Human Research Act”, Federal Office of Public Health 2020 – 2022**

The DCA was commissioned by the Federal Office of Public Health to carry out a study among the stakeholders involved in research on human beings on their understanding and implicit attitudes towards the two main objectives of the Human Research Act (HRA): the protection of participants and the creation of favourable framework conditions for research. Based on the observation that tensions may exist between these two goals, this study aims to understand how actors interpret and arbitrate between them. In 2020, the DCA focused on planning and defining the project, literature research, consulting experts and mapping the theme. A first exploratory qualitative phase with three focus groups was conducted in the spring of 2021 and a report on this phase was drafted and submitted. The method was refined, and further focus groups and individual interviews were conducted in autumn of 2021. A report based on this phase was submitted in late 2021. A final report, combining the different phases and additional content as well as the feedback from the working group, was written and submitted in 2022.

### **“Assessment of the Satisfaction of Beneficiaries of Social Integration Measures”, Insertion Vaud 2022**

The DCA consulted on the project at the request of Insertion Vaud to revise the three questionnaires and the methodology for the project aiming at measuring the satisfaction of beneficiaries of social integration measures.

## 8. Outreach, publications and events

### 8.1 Publications

The publishing of our own research findings is an important channel for dissemination. Moreover, through publishing our scientific data, we promote wider data sharing and reuse as well as credit those that share their data. All of our publications and presentations can be consulted [on this webpage](#).

Below is a listing of our own online platforms, series and journals that are all promoted through various communication channels (social media, distribution lists and newsletters).

#### The FORS Guides to Survey Methods and Data Management

The aim of the peer-reviewed open access series FORS Guides to Survey Methods and Data Management, initiated in 2019, is a knowledge transfer within and outside of FORS in the domain of survey methods and data management. The FORS Guides are specifically targeted to the Swiss research community and researchers working with Swiss data. In 2022 two new FORS Guides were published, notably one Guide on Data Management (data protection: legal considerations for research in Switzerland) and one on Survey Methods (data linkage). The FORS Guides are available online at <https://forscenter.ch/publications/fors-guides/>.

#### Social Change in Switzerland

The bilingual (French and German) online publication series Social Change in Switzerland is co-edited by FORS and the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Life Course Research (LIVES). The aim is to trace changes in employment, family, income, mobility, voting or gender in Switzerland.

Like last year, the series published four contributions in 2022. The topics of the articles were: The influence of family and work trajectories on the well-being of women and men, the educational mobility of second-generation citizens, unequal life expectancies in good health conditions in Switzerland since 1990 and cultural behaviour. All publications, press, and media releases can be consulted on the journal's [dedicated webpage](#).

The number of single page views of the journal website was, with 21 672 page views, similar to the previous year (22 035 page views in 2021). The article viewed the most was on income inequality between men and women that begins long before a family is founded (published 2019), followed by an article on religion and secularisation in Switzerland between 1930-2020 (published 2021). Most visits came from Switzerland, followed the United States, Germany, France and Austria.

## DeFacto

The Swiss Political Science Association decided to take over the patronage of [DeFacto](#) in 2020, as well as contribute to its financing together with the Swiss Academy of Humanities (SAGW). From 2023, DeFacto will be part of the Swiss Political Science Association (SVPW/ASSP) and have a similar status to the Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR) run by the SVPW/ASSP. This means that the accounting and administration will be managed by the SVPW/ASSP and no longer by the University of Zurich. FORS continues to maintain the DeFacto website and to make additional financial contributions.

After a decline in publication activity during the pandemic, DeFacto recovered in 2022. A total of 147 articles were published, which constitutes a single-year record since DeFacto was launched. In addition, public events could be held again. DeFacto therefore entered into a partnership with Politforum Bern in September and has already held two joint events. The main language of the articles is still German, but French is also becoming increasingly important as a publication language. Articles in French accounted for almost 40 percent in 2022. The DeFacto website reached 59 192 single page visits (compared to 60 467 visits in 2021 and 55 133 in 2020). Most visits came from Switzerland, followed by the United States, Germany, France and Italy. The number of readers is stable, but still mainly from German-speaking countries.

## Survey Methods, Insights from the Field

The peer-reviewed international online journal [Survey Methods, Insights from the Field](#) (SMIF) published a total of nine articles in 2022. In 2022 a total of 15 papers were handed in (compared to 19 in 2021). Out of these papers, five were rejected, which corresponds to a rejection rate of 33.3%. At the end of the year, eight articles were either in review or on rework by the authors. From January to December, the website had 27 865 single page views. The most viewed articles were: “Why should we put weight on weighting” and “Using Facebook and Instagram to recruit web survey participants”. Most visits again came from the United States, followed by Germany and the United Kingdom.

## 8.2 Events

The following events, organised by FORS, took place either in person or online.

### **Train-the trainer workshop: “Addressing the top 10 Key Data Management Questions”**

DARISS organised a two and a half-day train-the-trainer workshop (June 20 and 21), which focused on 10 key data management questions. This workshop was mainly destined to support staff, librarians, research consultants and, more broadly, anyone involved in the provision of data management support to the social science researchers. The format was interactive and gave both theoretical input and practical applications. In the first part, a theoretical framework was presented as well as case studies. Then participants were encouraged to share their own experiences and bring up key questions and challenges that arise in their daily practice. This workshop again attracted a lot of attention, especially amongst data stewards from Swiss universities and Universities of Applied Sciences. Further information on the webinar can be found on this web page: <https://forscenter.ch/the-top-10-data-management-questions/>

### **Data Re-use webinar**

This webinar, organised by DARISS, took place online on April 7. This introductory workshop was open to anyone who wanted to learn about the concept and value of secondary data and how to obtain secondary data at FORS. The webinar explained the potential of secondary data for re-use in scientific analyses and teaching purposes. An overview was given on various types of data available on SWISSUbase, on how to find data and under what conditions researchers can obtain and use them. Finally, the participants could ask questions and engage in a discussion with experts from FORS.

### **Workshop “Safe access to sensitive research data”**

This workshop was co-organised by DARISS and the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons. It took place in November 2022. The first part of the workshop discussed and highlighted various international approaches to ensure safe access to sensitive data. Whether physical safe rooms, federated data analysis systems, microdata services through an API and scripts, specific hardware boxes with fingerprint identification or a network of guest researcher workrooms, the solutions are manifold and developed out of specific needs. The second part of the workshop gave insight into what personal data really is, how data linkage in Switzerland has evolved, which data access challenges the health sector faces and provided an overview of the educational trajectories LABB study project. In the concluding discussion round, it was agreed that despite the differences between sectors as well as other unsolved problems (money, preservation) there is a common need for a coordinated, specialised, and shared infrastructure and an alignment on strategies, governance, and standards.

## Second edition of the FORS Data Management Webinar series

After the success of the first edition of this series offered by DARISS in 2021, the second edition took place between September and November 2022 and again attracted a lot of researchers from all over Switzerland and beyond. The topics were on informed consent, data documentation, quantitative data anonymisation and qualitative data anonymisation. The webinars were all given by experts from FORS. All presentation slides and the video recordings can be found on the series' web page:

<https://forscenter.ch/data-management-webinar-series/>

## Online webinar "Discover SWISSUbase"

In May, DARISS and the SWISSUbase team jointly organised the online webinar "Discover SWISSUbase". As SWISSUbase was launched in December 2021 for the Social Sciences, this webinar consisted of an introduction to SWISSUbase with special focus on the needs of the social sciences community. The first part consisted of a general presentation about FORS and the FORS Data Archive. Further, the open data context was presented and the move from FORSbase to SWISSUbase explained. The second part of the presentation focused on key features and benefits of SWISSUbase with a special focus on new and unique features. To conclude, a short demo of SWISSUbase was shown.

## 7th SHP Methodological Workshop

The 7th SHP Methodological Workshop took place in June at the UNIL. The workshop focused on the topic of "Panel event designs and panel regression models". The first day was dedicated to the basics of panel data analysis. The second day was devoted to the basics of panel regression, and the third day to advanced issues of panel regression. The last day was organised by the SHP team on the following topic: "An introduction to the survey and data management with SPSS". This paid workshop was attended by 17 participants who gave very positive feedback on the workshop.

## The 26th Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences

Jointly organised by USI and FORS the 26th Swiss Summer School on Methods in the Social Sciences took place at the Università della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano from 11 - 26 August 2022.

The following workshops were offered (*number of participants in parentheses, a \* denotes an online-only workshop*):

- » First week: Drzewiecka: Qualitative Analyses of Interview Data (23), Grätz: Causal Analysis with Cross-sectional data (16), Hills: Using Social Network Analysis to Understand Data (12), Horber: Quantitative methods for Social Research (20), Kernbach: Design Thinking for Research (16), Schmidt/Davidov: Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling SEM (20), Steenbergen: Machine learning for social scientists (17)

- » Second week: Bell: Multilevel Modelling (16), Bergman: The Art and Science of Qualitative Analysis\*(18), Gibbert: Introduction to Qualitative Research Designs (15), Hills: Content Analysis and Natural Language Processing\*(14), Lepori/Rocci: How to forge arguments in writing (social sciences) scientific papers (12), Lobinger/Mengis: Visual Data and Visual Methods in Social Sciences (18), Mello: Qualitative Comparative Analysis: Research Design and Application (17), Mottier: Discourse Analysis (16), O'Reilly: Ethnographic Methods (15), Samuel: Creating groups from data. Cluster Analysis and Latent Class Analysis (15), Schlüter: Multilevel Structural Equation Modelling (9)
- » Optional two- or three-day preliminary workshops: Gruber: Introduction to R and Rstudio\*(26), Horber: Statistics with SPSS for Social Scientists\*(31), Kernbach: Visual thinking for PhD researchers (17), Lipps/Kuhn: Introduction to Stata\*(18)

Eighty percent of the 271 participants were students from Swiss and foreign universities.

The largest groups of this year's participants are working in the field of Sociology (20%), Business Studies (12%), Education (11%), Communication Sciences (10%), Psychology (10%), Political Science (8%), Public Administration (6%).

Forty-six percent of the participants came from outside Switzerland: Italy (26), Germany (23), Austria (11), the UK(10), Netherlands (8), Poland (8), USA (6), Belgium and Czech Republic (5), France (4), India (3), Denmark, Portugal, Spain and Sweden (2), Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Swaziland and the United Arab Emirates (1).

## GREC

Founded in 2017, the research group on Elections and Political Citizenship (GREC) is a research unit of the Institute of Political Studies ([IEP](#)) at UNIL. The GREC serves as a forum for intellectual exchange and discussion for researchers and doctoral candidates from IEP and other institutions working in the fields of elections and referendums, social movements, activism and political citizenship. Furthermore, the GREC's mission is to encourage the use of FORS surveys (in particular SELECTS, VOTO and SHP) and to strengthen collaboration between IEP and FORS. This cooperation is reflected in the organisational structure: Professors Anke Tresch (head of group POLS at FORS) and Florence Passy (IEP) have been the co-leaders of GREC since October 2022. In 2022, the research group organised two workshops for PhD students, co-organised a round table on the social anchoring of voting and hosted seven speakers from Switzerland and abroad.

## Methods and Research Meetings

Together with the Faculty of social and political sciences SSP at UNIL, FORS has continued to successfully organise the joint seminar series Methods and Research Meetings either in person or online. This series aims to engage researchers and practitioners in a methodological discourse on current topics in survey and data analysis methods research. In 2022 we held three presentations with speakers from Switzerland and abroad on various topics (i.e., polarisation in society, living conditions of retired people outside of Switzerland and the feasibility of using data donations to measure mobile media usage). The full list of the speakers and presentations can be found on the [FORS Methods and Research Meetings webpage](#).

## FORS Lunch Seminars

The FORS lunch seminars are held to foster scholarly exchange between FORS researchers and related researchers to profit from their diverse scientific and disciplinary backgrounds. Occasionally, researchers from outside of FORS are invited to present their research findings. In 2022 eight lunch seminars were held and generated a lot of interest. The topics range from end-of-life care, solidarity behaviour in society, female and child education, parent child relations or wellbeing. The detailed programme can be viewed on the [seminar's dedicated webpage](#).

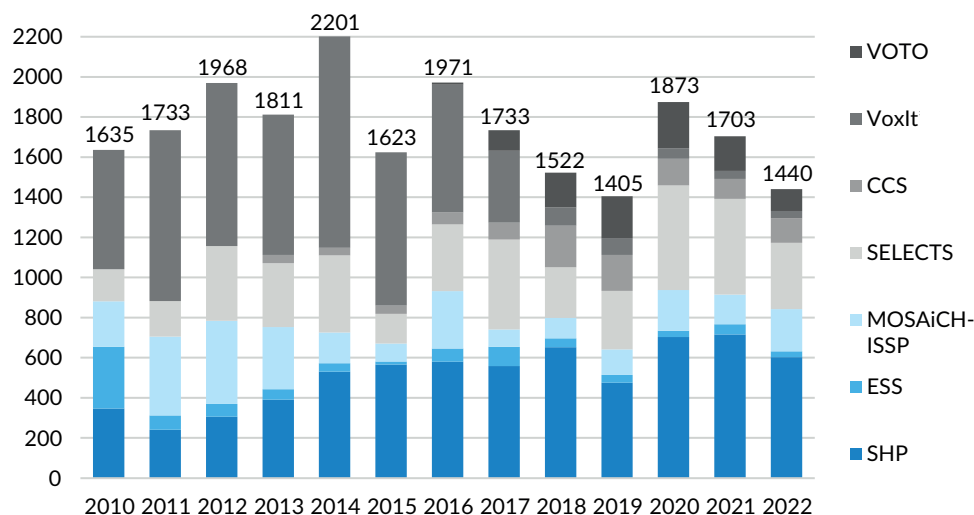


## 8.3 Performance Indicators

FORS maintains a set of indicators that allow us to assess our accomplishments and progress on different fronts. Below are various results for 2022:

### Number of datasets produced by FORS surveys that were distributed to researchers

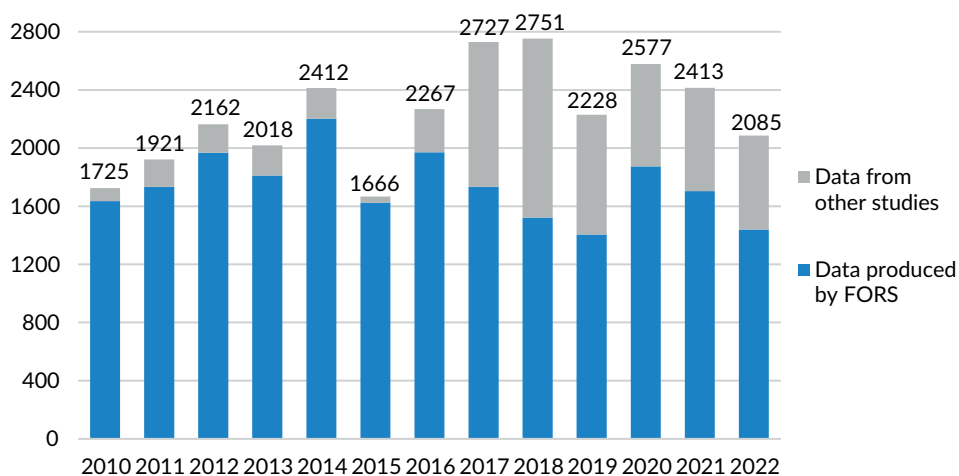
A total of 1 440 FORS-produced datasets were distributed by FORS to researchers in 2022.



In addition to the distribution by FORS, the Swiss parts of the studies ESS and ISSP data can also be downloaded from the international websites of these projects. The data for the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), conducted by FORS, are only available in this way.

### Number of datasets from the FORS data service distributed to or downloaded by researchers

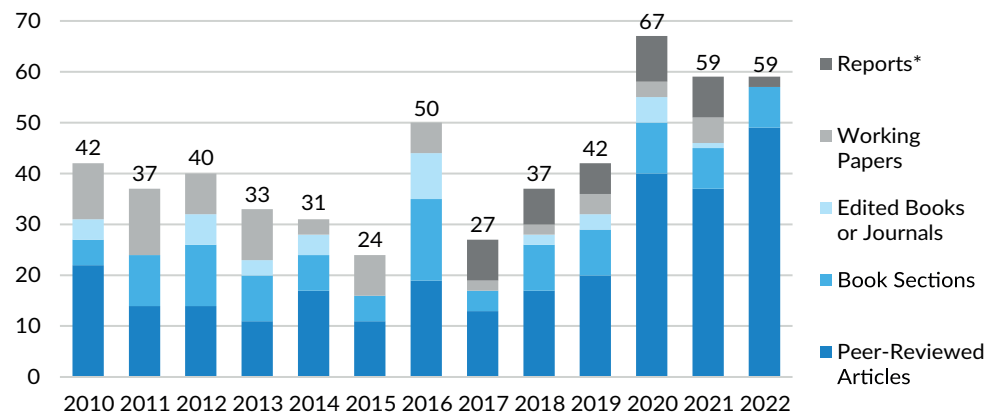
2 085 datasets were downloaded from SWISSUbase in 2022.



## Number of new research project descriptions in the research inventory

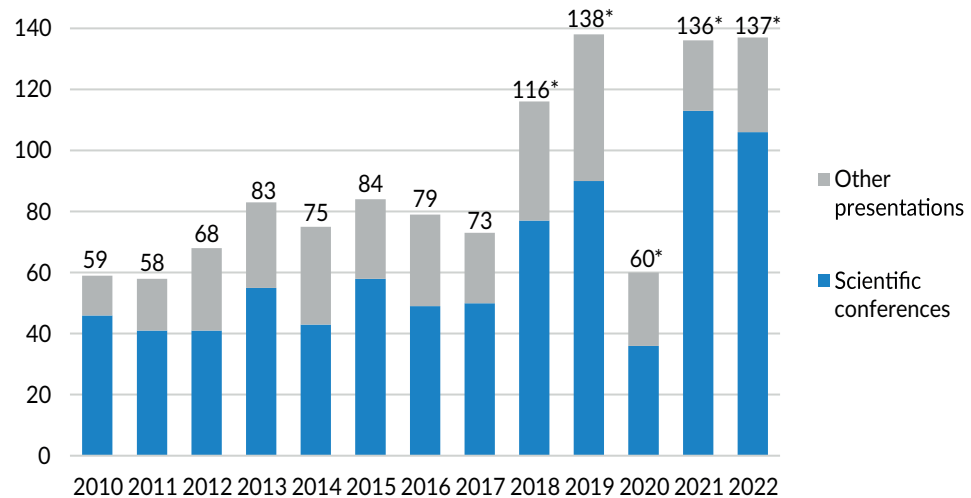
All in all, the research inventory in SWISSUbase comprised over 12 000 published project descriptions at the end of 2022, with 352 having been added during the year.

## Publications by FORS staff



\* until 2016, the reports were included in the category "Working papers".

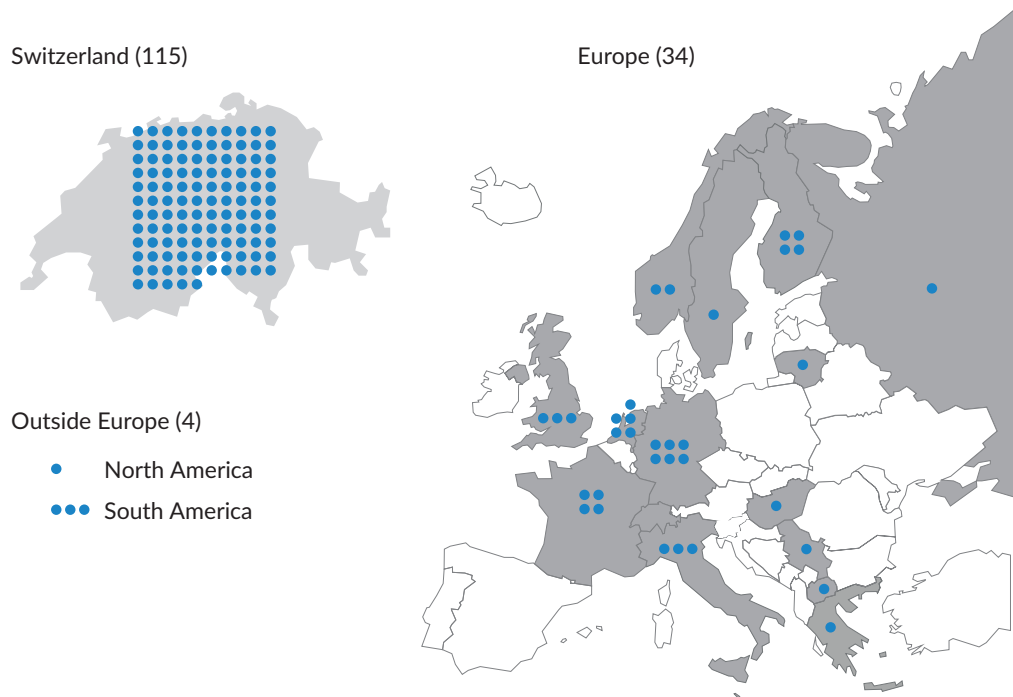
## Presentations by FORS staff at conferences and scholarly meetings



\* from 2018 not only the collaborators, but also the associated researchers were asked to hand in their presentations.

There were 137 presentations of FORS staff and associated researchers at conferences and scholarly meetings in 2022, compared to 136 in 2021. Also, see the complete list of 2022 publications and presentations by FORS staff on [this interactive webpage](#) (click on the year "2022" for full information).

## Number of national and international collaborative research projects



Only includes projects aiming for publications in peer-reviewed journals. Some projects involve several countries.

### 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 2022, 29 FORS staff members were involved in 125 collaborative projects with outside organizations. Thus, around 75% of eligible FORS staff were involved in research activities. We can note a slight positive increase compared to last year (122 collaborative projects), notably due to the scientific network of our newly recruited staff.

Seven out of 10 (72%) of these collaborative projects were with individuals from the French-speaking part of Switzerland, 20% with colleagues from the German-speaking part of Switzerland and 30% with foreign institutions (some projects involved several institutions from different regions, thus total exceeds 100%).

This concentration in the French-speaking part of the country is due in particular to the close ties of some collaborators with other institutions in Lausanne and Geneva (in particular LINES/LIVES). Our international collaborations are very diversified, including a broad range of foreign countries or regions (16).

## Characteristics of consultations by FORS collaborators

(in % of all consultations)

### Purpose of consultation

Subject expertise  
Data analysis  
Data access  
Methodology  
Data archiving  
Data management  
Other

### Type of user

Faculty staff (research/teaching)  
Post-doc  
Doctoral student  
Student (BA or MA)  
Journalist/media  
Other

### Type of institution

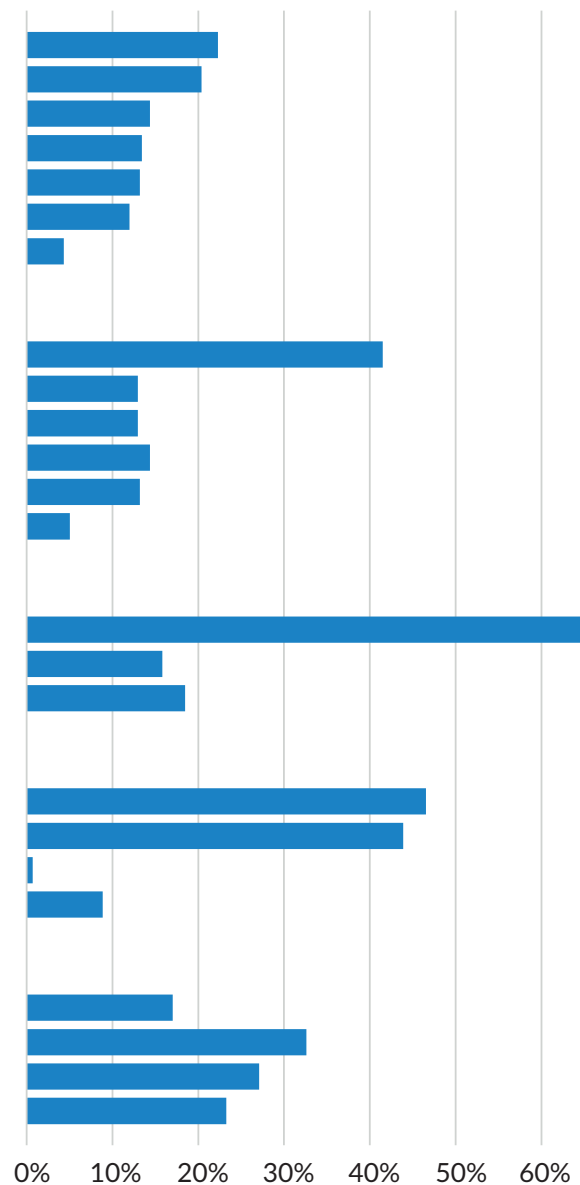
University  
University of applied science  
Other

### Region

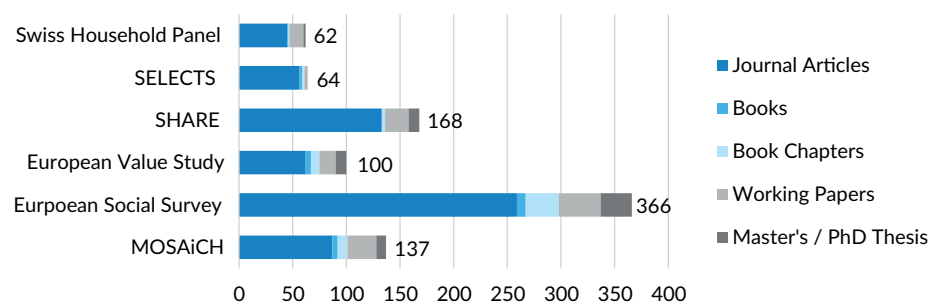
French-speaking Switzerland  
German-speaking Switzerland  
Italian-speaking Switzerland  
Abroad

### Time invested

Less than 15 min.  
15 to 30 min.  
30 min. to 1 hour  
More than 1 hour



## Number of 2022 publications based on FORS-produced data



In 2022, there were more than 897 publications worldwide that used the Swiss data from surveys produced by FORS, including 366 for the ESS, 168 for SHARE, and 137 for MOSiACH. Most of the publications (72%) were peer-reviewed articles in academic journals. Five percent of the publications were methodological in nature.

## 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, nine FORS staff members taught in 2022. They gave 315 teaching hours in 10 different courses at all academic levels (bachelor, master, and PhD), as well as in the context of continuing education (see list in Appendix). The topics covered concerned predominantly data analysis and data management, but also survey methodology. The biggest part (86%) of the teaching hours were provided in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, with the exception of two courses given at the University of Berne and another at the Swiss summer school 2022, in Lugano (online session).

Thus, about one quarter 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.

- » Heers, Marieke. Spring semester 2022. Seminar “Démographie Sociale B : Education et Migration”. University of Lausanne, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, bachelor level.
- » Lipps, Oliver and Ursina Kuhn. August 2022. “Introduction to Stata”. online course given at the 26th Summer School in Social Science Methods 11-12 August 2022, Lugano.
- » Lipps, Oliver. Fall semester 2022, Seminar “Soziale Ungleichheiten - empirische Befunde und ihre Replizierbarkeit” at the Institute for Sociology at the University of Bern, master level.

- » Lutz, Georg. Spring semester 2022. "Elections et votations en Suisse: Analyse de données d'enquête". University of Lausanne, IEPI, bachelor level (with Lionel Marquis).
- » Rennwald, Line. Autumn semester 2022. "Atelier pratique de recherche : Stratification sociale et électorats partisans en Suisse". University of Lausanne, IEPI, master level seminar (with Lionel Marquis).
- » Ryser, Valérie-Anne. Spring semester 2022. "Approches pluridisciplinaires des parcours de vie : Introduction". University of Lausanne, Faculté des sciences sociales et politiques (SSP), bachelor level.
- » Ryser Valérie-Anne. 2022/06/10. 7th Swiss Household Panel workshop "Introduction to the Swiss Household Panel". SHP Workshop, FORS, Lausanne, Switzerland. Specialized workshop for PhD students and advanced researchers.
- » Tresch, Anke. Spring semester 2022. "Séminaire d'introduction aux méthodes quantitatives: Les campagnes électorales". University of Lausanne, SSP, bachelor level.
- » Wernli, Boris. Spring semester 2022. "Séminaire d'introduction aux méthodes quantitatives: Grandes enquêtes – analyses empiriques." University of Lausanne, faculty SSP, bachelor level.
- » Wernli, Boris and Max Felder. Spring 2022. "Formation aux indicateurs de performance 2021-2022", Cour des Comptes, Genève, continuous staff training.

## 9. FORS Governance

Between 2008 and 2020, the SNSF and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) jointly financed most of the activities of FORS. However, since 2021, the SNSF has taken over full funding for FORS' key activities, including data services. The funding is governed by a four-year service level agreement (2021 - 2024) that outlines the major tasks and activities of FORS. An international panel evaluates FORS and conducts site visits every two years. FORS and its humanities partner organisation DaSCH, have committed to close coordination of their activities at all levels, with a cooperation agreement set to be signed in 2023. FORS and the SNSF administrative office meet twice a year to discuss practical aspects of the service level agreement and ensure coordination.

### Foundation Board

[The Foundation Board](#), the governing body of FORS, is chaired by Professor Estelle Doudet of the host university since 2021. Comprising eight members from key stakeholders (swissuniversities, SFSO, and Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences), the Foundation Board holds bi-annual meetings. In March 2022, the Board approved of the annual accounts and the audit report 2021, mandated the Scientific Advisory Board to evaluate DARISS, and elected members to the MOSAiCH commission. In November, the board approved of the 2023 annual planning and budget and took note of the DARISS evaluation report. Dr. Marco Menna, Director of DaSCH, stepped down from the Foundation Board after stepping down from his role as DaSCH Director in summer 2022.

### Scientific Advisory Board

[The Scientific Advisory Board](#), chaired by Professor Mick Couper, was held as an in-person meeting in March 2022. The FORS Director gave an update on several important developments around FORS. The Board then discussed the report "The Swiss Household Panel towards the future: Report of the evaluation of 2021", established by the SHP team, in order to reflect on how to develop this important project in the coming years. The joint meeting between the Foundation and the Scientific Advisory Board took also place in March 2022. This meeting mainly focused on the discussion of the position paper on "[Social Science and Humanities Infrastructures in Switzerland](#)". This initiative aims at strengthening the position of SSH infrastructures in Switzerland in the future since, at the national level, the needs for a social sciences and humanities infrastructure are currently not sufficiently addressed.

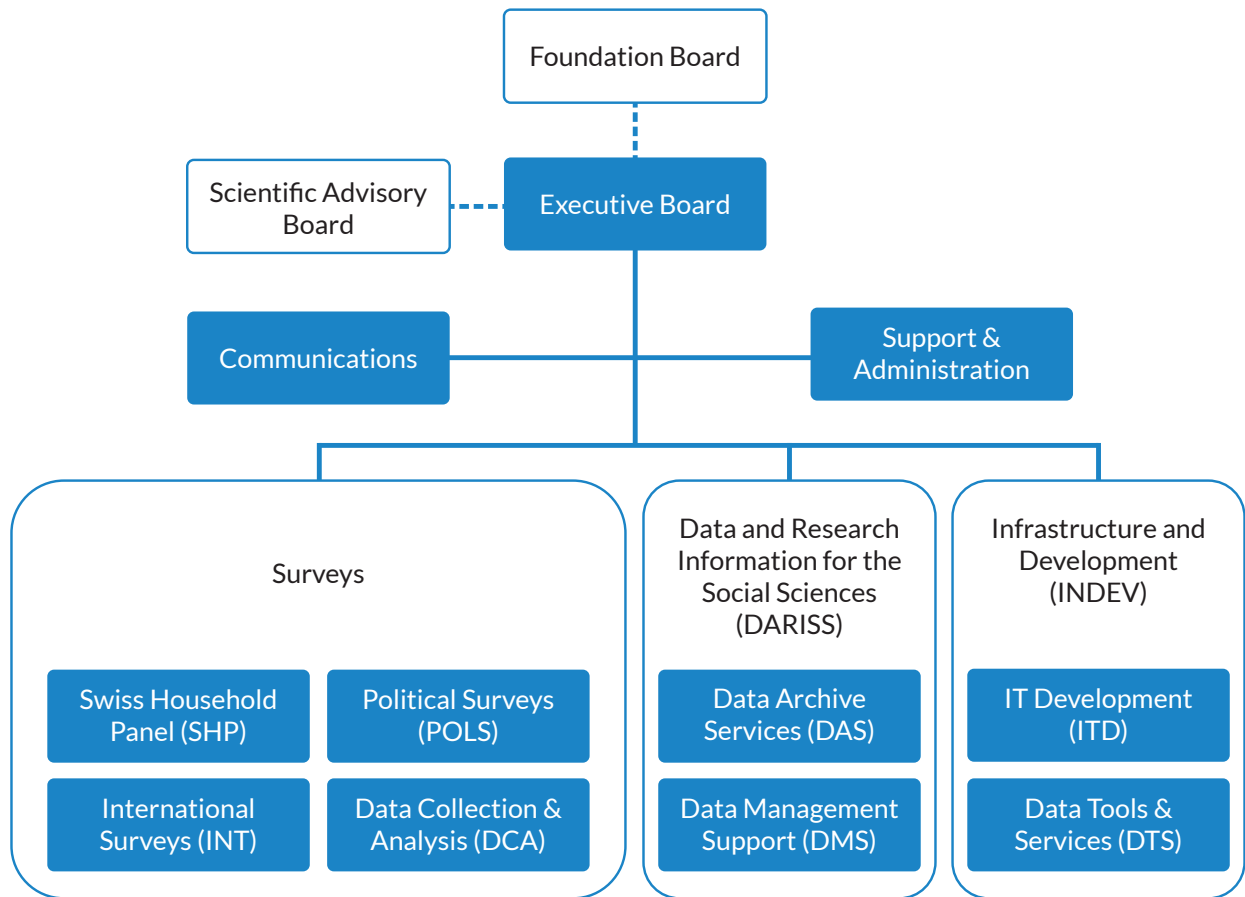


The FORS Executive Board, chaired by the FORS Director, comprises the heads of “Surveys”, “DARISS”, and the newly established “INDEV” units, as well as the head of Finance and Personnel. The Board typically meets twice a month, with the Communications Officer and the Coordinator of the SSP-FORS Joint Research Program. Minutes of the meetings are recorded and sent to the President of the Foundation Board to keep her informed of ongoing issues.

FORS initiated a series of internal evaluations with the evaluation of the DARISS unit in 2022. FORS decided to conduct regular evaluations of various parts of FORS to gain broader perspectives beyond day-to-day operations. To carry out these evaluations, FORS tasked a sub-group of the Scientific Advisory Board, potentially including external experts, to lead this process. The evaluation of DARISS was conducted in the autumn of 2022 and the evaluation report, along with a response from the FORS management, was approved by the Foundation Board in November 2022 (See [chapter 3 Data and research information services DARISS](#)).

In 2022, a major management challenge was the transition back to in-office work after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. To foster exchange among staff, FORS re-established in-person presence in the office in autumn 2022, while still allowing for remote work. The organisation is also preparing for a move to a new office environment in 2023, where alternative arrangements will be implemented, such as abandoning fixed office spaces and the creation of many different spaces for different tasks to maximise the use of space provided by the host university. The management has discussed the best way to shape the new environment and a special working group has been established within FORS to address this issue. Additionally, a staff satisfaction survey was conducted in 2022 to gather insights into the needs of FORS staff. The results will be published in 2023.

# Organisational Chart



# 10. Staff statistics & finance

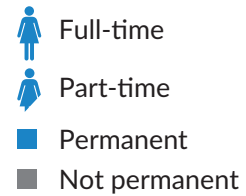
## Staff

### Status of employment

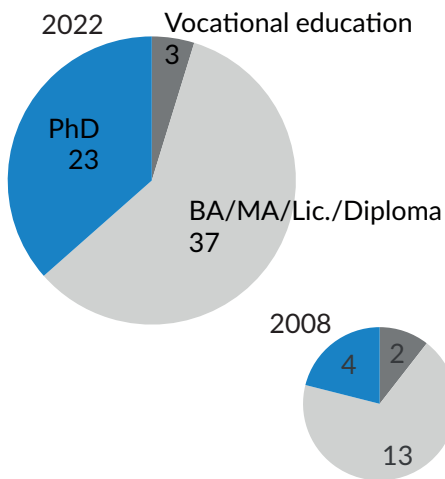
2022 (63 employees, 52.1 full-time equivalents)



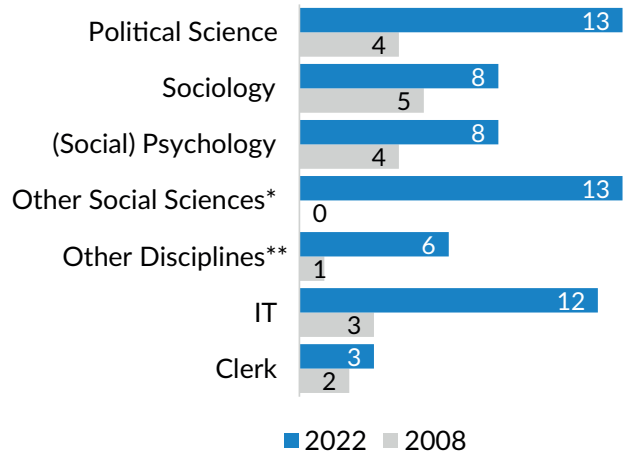
2008 (19 employees, 15.7 full-time equivalents)



### Degree of formation



### Disciplines



\* Social sciences, ethnology, behavioral science, communication, demography, economics, education, human geography

\*\* History, humanities, linguistics, mathematics, statistics, translation

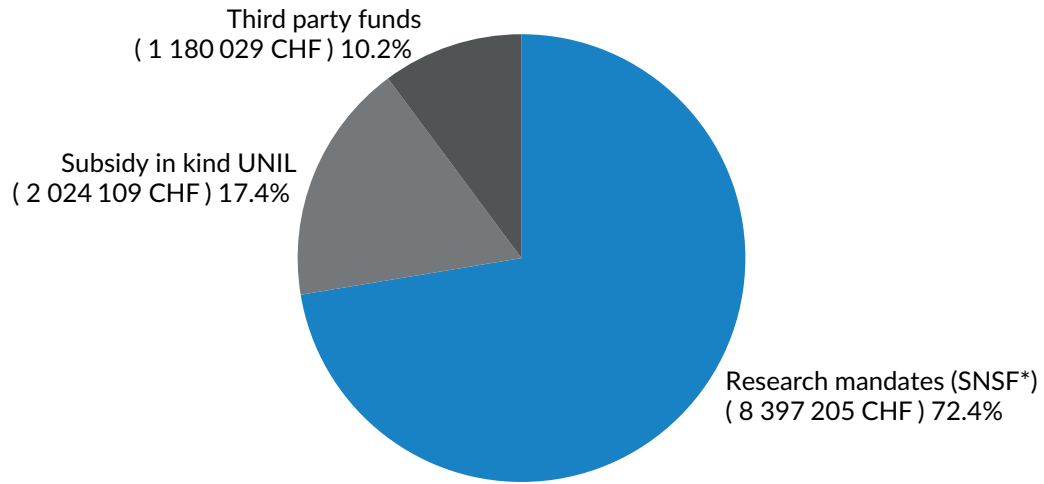
### Nationalities and mother languages 2022

- 49 Swiss
- 4 German
- 2 French
- 2 US-citizen
- 1 Australian
- 1 Chilean
- 1 Dutch
- 1 Hungarian
- 1 Italian
- 1 Moroccan
- 1 Portuguese
- 1 Romanian
- 1 Serb
- 1 Spanish

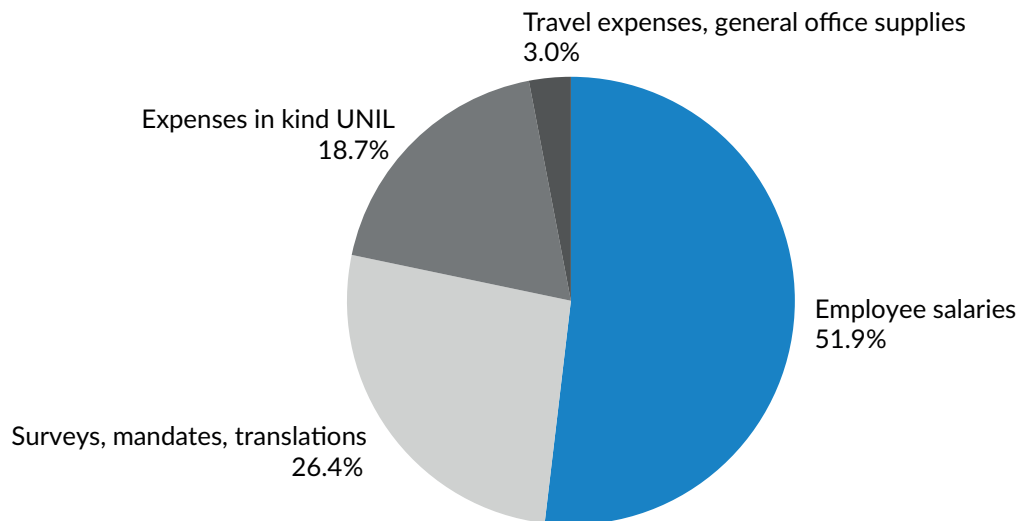


# Finances

## Income



## Expenses



## 11. List of Abbreviations

CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing
CAWI	Computer Assisted Web Interviewing
CCS	Comparative Candidate Survey
CESSDA	Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives
CNEF	Cross-National Equivalent File
CNES	Consortium of National Election Studies
CSES	Study of Electoral Systems
DaSCH	Data and Service Center for the Humanities
DAS	Data Archive Services (DAS) at FORS
DSUs	Data Service Units
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
ESFRI	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
ESS	European Social Survey
EVS	European Values Study
FAIR	Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse of digital assets.
GESIS	Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften
ISSP	International Social Survey Programme
LiRI	Linguistic Research Infrastructure, University of Zurich
LIVES	Swiss Centre of Expertise in Lifecourse Research
MEDem	Monitoring Electoral Democracies (European Research Infrastructure)
MOSAiCH	Measurement and Observation of Social Attitudes in Switzerland
POLS	Political Surveys (POLS) team at FORS
SELECTS	Swiss Electoral Studies
SFSO	Swiss Federal Statistical Office
SHARE	Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe
SHP	Swiss Household Panel
SMIF	Survey Methods: Insights from the Field
SMT	Survey Management Tool
SNSF	Swiss National Science Foundation
SSHOC	Social Science and Humanities Open Cloud
SWISSUbase	National cross-disciplinary data repository
swissuniversities	Organisation that promotes cooperation and coordination between the universities and the various types of universities.
SWITCH	Swiss Foundation managing digital services
UNIL	University of Lausanne (Host University)

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