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The SOEP Team

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SOEP Annual Report







2024 SOEP Annual Report

The SOEP Team



Years! 1984-2024

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From left to right: Alexander S. Kritikos, Marcel Fratzscher, and Denise Rüttiger

LETTER FROM THE **EXECUTIVE BOARD** OF DIW BERLIN

The Editorial of the SOEP Annual Report is a welcome opportunity to reflect on recent achievements and developments of the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) at DIW Berlin. In 2024, SOEP celebrated its 40th anniversary with a festive event that illustrated the importance of the panel itself alongside its related multi- and interdisciplinary research and knowledge transfer activities. Although it is impossible to detail each individual achievement of 2024, we would like to highlight some of the most important ones – and thank the members of the SOEP for their enthusiasm and work for the panel.

In 2024, during times of transformation, SOEP data continued to allow scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds to analyze developments and rapid changes in our society. Our panel data allows them to investigate a variety of research questions, such as individual household CO2 emissions, remittances, and work-from-home options after the COVID pandemic. The new research group on "Life Course and Inequality," headed by Philipp Lersch, will analyze those factors impacting the distribution of wealth over an individual's lifetime. We are proud that Philipp Lersch's research is funded by a European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant.

2024 was overshadowed by the death of two former presidents and heads of the SOEP, Gert Wagner and Hans-Jürgen Krupp. It was their work, their ideas, and their dedication that brought the panel forward as a whole, making it the success story that it is today.

As we look to the future, 2025 will be of particular importance for both SOEP and DIW Berlin. This is due to the evaluation of an application for additional special funding for the SOEP through the großer Sondertatbestand (gSTB) grant. Additionally, we are already preparing for our regular Leibniz evaluation in 2026. We are looking forward to these two events, as these not only offer us the opportunity to present our achievements but also provide us with valuable input on our future plans.

We hope that you enjoy reading this year's SOEP annual report, which gives excellent and detailed insights into the panel data as well as the projects of this division at DIW Berlin.

Marcel Fratzscher

Alexander S. Kritikos

Denise Rüttinger



From left to right: Carsten Schröder, Sabine Zinn, and Jan Goebel

EDITORIAL

2024 marked an important milestone for the SOEP: 40 years ago, in 1984, the survey started with 6,000 West German households. Today, more than 20,000 households participate. Over the course of the past decades, the study has developed into Germany's largest and longest running study on social change.

On July 3, 2024, to celebrate the anniversary, we invited 120 colleagues, alumni, partners, and friends to join us at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Berlin. Keynote speakers included Martina Brockmeier, President of the Leibniz Association, and Jutta Mata, Chair of the SOEP Survey Committee. Both emphasized the SOEP's successes, its relevance and impact on society, politics, and the media. In the light of growing anti-science sentiments and current political crises, they see a growing importance of SOEP's unique panel study for both the present and the future (see page 12).

The anniversary week continued with the biennial SOEP User Conference, which, significantly, focused on "Individual and collective responses to a changing world." Around 100 researchers presented their SOEP-based findings and exchanged ideas (see page 13).

In 2024, the SOEP not only stabilized but expanded its sample size. Two new subsamples were added: A random sample of private households with an intended number of 5,000 households and a random sample of adult EU citizens living in Germany with a target size of 2,000 households. In addition, an experiment was conducted across all participating households, focusing on carbon footprints and responses to various information treatments.

The year also saw some organizational changes. The establishment of the Acting Director position ensured continued stability of our processes during the ongoing vacancy of the Director position. In addition, a new research group titled "Life Course and Inequality," led by Philipp Lersch, was established to analyze social inequalities across life courses of individuals in different and changing social contexts.

Sadly, we mourn the passing of Hans-Jürgen Krupp, the SOEP's founding father, and Gert G. Wagner, its long-time director. Both were instrumental in shaping the SOEP and remained valuable advisors long after they retired.

This SOEP Annual Report offers an overview of our wide-ranging activities in 2024. Chapter 1 highlights achievements and new projects of the SOEP team as well as a selection of the many media reports published on SOEP results. Chapter 2 introduces the SOEP's mission and structure, along with our advisory bodies. Chapter 3 outlines the cornerstones of the SOEP team's research activities, including new research output based on SOEP's migration and refugee samples. In Chapter 4, you will find reports on fieldwork (conducted by infas Institut für angewandte Sozialwissenschaft GmbH) and our in-house user services. Finally, the appendix contains a list of staff members and the complete scientific output (SOEP researchers and user community).

Thank you for your interest in the SOEP!

Carsten Schröder

Cash from

IN MEMORY OF HANS-JÜRGEN KRUPP



The esteemed founder of SOEP passed away on July 29, 2024, at the age of 91. Hans-Jürgen Krupp was appointed Professor of Economic and Social Policy at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main in 1969 and served as university president from 1975 to 1979. In 1979, Krupp was appointed President of DIW Berlin. As the applicant and head of sub-project B-5, "The Socio-Economic Panel," he played a key role in launching this long-term study in 1984. Originally funded for five years, SOEP is now in its 41th year.

In 1988, the SOEP founder moved to Hamburg, where he became the State Minister of Economics and later the State Minister of Finance. He also became President of the Landeszentralbank Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and a member of the Deutsche Bundesbank's Central Bank Council. Despite these new roles and his retirement, Krupp always remained associated with SOEP, regularly sharing with us the original motives and convictions that formed his idea of a panel study. He was a valued advisor to the SOEP's directors and a regular guest of honor at various SOEP conferences and events. The SOEP has lost its far-sighted founding father, a formative leadership figure, and a long-time companion and supporter. We are deeply saddened, and our thoughts are with his family. We will honor his memory.

Find the complete obituary on our website.

IN MEMORY OF **GERT G. WAGNER**



Prof. Dr. Gert G. Wagner, the long-time director of the SOEP, passed away unexpectedly on January 28, 2024. Alongside Hans-Jürgen Krupp, Gert G. Wagner was a key figure for the SOEP's development for decades.

The central stages of his professional career include the positions of research associate and later director of the DFG Collaborative Research Center 3 "Microanalytical Foundations of Social Policy" at the Universities of Frankfurt am Main and Mannheim (1979 to 1988). In 1989, he became the head of the SOEP at DIW Berlin and later, in 2011, chairman of the DIW Executive Board (President).

The most important milestones of his work at the SOEP include the institutionalization of SOEP as a department at DIW Berlin and expanding the data infrastructure. He added an additional sample of households in the GDR, creating a unique basis to describe the transformation process in East Germany. In 1994, the first migration sample was surveyed, which made the SOEP a central data source for research into integration processes. Under Wagner's leadership, SOEP's sample size was doubled (in 2000), and SOEP was awarded a specific budget that facilitated the expansion of data collection. With the Innovation Sample, SOEP became a scientific beacon, providing an outstanding data infrastructure for social and economic research.

In addition to his work at DIW Berlin, Wagner held professorships at Ruhr University Bochum, the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder, and Technische Universität Berlin until his retirement in 2018.

Gert G. Wagner was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his role in bridging scientific expertise with politics and society. Wagner can certainly be described as a social science polymath. His work extends far beyond his longtime work for the SOEP, which is also reflected in his many contacts in politics. Until the passing, he was a constant source of inspiration with concrete suggestions for improvement. The SOEP has lost an intellectual pioneer and one of its most important figures. We mourn his loss deeply, and our thoughts are with his family. We will honor his memory.

Find the complete obituary on our website.

Part 1

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SOEP!

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin July 3, 2024



SOEP team at the anniversary celebration



From left to right: Jürgen Schupp, Jutta Mata, Jan Goebel, Carsten Schröder, Sabine Zinn

Many of the 120 guests attending the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities on July 3 have actively participated in the 40-year success story that is the SOEP. They all came to pay tribute to one of the world's most important and longest-running multidisciplinary panel studies.

Cutting edge treasure trove of data

Alongside the Berlin team, SOEP welcomed its funders as well as representatives of the SOEP founding generation, the DIW Berlin Executive Board, the DIW Board of Trustees, and members of infas, our partner survey institute. The speakers emphasized the outstanding importance of SOEP for gaining knowledge about German society, for evidence-based policy advice, and for knowledge transfer. Martina Brockmeier, President of the Leibniz Association, stressed that the SOEP's "treasure trove of data" has become "ever more valuable" over the years. Sigrid Nikutta (Chairperson of the DIW Board of Trustees) saw a clear "mandate for the future" for the SOEP. In times of social and political upheaval, its role will only become especially more important. Other speakers praised SOEP's innovative strength and its striving to always remain "at the cutting edge," as Prof. Dr. Jutta Mata (head of SOEP Survey Committee) and others put it.

A thank you

We are proud of the high relevance SOEP has achieved in society, politics, and media. Without the relentless work of the SOEP team as well as the continuing participation of the survey's respondents, this success would never have been possible.

15TH INTERNATIONAL **SOEP USER CONFERENCE**

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin July 4-5, 2024





Denis Gerstorf

From left to right: Markus M. Grabka, Sabine Zinn, Jan Goebel, Carsten Schröder

It was the crowning glory of the 40th anniversary celebrations: The two-day User Conference took place for the 15th time, this year entitled "The individual and collective responses to a changing world." Researchers from across the disciplines (e.g., economics, demography, geography, political science, public health, psychology, and sociology) were invited. With 15 sessions and 64 presentations, the conference impressively demonstrated the wide range of topics that SOEP data can address: What impact does the minimum wage have on regional inequalities? Are employees who internally distance themselves from their work generally more dissatisfied with their lives? Do people worry less about the environment and climate after having a child? These are just some of the many topics presented by participating users.

Praise for SOEP as a data source and career booster

One of the keynote speakers at the conference, economist Simon Jäger from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Boston, described SOEP as a "dataset we all know, adore, and love." This year's Felix Büchel Award winner, Denis Gerstorf (Professor of Developmental Psychology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), spoke of how the SOEP has influenced him as an "eye opener" and "stepping stone." Gerstorf has spent a large part of his successful career researching with SOEP data.

Exciting input from five international panel studies

One particular highlight of the conference was the presentation of panel studies from other countries that, like the SOEP, participate in the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF). The project harmonizes extensive data from currently nine panel studies worldwide and makes it available to researchers. Representatives of partner studies from Australia, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, and the USA provided exciting insights into the data sets of their home countries.

HIGHLIGHTS 2024

NEW **RESEARCH GRANTS**



Start of Leibniz Lab "Pandemic Preparedness: One Health, One Future"

SOEP is participating in an innovative "Leibniz Lab" funded by the Leibniz Association. Building on interdisciplinary cooperation between 41 Leibniz institutes, "Pandemic Preparedness" strives to generate data and evidence-based policy advice on pandemics.











Leibniz ScienceCampus **S**•**EP** RegioHub at Bielefeld University

Successful renewal of "SOEP RegioHub"

How do regional social and economic opportunities influence social cohesion? After one initial funding period, **SOEP** RegioHub will continue investigating related research questions for four more years. The second phase of the "Leibniz ScienceCampus" will, among other topics, shed light on the role of local media in shaping public opinion. The project builds on a fruitful cooperation between SOEP and Bielefeld University.

Launch of new SOEP Research **Group "Life Course and Inequality"**

After his successful acquisition of one of the prestigious ERC Consolidator Grants in 2023, Philipp Lersch starts his own research group working at the intersection of sociology, demography, and economics. Lersch and his colleagues will focus on economic wealth and labor market inequalities using longitudinal and administrative data.



Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

NEW RESEARCH GRANTS

DFG awards grant for SOEP project "Surveying Panel Participants" **Network Members: Integration** of Egocentric Data Collection and Respondent-Driven Sampling"

The aim of this project is to explore the opportunities of new data collection strategies. To this end, existing strategies are supplemented by Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS). RDS is a network sampling strategy in which survey participants act as "seeds" who recruit their network members to participate in the survey.





Project kick-off for "DECIPHE" (Demographic Change and the **Intergenerational Persistence in** Homeownership in Europe)

Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, this project studies how demographic change is affecting homeownership in Europe using longitudinal data. The study will particularly focus on four countries - Germany, Hungary, Spain, and the UK.



Volkswagen**Stiftung**







New perspectives for survey design: Start of DFG project on video interviewing

The survey landscape is rapidly changing: social reality, digitalization, and varying respondent behavior call for new survey modes. To this end, the project explores the feasibility of CALVI interviews for SOEP and strives to develop a survey strategy to maximize response rates.



NEW RESEARCH GRANTS

Inheritance and wealth: new project funded by the **Fritz Thyssen Foundation**

The project "The Role of Inheritances and Parental Background for the Structure of the Wealth Distribution and Top Wealth" wins a grant from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. It uses a unique SOEP sample of high wealth individuals in Germany (over 1,100 net euro millionaires). Researchers investigate how wealth accumulates and reproduces, especially at the top end of wealth distribution.







Official start of ERC grant "WEALTHTRAJECT: Understanding **Trajectories of Wealth Accumulation** and Their Variability"

For the next five years, Philipp Lersch and his colleagues will produce innovative research in the field of wealth. The European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant is endowed with two million euros.





PRIZES AND AWARDS



Congratulations to Julian B. **Axenfeld (Head of Social Cohesion Panel)**

Axenfeld (second from right) wins the prestigious Best PhD Award 2024 at the 26th General Online Research Conference (GOR24) in Cologne. He presented the results of his PhD dissertation "Imputation of missing data from split questionnaire designs in social surveys" on February 23, 2024.





Paper Award for Louise Biddle

We congratulate SOEP researcher Louise Biddle to a publication award from DIW Berlin: Her article, "Context, Health and Migration: A Systematic Review of Natural Experiments," is published in EClinicalMedicine with co-authors Maren Hintermeier, Diogo Costa, Zahia Wasko, and Kayvan Bozorgmehr.



Philipp Lersch one of 100 "most important minds" in Berlin research



Every year, Der Tagesspiegel selects the 100 "most important minds" of the Berlin research landscape. This year, SOEP Research Group Leader Philipp Lersch is one of them. The corresponding Tagesspiegel article is available to subscribers.





PRIZES AND AWARDS

SOEP congratulates **Emilija Meier-Faust**

The Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LIfBi) in Bamberg awards the SOEP researcher its NEPS Publication Award 2024 for her paper "Perceiver Effects and Socioeconomic **Background: Contrasting Parent-Reports against Teacher-Reports** of Elementary School Students' Personality" (co-authored with Prof. Dr. Rainer Watermann from Freie Universität Berlin).

Gender research prize for Laura Buchinger

SOEP PhD candidate Laura Buchinger is one out of six recipients of the Gender Research Prize 2024 awarded by Freie Universität Berlin. Her dissertation "Life Goals Across Adulthood and Old Age: Associations With Personality and Well-Being" wins a prize in the gender equality category.





Best presentation: Edwin von Böventer Prize for Barbara Stacherl

The German section of the Regional Science Association awards SOEP PhD candidate Barbara Stacherl a prize for her presentation on "Where does it hurt? Local general practitioner reductions and hospital utilization."



STAFF NEWS

New Appointments

Sabine Zinn is appointed Acting Director of SOEP by the Board of Trustees for four years. Charlotte Bartels starts her Professorship of Finance at Leipzig University on April 1, 2025. She already holds an interim Professorship as of October 2024.





Start of three new subsamples

2024 marks the start of the new subsample M10 with 2,050 randomly selected migrant households (migrants who have immigrated to Germany from EU countries). Additionally, the refreshment sample M8d is conducted to help evaluate the Skilled Immigration Act (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz), which came into effect March 1, 2020. The IAB provides the random sample of 328 migrant households. For the first time, a new subsample S was surveyed – a random sample of the general resident population (5,120 households).

DATA NEWS



Testing a new survey strategy

SOEP aims to explore the possibility of quarterly surveys and their implications for data management and availability. To this end, the SOEP Research Data Center starts an initial pilot round in 2024.

CO₂ footprint: **New experiment**

Does information on the CO2 footprint affect people's own behavior to reduce CO2? SOEP researchers have designed an experiment using information treatment material for survey respondents. The treatment is included in selected SOEP-CORE surveys this year.

KNOW-LEDGE TRANSFER

"Sozialbericht 2024" published

This comprehensive publication contains numerous analyses of living conditions in Germany, compiled by experts in official statistics and social research. Many results are based on SOEP data. The report is published by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), and the Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB). It covers a wide range of topics, from education, the labor market and income, to health, values, and attitudes. SOEP researchers contributed articles on income, poverty, loneliness, life satisfaction, and refugees, among others.



Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung





SOEP at the "Long Night of the Sciences" in Berlin

SOEP is part of DIW Berlin's representation at the annual event, in 2024 held on May 22. Survey manager Florian Griese presents a poster on "The evaluation of the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (BEEG)," which is met with great interest.









SOEP researchers co-write DIW's most clicked Weekly **Reports**

Mattis Beckmannshagen's article in DIW Weekly Report 16/2024 (8,835 clicks on landing page/pdf) addresses working hours and work volume in Germany - mass media attention followed.

In DIW Weekly Report 5/2024 (8,159 clicks on landings page/pdf), Markus M. Grabka analyzes the development of wages and inequality in Germany.

In DIW Weekly Report 17/2024 (7,165 clicks on landing page/pdf), Jürgen Schupp and his co-authors investigate the effects of the newly introduced "Bürgergeld" in selected job centers.

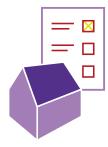




KNOW-LEDGE TRANSFER

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

THE SURVEY



23,659

S•EP Core

successfully interviewed households

wave of SOEP data

SOEP RESEARCH OUTPUT



research projects at the SOEP



euros in outside project funding



papers by SOEP staff in Web of Science™ **Core Collection Publications**



papers published worldwide using SOEP data

WORLDWIDE **USERS**





new SOEP data users

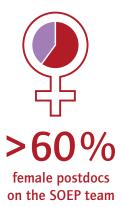
SOEP TEAM @ DIW BERLIN



members of the SOEP team



doctoral candidates





completed dissertations



quest researchers

WEBSITE TRAFFIC



288,678 visits RDC website 226,036 visits DIW/SOEP website

TOP PUBLICATIONS 2024

Journal Publications by SOEP Team Members in A-Journals





THE ECONOMIC JOURNAL

Bartels, Charlotte, Simon Jäger, Natalie Obergruber. 2024. Long-Term Effects of Equal Sharing: **Evidence from Inheritance Rules** for Land. The Economic Journal 134, 664, 3137-3172.

https://doi.org/10.1093/ej/ueae040



Fossen, Frank M. and Levent Neyse. 2024. Entrepreneurship, Management, and Cognitive Reflection: A Preregistered Replication Study with Extensions. *Entrepreneurship*

Theory and Practice 48 (4), 1082-1109. https://doi.org/10.1177/10422587231211005



Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

Buchinger, Laura, Theresa M. Entringer, David Richter, Gert G. Wagner, Denis Gerstorf, et al. 2024. Codevelopment of life goals and the Big Five personality traits across adulthood and old age. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 126 (2), 346-368.

http://doi.org/10.1037/pspp0000477







POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Solaz, Anne, Lidia Panico, Alexandra Sheridan, Thorsten Schneider, Jascha Dräger, et al. 2024. Does Family Structure Account for Child Achievement Gaps by Parental Education? Findings for England, France, Germany and the United States. *Population and* Development Review 50 (2), 461-512. http://doi.org/10.1111/padr.12623

SOEP IN THE MEDIA

Selected Media Coverage 2024

Süddeutsche Zeitung

July 25, 2024

Bastian Brinkmann

Plattformökonomie: Wenn die App der Chef ist

Pling, hier kommt der nächste Auftrag: Immer mehr Menschen sagt eine Online-Plattform, was sie als Nächstes zu tun haben. Die Jobs sind oft prekär.

Handelsblatt

August 5, 2024

Tohias Gürtler

So viel Gehalt macht zufrieden

Aus dem Handelsblatt-Archiv: Martin Schröder hat statistisch untersucht, was Menschen zufrieden macht – und welche Rolle die Höhe des Gehalts und die Arbeit dabei spielen. Die Ergebnisse des Soziologen erstaunen.

<u>FrankfurterRu</u>ndschau

July 5, 2024

Ioachim Wille

Reiche verursachen doppelt so viele **Emissionen wie arme Haushalte**

Fliegen hat dabei einen großen Einfluss, zeigt eine Studie. Doch beim Wohnen gibt es eine Überraschung.



August 21, 2024

Niklas Ottersbach (audio)

Erbe im Osten -Eine Vermögensmauer teilt Deutschland

Eigentum ist in Deutschland ungleich verteilt. Der Vermögensaufbau in Ostdeutschland hinkt dem im Westen hinterher – erst DDR-Planwirtschaft, dann Arbeitslosigkeit und Lohnunterschiede. Der Ruf nach einer Reform der Erbschaftssteuer wird lauter.

t-online.

August 5, 2024

Christine Holthoff

Abschaffung der Mütterrente: So viel weniger hätten Rentnerinnen

Noch immer ringt die Ampel um den Haushalt. Erhebliches Sparpotenzial steckt bei der Mütterrente. Doch eine Abschaffung hätte schwere Folgen.

July 5, 2024

Alexandra Simbrich

Im Süden wird man älter. Lebenserwartung in **Deutschlandmit großen** regionalen Unterschieden

Gesund zu altern, wünschen sich viele. Doch ob das klappt, hängt teilweise von der Region und dem Geschlecht ab.

SPIEGEL ONLINE

June 13, 2024

Nina Weber

Gesundheit von Müttern verschlechtert sich nach der Geburt

Laut einer Untersuchung aus Deutschland steigen in den ersten vier Jahren der Mutterund Antidepressiva. Schlafmangel ist dafür nur eine mögliche Ursache.

ZEITAMAGAZIN

May 30, 2024

Wenke Husmann

Nur ein Follower, kein Freund

In einer vernetzten Gesellschaft haben immer mehr Menschen das Gefühl, nicht dabei zu sein. Sie sind nicht einsam, sie fühlen sich einsam. Ein ernst zu nehmender Irrtum.

monitor

August 1, 2024

Lisa Seemann. Andreas Spinrath (TV)

Markus M. Grabka in der Reportage "Reichtum verpflichtet? Die Verantwortung der Superreichen"

Sparzwang, Rezession, Unsicherheit und Bildungskrise. Deutschland erstarrt in Krisenstimmung. Leben Wohlhabende davon unberührt? MONITOR blickt in die sonst oft verschlossene Welt der Millionäre und Milliardäre. Sie genießen zahlreiche Privilegien – nicht nur im Steuerrecht. Aber werden sie ihrer gesellschaftlichen Verantwortung gerade in Krisenzeiten gerecht? Und warum werden sie von der Politik nicht stärker in die Pflicht genommen?

DIE

January 30, 2024

Tina Groll

Mindestlohn: Dumpinglöhne gibt's nicht mehr

Deutschland hatte einst den größten Niedriglohnsektor Europas. Exklusive Daten zeigen: Der Mindestlohn hat diesen Sektor verkleinert – und die Reallöhne steigen lassen.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

April 17, 2024

Patrick Welter

Die Deutschen arbeiten so wenia und so viel wie noch nie

Deutsche Arbeitnehmer arbeiten immer weniger. Doch weil immer mehr Menschen in den Arbeitsmarkt hineingezogen werden, arbeiten die Beschäftigten in der Summe so viel wie noch nie. Vor allem Frauen möchten mehr arbeiten.

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

March 20, 2024

Wohnen in der Stadt: Wie eng ist zu eng?









Part 2

SOEP STRUCTURE



SOEP MISSION



SOEP team at DIW Berlin

The German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) is an independent, non-partisan, research-driven infrastructure unit that serves the international scientific community by providing nationally representative longitudinal data (the SOEP study) and related datasets (SOEP-Related Studies) on private households in Germany.

The SOEP team is recognized internationally for its high-level scientific research on survey methodological and theoretical as well as applied and policy-oriented topics. The SOEP works to communicate research findings to the broader public in an easily understandable way, thus contributing to knowledge transfer from research to society.

The SOEP study is designed from a multidisciplinary perspective to provide data for basic, applied, and policy-relevant research that will improve our understanding of human behavior, economic decisions, mechanisms of social change, and the impacts of political decisions. It takes the household context, the neighborhood, and different institutional settings and policy regimes into

account, while also making use of data from external sources. Boost samples are added regularly to keep pace with societal change. SOEP datasets are linked to data from other sources in line with data protection regulations to expand the potential for scientific analysis. The SOEP's partnerships with studies worldwide promote the use of SOEP data in international comparative research.

Research questions and survey contents are solely determined by scientific criteria.

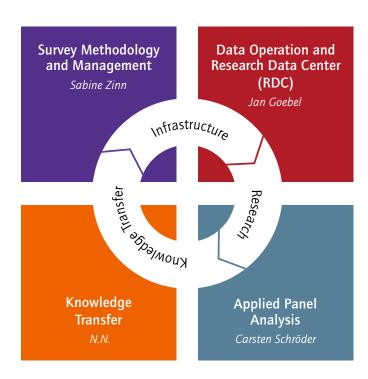
The complete mission statement can be found on our website.

The SOEP is one of Germany's most important research data infrastructures in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences and is proud to be part of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI). As part of the Leibniz Association, the SOEP receives funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Germany's state governments.

SOEP STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The independent, research-driven, SOEP infrastructure comprises four divisions, each carrying out a wide range of tasks to ensure the high quality of its infrastructure, research, and transfer. Besides conceptualizing studies and samples (Survey Methodology and Management), SOEP staff prepare data for user-friendly analysis and distribute them to researchers (Data Operation and Research Data Center). Applied Panel Analysis analyzes the data while Knowledge Transfer provides training for SOEP data users and disseminates SOEP-based research findings throughout society - to both survey respondents and the general public.

The SOEP infrastructure is managed by the SOEP Director, who is also a member of the DIW Executive Board. Each of the four divisions is managed by a head. The SOEP Survey Committee, which comprises up to ten highly recognized researchers appointed by the DIW Board of Trustees, serves as a scientific advisory board to the SOEP.



SOEP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Advisory Body SOEP SURVEY COMMITTEE

SOEP Director

Supported by: **Team Assistance and Guest Services** Research and Project Management

Survey Methodology and Management

DIVISION HEAD

Survey Management

Sampling and Weighting

Survey Methods

Data Operation and Research Data Center (RDC)

DIVISION HEAD

Data Management

Metadata and Data

Contract Management

Documentation

Data Generation and Testing

SOEPhotline and Guest Services

DIVISION HEAD

Applied Panel

Analysis

Empirical and Methodological Research on Distributional Web Content Analysis

Policy Evaluation

Education and Health

Integration and Migration

DIVISION HEAD

Documentation and Reporting,

Knowledge

Transfer

Translation and Editing

Event Management

SOEPcampus Education/ Online Workshops

SOEP Communications Management

Research Group Life Course and Inequality

Doctoral Candidates

BGSS, BSoE, DIW Berlin GC, DrPH, Inequalities and LIFE*

DIW and SOEP Research Fellows

- Based at the SOEP but not part of its organizational structure
- * BGSS: Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- * BSoE: Berlin School of Economics
- * DIW Berlin GC: DIW Berlin Graduate Center of Economic and Social Research
- * DrPH: Doctoral Program for Public Health of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Bielefeld University
- * Inequalities: Public Economics & Inequality Doctoral Program at Freie Universität Berlin
- * LIFE: International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course

SOEP SURVEY COMMITTEE

The SOEP Survey Committee is appointed by the DIW Berlin Board of Trustees. The members shown represent the appointment period for 2024. They provide advice on the further development of the SOEP survey and SOEP user services and

meet at least once a year with the SOEP team. We are very grateful to this impressive group of researchers for their commitment to work with us in building and enhancing the SOEP.

Members of the SOEP Survey Committee



Prof. Dr. Jutta Mata (Chair) Chair of Health Psychology at University of Mannheim



Prof. Conchita D'Ambrosio, Ph.D. Professor of Economics at University of Luxembourg



PD Dr. habil. Christina Boll Head of the "Family and Family Policy" Department at German Youth Institute (DJI)



Prof. Dr. Frank Kalter Professor of General Sociology at University of Mannheim



PD Dr. Oliver Lipps Head of the FORS Methodological Research Unit and Private Docent at the *Institute of Sociology*, University of Berne



Prof. Dr. Cäzilia Loibl, CFP Professor and Chair of Consumer Sciences at Ohio State University, Columbus



Annette Scherpenzeel, Ph.D. Senior Researcher at Netherlands Institute for Health Service Research, Utrecht



Dr. Tobias Schmidt Senior Researcher in the Research Centre of Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt am Main



Prof. Dr. Joachim Winter Chair of Empirical Economic Research at LMU Munich



Prof. Dr. Philippe Van Kerm Professor of Social Inequality and Social Policy at University of Luxembourg on a joint appointment with Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)



SOEP Director Prof. Dr. Sabine Zinn Acting Director of SOEP

SOEP DIRECTORATE

In 2024, the SOEP director and their administration team are responsible for around 80 staff members, as well as trainees, doctoral researchers, grant holders, and about 30 student assistants. The director's team provides a wide range of research and administrative support services as well as research and project management to the entire SOEP team.

Administrative support activities include liaising with the SOEP Survey Committee as well as coordinating and facilitating administrative processes between the SOEP unit and DIW Berlin's financial and human resources units.

The SOEP infrastructure is managed by the Director (who is also a member of the DIW Executive Board) with the help of four divisions: Survey Methodology and Management, Data Operations and Research Data Center, Applied Panel Analysis, and Knowledge Transfer. The Research Group "Life Course and Inequality" is assigned to the director to deepen the research portfolio of the SOEP in the field of inequality research. The director sets the direction for the diverse activities of the SOEP, ranging from independent research to infrastructure provision and defining strategic goals for the future development of the SOEP.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

The Survey Methodology and Management division team is responsible for all aspects of data collection, ranging from sampling and survey design as well as questionnaire development to research on selectiveness in the data. Experts from the team work closely with the other SOEP divisions, the SOEP Survey Committee, and with the institute that conducts the fieldwork for the SOEP survey.

The team is also responsible for the SOEP refugee and migration samples and the Innovation Sample. The latter provides a framework for testing new and innovative concepts, questions, and survey instruments for potential inclusion in the main SOEP-Core study. A further area of the team's work is non-response analyses, weighting, and data documentation.



Prof. Dr. Sabine Zinn Division Head

DATA OPERATION AND RESEARCH DATA CENTER

Experts from the Research Data Center of the SOEP (RDC) prepare the survey data for both longitudinal and cross-sectional scientific analysis. They generate numerous user-friendly variables and impute missing data. They also provide access to small-scale regional codes through a variety of secure data channels. The team provides SOEP data to researchers worldwide in the form of scientific use files, based on a data use contract. Researchers can analyze datasets that are subject to stricter data protection regulations either through remote data access or at a secure guest workstation at the SOEP. Comprehensive documentation on all SOEP data is published online either as downloadable PDF files or on paneldata.org, the open-source documentation system developed by the SOEP staff. An overview of the SOEP-Core data can be found in the SOEPcompanion.



Dr. Jan Goebel Division Head

APPLIED PANEL ANALYSIS

The Applied Panel Analysis division is made up of senior researchers as well as doctoral candidates from a variety of graduate programs. Key research areas of the team include distributional analyses, labor economics, education and health, (subjective) well-being, as well as integration and migration. The team's research is based primarily on SOEP data but also on other international datasets such as the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF), to which the team contributes.

The ongoing research with these datasets ensures that the quality of the data is monitored regularly, systematically, and meticulously – from the questionnaire modules to the survey data. The team works closely with colleagues from across DIW.



Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder Division Head



N.N. Division Head

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

The Knowledge Transfer division provides a wide variety of services to three main target groups: survey respondents, the general public, and (potential) data users. Communication with survey respondents is managed through the study website, information materials, and interviewer briefings.

Research results are disseminated to the general public (including politics, media, and civil society) through publications in international journals and (policy) reports. Examples include the DIW Berlin Weekly Report and the "Social Report." SOEP analyses also flow into various official government reports. Other channels include DIW social media, high-profile public events, the annual report, and press conferences.

Within academia, (potential) data users are the most important target group. SOEPcampus workshops and SOEPtutorials offer young researchers an introduction to the SOEP data. A wide range of information and documentation materials are made available, including online resources, to assist researchers in their work with SOEP data (e.g., SOEP Survey Papers, paneldata.org, SOEP website).



Prof. Dr. Philipp Lersch Research Group Leader

RESEARCH GROUP "LIFE COURSE AND **INEQUALITY**"

The "Life Course and Inequality" research group investigates how social inequalities develop across and between the life courses of individuals within diverse and changing societal contexts. Working at the intersection of sociology, demography, and economics, the group primarily focuses on economic wealth and labor market inequalities. The group predominantly utilizes international longitudinal data from household surveys and public registers, analyzing these data with a theory-driven approach and employing modern quantitative methods. The project WEALTHTRAJECT, funded by the European Research Council, focuses on the diverse trajectories of wealth accumulation, emphasizing the variability in wealth patterns over individuals' lives. DECIPHE, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, examines how demographic changes impact the intergenerational persistence of homeownership in Europe with partners in Hungary, Spain, and the UK.

Part 3

RESEARCH BY SOEP STAFF



KEY RESEARCH AREAS

In this chapter, we present the cornerstones of the research carried out by SOEP researchers on site in Berlin as well as relevant developments in 2024. For the list of publications by SOEP staff, please see the appendix.

The researchers working at SOEP engage in conceptually advanced and methodologically sophisticated scientific research in economics, sociology,

psychology, other fields in the social sciences, and survey methodology. Their research focuses on important topics and issues in modern societies, all founded on an empirical and analytical understanding of scientific research.

The SOEP primarily works on the following four research topic areas and exemplary questions.

SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND DISTRIBUTION

This research area deals with the question of how equally or unequally societal resources such as income and wealth are distributed, and how differences in access to education and the labor market create risks and opportunities.

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING, PERSONALITY, AND HEALTH

Researchers examine how living conditions affect health and well-being and what role personality plays across the life course.

MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

This research area investigates the migration history, living situation, and integration of migrants (Migration and Social Transformation).

SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND DATA SCIENCE

Experts in survey methodology and data science are working to develop and further improve the SOEP study.

SPOTLIGHT ON IAB-SOEP AND IAB-BAMF-SOEP-BASED RESEARCH **ON MIGRATION**

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF INTEGRATION

Since 1984, the SOEP has been able to describe and analyze processes Through cooperation with the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) and the Research Center of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees of Refugees, provide unique microdata for research on voluntary and forced migrants' life course trajectories. In the following, we highlight how this data contributed to some of the key migration and integration insights published in 2024.





Do naturalization intentions rise when legal hurdles are lowered?

The possibility of dual citizenship is the strongest factor in encouraging naturalization intentions. Reducing the waiting period from 8 to 4 years, however, renders only modest results. This is the main result of a paper by Yuliya Kosyakova (Head of the Research Department Migration and International Labour Studies at IAB) and her co-author. Generally, naturalization intentions are highest among refugees (88 percent), followed by non-EU citizens (45 percent) and EU citizens (22 percent). The latter have reduced propensity of opting for naturalization since they already benefit from citizen rights in a different EU country. Refugees, on the other hand, often come from economically disadvantaged, politically unstable countries, thus having stronger needs for security and access in the host country.



Kosyakova, Yuliya, Andreas Damelang.

2024. The causal effect of liberalizing legal requirements on naturalization intentions. Social Forces, 1-23.

DOI:10.1093/sf/soae170

Regional attitudes toward refugees influence asylum recognition rates

Drawing on data from the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees in Germany, Lidwina Gundacker and co-authors analyze regional disparities in asylum chances and the role of the residents' attitudes toward refugees. They find that asylum applications have lower chances in regions with more immigration-averse residents. In fact, a ten percentage points higher share of residents with concerns about immigration decreases the approval probability by one percentage point.

The researchers also investigate whether asylum decisions are affected by a high workload and the resulting time pressure on decision-makers. They found no proof that these factors systematically lower asylum chances. Even in regions with already high concerns about refugees, approval rates do not decrease further due to high workload and stress.

These results shed light on the influence of regional political contexts on asylum processes: they suggest that caseworkers may be consciously or unconsciously influenced by the immigration attitudes of their regional peers.

Gundacker, Lidwina, Yuliya Kosyakova, Gerald Schneider.

2024. How regional attitudes towards immigration shape the chance to obtain asylum: Evidence from Germany. Migration Studies 13.

DOI:10.1093/migration/mnae002





Refugees send remittances abroad less often than other migrants

In DIW Weekly Report 49/2024, SOEP Acting Director Sabine Zinn and SOEP researcher Adriana Cardozo Silva focus on remittances (i.e., money transfers abroad) sent by refugees and other migrants. The topic is widely debated: One critical assumption frequently voiced is that most of the money received via state subsidies is subsequently transferred abroad, especially by refugees, and that the easy transferring process ultimately attracts more asylum seekers.

According to the authors, the debate does not reflect reality. Their results show that refugees send remittances abroad more rarely than migrants without a refugee background. In fact, the share of non-refugee migrants sending remittances has been increasing in the past ten years while the share of refugees has declined. In 2021, roughly 12 percent of migrants and seven percent of refugees sent remittances abroad.

Ultimately, remittances make an important contribution to the migrants' home countries and can be an important instrument in achieving sustainable development goals.

Adriana Cardozo Silva, Sabine Zinn.

2024. Refugees send remittances abroad less often than other migrants. DIW Weekly Report 49/2024.

SELECTED THIRD-PARTY FUNDED PROJECTS

In 2024, SOEP researchers were actively involved in almost 50 third-party funded research projects, most of which include cooperations with universities and/or other research institutes. They are financed with about eleven million euros in funding by the German Research Foundation, various federal ministries, or the Leibniz Association. Due to the wide variety of projects, the following overview highlights a selection of funded projects in 2024, while the remaining are provided in list format. More details can be found on our website (Research Projects).



FOCUS: Social Inequalities and Distribution

WEALTHTRAJECT: Understanding Trajectories of Wealth Accumulation and Their Variability

As part of the ERC Consolidator Grant WEALTHTRAJECT, this project will break new ground in wealth research and further expand the range of high-quality data collection by SOEP. WEALTHTRAJECT is the first project to comprehensively and systematically investigate diversity in long-term wealth trajectories within and between social groups.

Project Management: Philipp Lersch

Project Period: December 1, 2024 - November 30, 2029

Funded by: European Research Council under the European Union's Horizon Europe program In Cooperation with: Alexandra Killewald (University of Michigan), Tatjana Meschede (Brandeis University), Emanuela Struffolino (University of Milan), Øyvind Wiborg (University of Oslo)

Other projects within the focus are:

- · Wealth-Holders at the Top (WATT): An Interdisciplinary Research Network
- · Perceptions of Inequalities and Justice in Europe (PIJE)
- Life-course Income Dynamics (LINDY)
- The intergenerational reproduction of wealth inequality and its socio-demographic conditions in Germany (InterVerm)
- Employment Risks and the Quality of Work in the Digital Transformation: Using the SOEP for Empirical Analysis of AI, Platform Work, and Digital Work
- · Groups put at Particular Risk by COVID 19 (GaPRisk)
- Wealth Accumulation in Germany: Current Trends and Drivers
- Inequality, Taxation and Redistribution: Insights from a German/French Perspective (EQUITAX)
- DECIPHE Demographic Change and the Intergenerational Persistence in Homeownership in Europe (three subprojects)
- Studying Regional Development Dynamics and their Political Consequences: SOEP RegioHub at Bielefeld University
- · The role of inherited wealth for wealth inequality in Germany
- German Social Cohesion Panel (SCP) of the Research Institute for Social Cohesion (RISC)
- · Basic Income Pilot Project

GDR-Past and Mental Health: Risk and Protection Factors (DDR-PSYCH)

This project sheds light on the impact of the East German past on personality traits

and mental health within the German population and thereby fills an important research gap. While the former German Democratic Republic (GDR), often known in English as "East Germany," and its socio-political system have remained a point of reference for the analysis of societal, social, and individual processes in Germany, little is known about how GDR-specific circumstances have shaped personality and mental health. The interdisciplinary research group DDR-PSYCH is lead by researchers of the University Medical Center in Mainz.

Project Management: Theresa Entringer Project Period: April 1, 2019 - July 31, 2025

Funded by: BMBF

In Cooperation with: Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and Mainz University Medical Center, University of Greifswald and University Medicine, Robert Koch Institute

FOCUS: Subjective Well-Being, Personality, and Health

Other projects within the focus are:

- Rationality and Competition: The Economic Performance of Individuals and Firms
- · Dynamics of Mental Health of Migrants (DMHM)
- The economic and social impact of COVID-19 mitigation policies: A cross-country analysis of macro events
- Second Nationwide Antibody Study "Living in Germany Corona Monitoring" (RKI-SOEP-2)
- · Vaccine hesitancy: Exploring the role of temporal and cross-country variation in COVID
- Populism and Narratives of Social Mobility

FOCUS: Migration and Integration

Longitudinal Study of Ukrainian Refugees in Germany (SUARE)

The refugee migration from Ukraine after the start of the war in 2022 differs from previous waves of refugee migration. In the context of this DFG-funded project, researchers pursue the following two goals: (1) establish and further develop a longitudinal

data infrastructure on the socio-economic situation of Ukrainian refugees in Germany. As a part of the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees, the sample of 2,500 households of Ukranian refugees will be integrated into the main SOEP data (SOEP-Core); and (2) use the data from this project to investigate the specific institutional, economic, and social framework conditions of refugee migration from Ukraine to Germany in order to analyze their significance for issues of health and discrimination through comparison with (a) refugees in Germany from other cultural, political, and socio-economic contexts; (b) non-refugee immigrants in Germany; and (c) the native population.

Project Management: Herbert Brücker and Yuliya Kosyakova (IAB), Sabine Zinn, Stefan Liebig (FU Berlin) Project Period: June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2026

Funded by: DFG

In Cooperation with: IAB, BAMF-FZ

Other projects within the focus are:

- · Longitudinal Aspects of the Interaction between Health and Integration of Refugees in Germany (LARGE)
- IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees in Germany
- IAB-SOEP Migration Sample

FOCUS: Survey Methodology and Data Science

Expansion of the social and spatial research data infrastructure SoRa: FAIR, intelligent, integrative (SoRa+)

The interdisciplinary linking of data from different sources from different disciplines through linked (research) data infrastructure services has become more and more important. As part of the pioneering project "Social and Spatial Research Data Infrastructure (SoRa)," a technical and organizational infrastructure was developed to ensure the prototypical linking of the research data infrastructures of GESIS, SOEP, and the Monitor of Settlement and Open Space Development (IÖR-Monitor) via interoperable and open interfaces. SoRa+ is the continuation project which aims to expand the infrastructure for permanent operational use and to demonstrate its functionality using case studies.

Project Management: Jan Goebel

Project Period: May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2026

Funded by: DFG

In Cooperation with: GESIS, IÖR

Other projects within the focus are:

- · Personality and social relationship dynamics: Short- and medium-term processes in daily life (DIPS)
- · SOEP-Transfer: Research Data for Journalists and Contemporary Historians
- KonsortSWD
- Bremen Initiative to Foster Early Childhood Development (BRISE)
- The Linked Employer-Employee Study of the Socio-Economic Panel, Vers. 2 (SOEP-LEE2)
- Simulation of educational trajectories, taking latent decision-making processes into account - in the framework of the research group "Multi-sectoral Regional Microsimulation Model" (MikroSim)
- · Video-interviewing as part of a targeted multi-mode design in household panel surveys (CALVI)
- ENTAILab Research Infrastructure and Innovation Lab
- . Surveying Panel Participants' Network Members: Integration of **Egocentric Data Collection and Respondent-Driven Sampling**



WORLDWIDE RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS





























































The SOEP has a large number of longstanding and formal, often contractually secured collaborations with Leibniz institutions, universities, and non-university research institutions. Through these national and international collaborations, SOEP is able to form an excellent research network that pools expertise and fosters interdisciplinary synergies.





INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

COMPLETED DISSERTATIONS





Ellen Heidinger

"The social support system of refugees: Barriers and bridges to support"

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, November 22, 2024 Supervisors: Sabine Zinn, Zerrin Salikutluk Structured PhD program: International Max Planck Research School



David Kasprowski

"'Queering' Social Class. On the connection between sexual orientation, gender identity and social class"

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, April 10, 2024 Supervisors: Anette Eva Fasanq, Mirjam Fischer Structured PhD program: BGSS



Johannes Seebauer

"Shocks and the Labor Market: Five Empirical Essays in Economics"

Freie Universität Berlin, November 19, 2024 Supervisors: Carsten Schröder, Alexander S. Kritikos Structured PhD program: DIW Graduate Center

Part 4

SOEP DATA AND SERVICES

THE PORTFOLIO **OF SOEP STUDIES**

SOEP-CORE

The term SOEP-Core refers to the main Socio-Economic Panel, a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households in Germany launched in 1984 as part of a collaborative research center of the German Research Foundation. Since the SOEP began, it has repeatedly added new subsamples, such as those with a special focus on migrants, refugees, families, and the wealthy. SOEP now surveys around 20,000 households and 30,000 individuals every year. Some of the many topics of SOEP-Core include household composition, education, occupational biographies, employment, earnings, health, and life satisfaction.

> **SOEP INNOVATION SAMPLE (SOEP-IS)**

The longitudinal SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS) was launched in 2011 for the study of innovative research questions as well as innovative survey methods. SOEP-IS publishes a call every year inviting researchers worldwide to propose their own questions or modules for inclusion in SOEP-IS. Examples include economic behavioral experiments, implicit association tests (IAT), and complex procedures for measuring time use (day reconstruction method, DRM).



S•**E**PIS



SOEP-CROSS COUNTRIES (SOEP-XC)

The SOEP team also links and harmonizes SOEP data with data from other countries. This enables the use of the SOEP data in cross-national comparative analysis.

First, the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) provides harmonized information on education, employment, income, health, and life satisfaction from nine different international household panel studies. In addition to the German SOEP data, these include data from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, Japan, and Australia.

Second, the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) is a database of harmonized microdata from over 50 countries including income, employment, and demographic data.

Third, the Luxembourg Wealth Study (LWS) database contains comparable wealth data for 19 countries.

SOEP-RELATED STUDIES (SOEP-RS)

SOEP-Related Studies (SOEP-RS) are designed and implemented in close cooperation with the SOEP team and structured similarly to the SOEP. They typically incorporate questions from the SOEP questionnaire to validate their results. Some examples of SOEP-RS include BASE-II (Berlin Aging Study II), FiD (Families in Germany), SOEP-ECEC Quality (Early Childhood Education and Care Quality in the SOEP), SOEP-LEE 1&2 (SOEP Linked Employer-Employee Survey), BIP (Bonn Intervention Panel), BRISE (Bremen Initiative to Foster Early Childhood Development), ZHP-FGZ (Cohesion Panel of the Research Institute for Social Cohesion), and IAB-BiB/FReDA-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees from Ukraine.

SURVEY MODES

Jennifer Weitz, Michael Ruland, Thomas Weiß

All surveys are carried out by infas Institute for Applied Social Science GmbH. The SOEP uses a mixed-mode approach to offer respondents a survey mode that suits them best, with the aim of maximizing their willingness to participate. The following survey modes are used; however, most households are initially contacted in CAPI mode due to the design.

In 2024, all subsamples include the following instruments, which are offered in the modes shown according to their design: household questionnaire, individual questionnaire and biography questionnaire. Depending on the sub-sample, the following instruments are also available: child and/or youth questionnaire, deceased persons, competence test "Lust auf DJ", and the so-called "screening questionnaire" (designed to differentiate between non-migrant, migrant, and refugee background).



Computer-Assisted Personal Interview



Computer-Assisted Self-Administered Interview



Computer-Assisted Web Interview



Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview



Paper-and-Pencil Interview



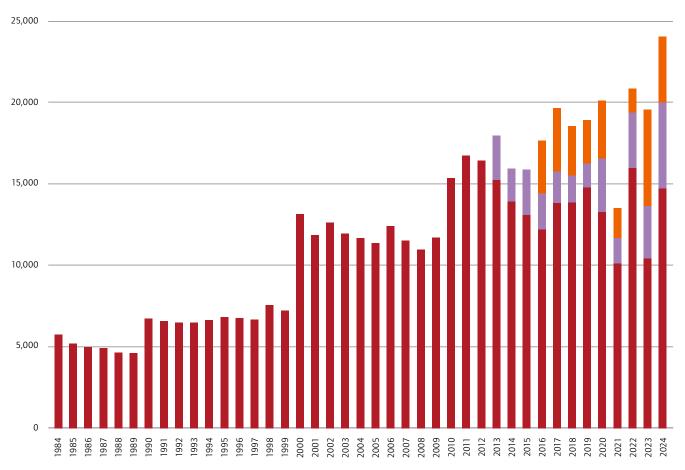
Computer-Assisted Live Video Interview

SOEP-CORE SAMPLES (A-S)

Katharina Sandbrink, Lennard Liebich, Paula Lingg

SOEP's main sample was surveyed between the end of February and December 2024. The Core survey includes samples A-R and, as of 2024, the refreshment Sample S (see below). On the household level, a response rate of 60.7 percent was achieved for A-R, with 10,337 interviews. Additionally, 13,745 individuals were interviewed, the response rate equaling 42.4 percent. For more detailed information, please consult figure 1.





- Core (A-S without M samples)
- IAB-SOEP MIG (M1; M2; M7; M8a, b, c, d; M10)
- IAB-BAMF-SOEP REF (M3-M6; M9)

New refresher sample S

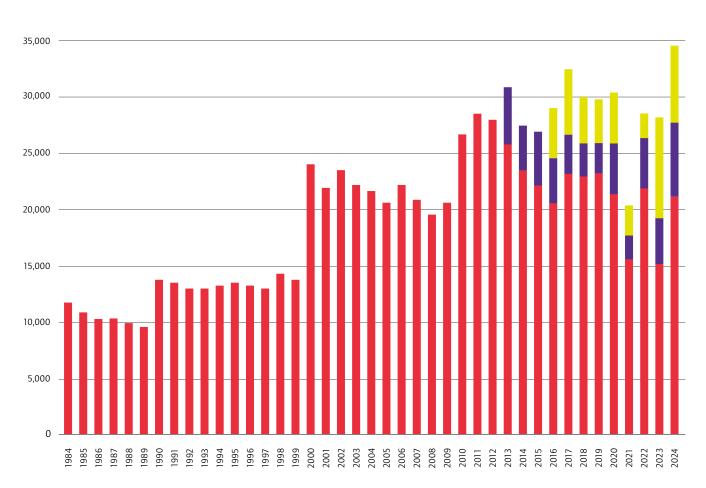
Sample S is a residents' registration office sample drawn from the general population aged 18 and over. This sample was surveyed for the first time in 2024 and included in SOEP-Core. During the field phase between the beginning of March and end of December 2024, the mixed mode design of Core was used, excluding PAPI. The survey of the S sample recruited a total of 5.786 households for the panel.

Topics and newly introduced instruments

A central focus in 2024 was the topic of wealth. Within this module, individuals were asked to provide information on their wealth portfolio and the shares held therein. In addition, a test of cognitive competence was conducted on all adults.

All salaried employees received an additional short questionnaire on the topic of working hours. It was included on behalf of the office of the Minimum Wage Commission, with the goal of gaining a better understanding of compliance with the minimum wage in Germany. This year, the focus at household level was on collecting information on the living environment.

Figure 2 Sample Sizes (adults aggregated)



- Core (A-S without M samples) Adults
- IAB-SOEP MIG (M1; M2; M7; M8a, b, c, d; M10) Adults
- IAB-BAMF-SOEP REF (M3-M6; M9) Adults

THE IAB-SOEP MIGRATION AND **IAB-BAMF-SOEP REFUGEE SAMPLES**

Chaima Ballamkadem, Michael Ruland, Theresa Büchner

Samples of the migrant population are marked by an "M". In 2024, the subsamples M₁, M₂, M₇, and M8a-c were surveyed. Additionally, IAB and SOEP introduced refresher samples M8d and M10 (see details below).

IAB-SOEP Migration samples M₁, M₂, M₇, M₈a-c

These samples were surveyed between February and December 2024. With 2,818 interviews, this wave yielded a response rate of 50.6 percent on the household level. On the individual level, the response rate mounted to 33.8 percent, which led to 3,442 interviews.

IAB-SOEP Refreshment samples M8d and M10

M8d is a refresher sample drawn to help evaluate the Skilled Immigration Act (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz) which came into effect March 1, 2020. The IAB provided information to draw a random sample of this population. 6.9 percent of households took part (515 interviews). Sample M10 adds to the existing samples of adults with a non-German EU citizenship. Surveying reached a response rate of 7.5 percent (2,505 households interviewed).

The IAB-BAMF-SOEP Refugee Samples & SUARE-Samples (M3-6, M9)

The field phase for the refugee and SUARE samples ran from beginning of May until mid-November 2024. Surveying included CAPI, CASI, and CAWI modes. For the first time, CAPI households were also given the opportunity to take part in the survey completely online following the CAPI contact. The survey was conducted in German, English, Arabic, Farsi, Turkish, Russian, and Ukrainian.

On the household level, an overall response rate of 58.5 percent was achieved (4,371 interviews). Response rates were highest in sample M9, in particular among Ukrainian refugees (79.4 percent).

THE SOEP INNOVATION **SAMPLE (SOEP-IS)**

Jonas Kemmerling, Maximilian Ponert, Thomas Weiß

The 2024 SOEP-IS field phase was carried out between the end of October 2024 and May 2025. Since surveying extended into 2025, final data were not yet available at the time of printing of this report.

The survey generally follows a mixed-mode design. In the 2024–2025 survey wave the modes were CAPI, CAWI and CALVI. In 2024, after a pre-test, the CALVI mode was integrated into the SOEP-IS survey for the first time. Among existing respondents of the last survey wave, 50 percent were assigned to the CALVI mode. In the 2023 refreshment sample, while the remaining cases were offered CAWI. 25 percent started with CALVI. The rest had been offered the mode used in the last survey wave, which was CAPI and CAWI. In total, 1,800 households, as well as all individuals in the household, were asked to be interviewed using the CALVI mode. Besides this, around 1,200 households started in CAPI and around 1,600 households in CAWI.

Introducing the CALVI mode

Facing declining response rates, increasing survey costs, and diverging respondent preferences, the SOEP must regularly innovate its survey methodology in order to remain relevant, accessible, and appealing to respondents. Given the growing prevalence of videoconferencing in many people's lives, CALVI can act as a new alternative survey mode. It offers a potentially less expensive and more flexible option to Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) while still providing the interviewer support, which is not available in Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI).

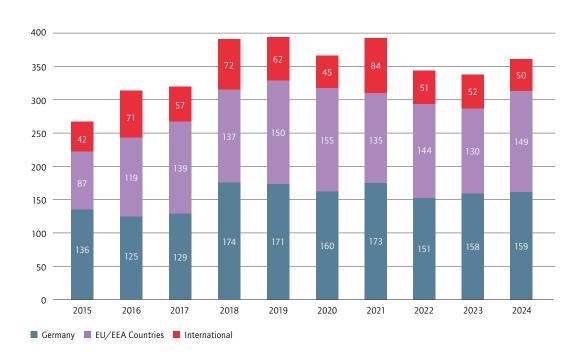
The CALVI project is funded by the German Research Foundation under its Infrastructure Priority Program (InfSPP) and initially runs from June 2024 to May 2027. Based on the results from the 2024-25 wave, in the 2025-2026 wave, SOEP-IS households will be experimentally assigned to CAPI, CALVI, or CAWI conditions.

Innovative modules

In the survey year 2024, SOEP-IS introduced 10 innovative modules, covering various topics such as work life, family, migration, or climate change. Effects of Major Work, for example, investigates long-term changes in keeping boundaries between work and non-work life in response to major life events. In the childfree module, respondents are asked whether they have children or would like to have children - with the goal of gathering information on childfree, reproductive status and its potential concealment.

NEW DATA USERS 2024

Figure 3 Number of New Data Distribution Contracts 2015-2024



The RDC SOEP, which is accredited by the German Data Forum (RatSWD), provides the international research community with access to anonymous microdata. Figure 3 presents an overview of the number of data distribution contracts signed each year since 2015. A single data contract usually covers a number of researchers, if not an entire research team.

In 2024, a total of 358 data distribution contracts were signed, and more than 1,289 individual researchers received access to the SOEP data.

SOEP USERS AROUND THE WORLD IN 2024 Total number of users: 17,173 Sweden Iceland **Finland** 162 Norway 44 31 United Estonia Canada Kingdom Denmark Netherlands **4** Lithuania 142 1,031 GERMANY Ireland 604 Latvia Czech 48 10,953 168 Rep. Poland 25 **USA** Belgium 277 441 1,248 Slovakia 337 France 24 Austria 3 Romania Switzer-Spain 491 Hungary Bulgaria 285 Luxem Mace-Portugal bourg donia Mexico 31 28 Italy Turkey Greece Colombia Brazil Chile 12 Uruguay Argentina



THE SOEP SERVICE **PORTFOLIO**

Services per Target Group

SOEP follows the Leibniz Transfer Policy. Research findings are communicated to different target groups inside and outside of academia. Mutual exchange is ensured via documentation and information as well as the dialogue with external stakeholders (e.g., feedback by data users).

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- Website www.leben-in-deutschland.de
- Flyer for each survey wave
- Social Report
- Interviewer trainings by infas
- SOEP Annual Report

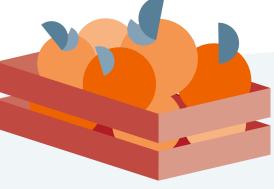




GENERAL PUBLIC

- DIW Weekly Report
- DIW Focus
- DIW Roundup
- Policy Advice Compact
- SOEP Annual Report
- Social Media channels of DIW Berlin
- Social Report

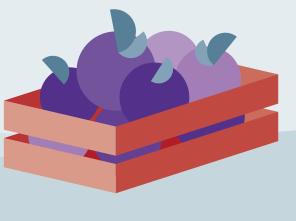
- Quarterly Journal of Economic Research
- Long Night of the Sciences
- SOEPstats
- Dialoque format "Leibniz im Bundestag"
- External expert groups/ committees
- University teaching, talks



(POTENTIAL) **DATA USERS**

- SOEP homepage
- SOEP Companion
- SOEP-IS Companion
- paneldata.org platform
- SOEP Survey Papers

- SOEPpapers
- SOEP Community Management
- SOEPlit database
- SOEPnewsletter
- International **SOEP User Conference**
- ad hoc workshops
- SOEP-in-Residence guest program
- SOEPcampus
- SOEPhelp
- SOEP Brown Bag Seminar
- Soep tutorials/Youtube
- Cluster Seminar Public Finances and Living Conditions



RESULTS OF THE 2024 SOEP USER SURVEY

High satisfaction rates

The annual User Survey is an important tool for the SOEP, since our goal is to continuously improve our service quality. We use the survey to collect information on user demand and to gain feedback and suggestions for improvement.

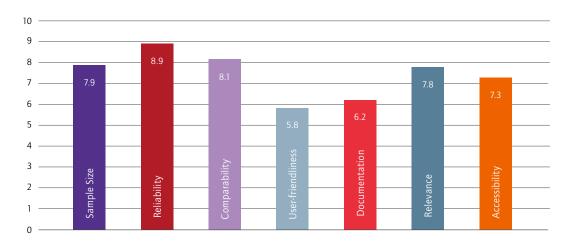
In 2024, the overall satisfaction remains at a high level: users rate their satisfaction at 7.7 out of 10 points - almost unchanged compared to the year before. As in recent years, high satisfaction rates were measured for certain quality features, such as sample size (7.9/10), reliability (8.9/10), and comparability (8.1/10). The user survey further revealed that two thirds of our users consider SOEP to be their primary data source for their research.

Support services in high demand

Another positive trend is the increased use of our various support formats, such as the websites paneldata.org, which was used by 84 percent of our users in 2024, and SOEPcompanion (73 percent). 80 percent of those who used these websites would recommend them to others. Alongside SOEPhelp and SOEPtutorials, these tools facilitate the use of SOEP data for research, especially for data users without prior experience with the SOEP. We therefore encourage all data users to employ these valuable tools.

For detailed statistics and more information, visit the User Survey website. We sincerely thank all participants for their valuable feedback, which is essential in ensuring and enhancing the SOEP's role as a key data resource on social change in Germany.





APPENDIX

SOEP STAFF AT DIW BERLIN





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Patricia Axt Team Assistant



Daniela Centemero Research Manager



Simon Kleineweber Research Manager



Maximilian Müller Team Assistant

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Andrea Marchitto Research Associate



Dr. Mariel McKone Leonard Interim Head of SOEP Innovation Sample



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Johannes Schütt Survey Data Scientist



Rainer Siegers Survey Data Scientist, Expert in Sampling/Weighting



Dr. Elena Sommer Survey Manager



Dr. Hans Walter Steinhauer Research Associate, Expert in Sampling/Weighting/Imputation



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Verena Neumann **Communications Officer**

RESEARCH **GROUP** "LIFE COURSE AND **INEQUALITY"**



Prof. Dr. Philipp M. Lersch Research Group Leader

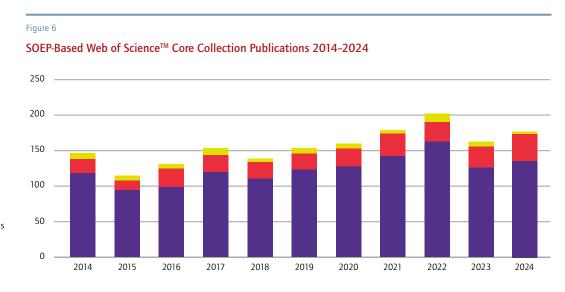
AT SOEP

- Prof. Conchita D'Ambrosio, Ph.D., University of Luxembourg
- Dr. Annette Brose, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- Prof. Dr. John P. de New, University of Melbourne
- Prof. Dr. Marcel Erlinghagen, University of Duisburg-Essen
- Prof. Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln, Ph.D., Goethe University Frankfurt and President of WZB
- Prof. Dr. Jürgen Gerhards, Freie Universität Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Denis Gerstorf, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
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- Prof. Dr. Jörg-Peter Schräpler, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schupp, SOEP/DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin
- Eva Sierminska, Ph.D., Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research: LISER
- Dr. Arne Uhlendorff, Center for Research in Economics and Statistics: CREST
- Prof. Mark Wooden, University of Melbourne

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

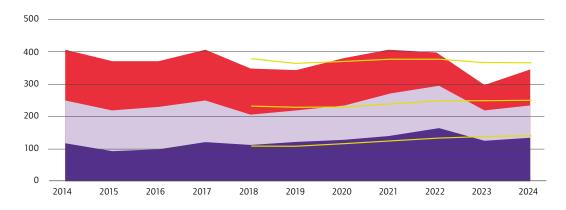
SOEP-BASED WEB OF SCIENCE™ **PUBLICATIONS: SOEP STAFF AND USER COMMUNITY**

Overview of SOEP-Based Web of ScienceTM Core Collection Publications over the Last Decade









Publications with SOEP(-based) data Thereof in English ■ In Web of Science[™] Core **Collection Publications** 5y mean

SOEP Staff: List of Web of Science™ Core Collection Publications

Α

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Cornelia Kristen, Jana Nebelin



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12 – Geflüchtete kommen auf gefährlichen Wegen nach Deutschland (Refugees Arrive in Germany Via Dangerous Routes)



Geflüchteten ungleich verteilt (Unequal Distribution of Need for and Use of Support Among Refugees) Ellen Heidinger

12 - Bedarf an und Inanspruchnahme von Unterstützung bei



12 – Verlängerte Leistungseinschränkungen für Geflüchtete: Negative Konsequenzen für Gesundheit – erhoffte Einsparungen dürften ausbleiben

(Extended restrictions to health care entitlements for refugees: negative health consequences without the anticipated savings) Louise Biddle



16 - Durchschnittliche Arbeitszeiten in Deutschland sinken, Gesamtarbeitsvolumen auf Rekordhoch

(Average Working Hours in Germany Fall, Total Volume of Work at Record High)

Mattis Beckmannshagen, Annika Sperling



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Sandra Bohmann, Merve Küçük



34 – Zufriedenheit mit Einkommen, Arbeit und Gesundheit unterscheidet sich nach Haushaltseinkommen, Alter und Elternschaft

(32/33/34 – Income, work, and health satisfaction differ primarily by household income, age, and parental status)

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39 — Historische Erbschaftsregeln für Land prägen noch heute die Wirtschaft

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EXPERT REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS

EXPERT REPORTS

Jürgen Schupp

• In collaboration with members of the Bundestag (party: Bündnis 90/Die Grünen): Statement on the DIFIS brown bag round "Structural reform of basic income support"

APPOINTMENTS

Carina Cornesse

• "Health in Germany" (Robert Koch Institute Panel), member of the Methodological Advisory Board

Jan Goebel

• Research Data Centre of the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER-FDZ), member of the Advisory Board

Levent Neyse

• Open Science Framework (OSF), Ambassador

Sabine Zinn

- Austrian Socio-Economic Panel (ASEP), member of the Scientific Advisory Board
- · European Commission, appointed expert on modeling, simulation, and forecasting of migration flows in Europe
- "Health in Germany" (Robert Koch Institute Panel), member of the Methodological Advisory Board
- Federal Statistical Office, member of the Statistical Advisory Council

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BAMF Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

BAMF-FZ Research Center of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

BMAS Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

BMBF Federal Ministry of Education and Research

BGSS Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences

bpb Federal Agency for Civic Education

BRISE Bremen initiative to strengthen early childhood development

CALVI Computer-Assisted Live Video Interviewing
CAPI Computer-Assisted Personal Interview

CASI Computer-Assisted Self-administered Interview

CATI Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview

CAWI Computer-Assisted Web Interview
CNEF Cross-National Equivalent File

Covid-19 Coronavirus disease 2019/SARS-2

DDR-Psych GDR past and mental health: risk and protective factors

DECIPHE Demographic Change and the Intergenerational Persistence in Homeownership in Europe

Destatis Federal Statistical Office of Germany

DFG German Research Foundation

DIPS Dynamic interactions between personality traits and social relationships:

Short- and medium-term processes in everyday life, including other individual

characteristics and factors of the social context

DIW Berlin German Institute for Economic Research

DIW GC DIW Graduate Center

DMHM Dynamics of Mental Health of Migrants

ENTAILab Research Infrastructure and Innovation Lab

EQUITAX Inequality, Taxation and Redistribution: Insights from a German/French Perspective

ERC European Research Council

EU European Union

FAIR Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable

FU Berlin Freie Universität Berlin

GaPRisk Groups put at Particular Risk by COVID-19

GDR German Democratic Republic

GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Science

IAB Institute for Employment Research

infas Institute for Applied Social Science GmbH

InfSPP Infrastructure Priority Program

InterVerm The intergenerational reproduction of wealth inequality and

its socio-demographic conditions in Germany

IOER/IÖR The Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development

KonsortSWD Consortium for the Social, Behavioural, Educational and Economic Sciences

in the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI)

LARGE Longitudinal Aspects of the Interaction between Health and Integration

of Refugees in Germany

LIfBi The Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories

LIFE International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course

LINDY

Life-course Income Dynamics

Luxembourg Income Study

Luxembourg Wealth Study

MikroSim Project within the research group "Multi-sectoral Regional Microsimulation Model"

NEPS National Educational Panel Study

PAPI Paper-and-Pencil Interview

Ph.D. Doctor of Philosophy

PIJE Perceptions of Inequalities and Justice in Europe

RatSWD German Data Forum

RDC Research Data Center

RDS Respondent-Driven Sampling

RISC Research Institute for Social Cohesion

RKI-SOEP-2 Second Nationwide Antibody Study "Living in Germany – Corona Monitoring"

SCP Social Cohesion Panel
SOEP Socio-Economic Panel
SOEP-IS SOEP Innovation Sample

SOEP-LEE2 The Linked Employer-Employee Study of the Socio-Economic Panel, Vers. 2

SOEP RegioHub Leibniz ScienceCampus SOEP RegioHub at Bielefeld University

SOEP-RS SOEP Related Studies
SOEP-XC SOEP Cross Countries

SORA+ Expansion of the Social-Spatial Science Research Data Infrastructure (SoRa):

FAIR, intelligent, integrative

SUARE Longitudinal Study of Ukrainian Refugees

WATT Wealth-Holders at the Top: An interdisciplinary Research Network

WEALTHTRAJECT Understanding Trajectories of Wealth Accumulation and Their Variability

WZB Berlin Social Science Center



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