



Axel Börsch-Supan  
Martina Brandt  
Karsten Hank  
Mathis Schröder  
*Editors*

# The Individual and the Welfare State

Life Histories in Europe



Springer

A. Börsch-Supan · M. Brandt · K. Hank · M. Schröder (Eds.)


## The Individual and the Welfare State

Our health, our income and our social networks at older ages are the consequence of what has happened to us over the course of our lives. The situation at age 50+ reflects our own decisions as well as many environmental factors, especially interventions by the welfare state such as education policies, access to health care and many types of social protection from poverty relief to housing subsidies and maternity support. This book explores the richness of 28,000 life histories in thirteen European countries – ranging from Scandinavia to Central and Eastern Europe to the Mediterranean – collected as part of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Combining these data with a comprehensive account of European welfare state interventions provides a unique opportunity to answer the important public policy questions of our time – how the welfare state affects people's incomes, housing, families, retirement, volunteering and health. The overarching theme of the welfare state creates a book of genuinely interdisciplinary analyses, a valuable resource for economists, gerontologists, historians, political scientists, public health analysts, and sociologists alike.

ISBN 978-3-642-17471-1



9 783642 174711

 [springer.com](http://springer.com)

  
**SHARELIFE**  
Survey of Health, Ageing  
and Retirement in Europe  
50+ in Europe

**mea**

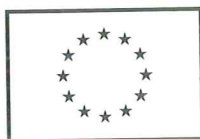
*Editors*

Prof.Dr. Axel Börsch-Supan  
Mannheim Research Institute for  
the Economics of Aging (MEA)  
L 13, 17  
68131 Mannheim  
Germany  
axel@boersch-supan.de

Prof.Dr. Karsten Hank  
University of Cologne  
Research Institute for Sociology  
Greinstr. 2  
50939 Cologne  
Germany  
hank@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Dr. Martina Brandt  
Mannheim Research Institute for  
the Economics of Aging (MEA)  
L 13, 17  
68131 Mannheim  
Germany  
brandt@mea.uni-mannheim.de

Mathis Schröder, Ph.D.  
German Institute for Economic Research  
(DIW Berlin)  
Mohrenstr. 58  
10117 Berlin  
Germany  
mschroeder@diw.de



This book has been published thanks to the support of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research, 6th Framework Programme for Research-Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (contract nr 028812).

The information and views set out in this book are those of the author[s] and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Communities. Neither the European Communities institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.



The SHARELIFE project is co-funded by the European Community FP6 2002-2006, under the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities programme.

ISBN 978-3-642-17471-1

e-ISBN 978-3-642-17472-8

DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-17472-8

Springer Heidelberg Dordrecht London New York

Library of Congress Control Number: 2011925540

© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2011

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilm or in any other way, and storage in data banks. Duplication of this publication or parts thereof is permitted only under the provisions of the German Copyright Law of September 9, 1965, in its current version, and permission for use must always be obtained from Springer. Violations are liable to prosecution under the German Copyright Law.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

Cover design: WMXDesign GmbH, Heidelberg, Germany

Printed on acid-free paper

Springer is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)