THE COLLECTION OF BIOMEASURES IN CROSS-NATIONAL STUDIES

USING THE EXAMPLE OF DRIED BLOOD SPOTS IN SHARE

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• Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe
• People aged 50 + (and their partners)
• Panel survey, waves every two years
• Socio-economic study
• Fifth wave data available
• 20 European countries + Israel
• Approx. 123,000 individuals
• Blood sample collection in sixth wave (2015)
Why?

- It’s all about health…
- Objective measures
- Complementing self-report of health status
- Physiological pathways
Biomeasures

Large variety of markers
Discussed example

Dried blood spots (DBSS) in SHARE
Sixth wave, 2015
12 countries
Analysis

- Conditions typical for later life
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Cognition (decline)
- Conditions influenced by lifestyle
SHARE wave 6 countries…

participating in

DBSS collection.
DBSS in SHARE

- Different languages
- Different cultures
- Different laws

Ex-ante harmonization (of whole survey)
Ethical considerations

- Ethical approval in every participating country obtained beforehand
  - 12 countries out of 18

- Deviations in protocol necessary
  - ...keeping comparability of data

- Informed and written consent needed
  - Generic version of documents translated in all languages
• All equipment ordered centrally
  • 40,000 kits
  • Same composition in all countries
Interviewer training

- Interviewer effects...
- Central training workshop
  - National training sessions
- Hands-on-training and certification
- Printed DBSS handbook
Fieldwork

- Monitoring and interventions if necessary
  - (Individual) consent rates
  - Shipment times
  - Packaging
  - Sample quality
Sample quality

• >89% of samples with good quality

No useable drop
At least 1 useable drop

Total number of samples varies over countries

Preliminary data, do not cite.
→ 23.874 samples (>83.000 blood spots)
Data dissemination

- Variety of biomarker values will be released in 2017
- SHARE data free for users with a scientific affiliation
- No additional conditions for biomarker/biomeasure data

www.share-project.org
SHARE – the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of individuals aged 50 or older.
THANK YOU!

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