

Linking SHARE with social security data in Austria

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- 1 Background LI project
- 2 NRN
 - NRN data providers
 - NRN data content
- 3 Linking with SHARE
 - Legal requirements
 - Other issues

2 projects based at the Linz economics department:

- 1 NRN - National Research Network "LaborNRN"
- 2 SHARE - The Austrian part of the SHARE survey

→ Both coordinated by Rudolf Winter-Ebmer



Survey of Health, Ageing
and Retirement in Europe

NRN partners

- University of Linz
- University of Innsbruck
- University of Zürich
- ...

SHARE partners

- University of Linz
- SHARE consortium

Common focus

- Health
- Income
- Welfare state
- Labor markets
- ...



Figure : "Enhanced" ASSD database, also see <http://www.laborrn.at/wp/wp0903.pdf>

1. Federation of social security (Hauptverband)

- Demographics (age, sex, partnership,...)
- Employer (employment) information
- Education and qualifications
- Income information (censored above EUR 4.230,-)
- Information on co-insured family members/partners

2. Accident insurance company (AUVA)

- Work-related accidents and diseases
- Incident-related pension payments

3. Ministry of social affairs (BMASK)

- Key holder
- Some other data...

4. Public employment service (AMS)

- Unemployment spells and unemployment payments
- Participation in requalification programs
- ...

5. Ministry of finance (BMF)

- Income information (at present only wage earners, data serve to overcome censoring issues)
- Family benefits

→ All these data cover different periods of time (from 1980, partly 1972 onwards), more to be delivered.

Link mostly "subjective" SHARE data with "objective" administrative information from NRN

- 1 Create a new level of informational detail for new and better research opportunities
- 2 Verify "subjective" information from respondents with "official" data from government sources
- 3 Create a research database / research body for social science research and extensive policy advice

Link SHARE with administrative data by social security number

- The social security number serves as identifier for merging data from different sources.
 - Before delivery this number is encrypted by a third party ("key-holder").
 - However the combined data available make it rather easy to trace back the persons behind the UIDs.
- The data are neither anonymous nor "indirect" personal data acc. to the Austrian data-protection law *DSG2000*.

§ 46 of Austrian data-protection law *DSG2000*

Use for scientific purposes admissible, *but*:

- 1 Linking and using of administrative data must be in the public interest.
- 2 Consent of respondent to link and use administrative data is required.
- 3 Linked data must not be handed out to third parties.
- 4 Strict confidentiality requirements for people working with linked data.

→ Consent: Wording of question in CAPI

For scientific evaluation by the University of Linz, it is very interesting to learn more about the career and the health status of people. To this end, many participants have already granted us permission to link their information from the interviews with social security data. This is of course entirely voluntary and, for reasons of data protection, possible only with your explicit consent.

Certainly your data will be kept strictly confidential by the University of Linz and will not be handed out, and it is later no longer possible to trace back this information to your person.

Do you agree that the University of Linz uses your Social Security number to bring together data from this survey with data on income, health, employment and other data from institutions such as the Austrian Social Insurance for scientific purposes? Therefore I need your social security number.

→ Confidentiality: Publication of linked data?

Theoretically possible to create and publish *restricted linked datasets* that can't be traced back, practically a lot of work and not possible without additional funding.

Other potential issues

- Social security number is considered a "secret" number in AT, that people won't give away easily.
- *Interviewers* have to be convinced and motivated to ask for that number (some interviewers appear reluctant to ask).
- Consent of every one of the 5 data providers necessary to link - a lot of convincing necessary and unlikely that all 5 will agree.