

## **HORIZON EUROPEAN COVERAGE**

### **Need for a new kind of funding for Social Science Surveys**



“Horizon Europe” is not only the name for the next research framework programme, it is also the best way to describe concisely the vision of the social science survey research infrastructures (RIs) SHARE-ERIC and ESS-ERIC, supported by CESSDA-ERIC. Like no other, these surveys depend on “European coverage”, i.e. having all EU Member States participating: not primarily as users of the RI, but rather as research objects themselves, i.e. to compare and evaluate their health, social and economic policies. European coverage for these social science surveys is therefore essential for the scientific purpose itself.

### **SHARE**

#### *Our benefits are*

- A multidisciplinary and cross-national panel data base on health, socio-economic status as well as social and family networks of individuals as part of a global network of harmonized datasets to study the grand challenges of population ageing.
- Wide access to SHARE data enabling every researcher or scientific project leader to use the data.
- High amount of scientific publications as well as use of the data as basis for evidence-based policy making on national, European and international level.

#### *Our challenges and threats are*

- A funding model based on the contributions of the SHARE-ERIC members does not work because Europe includes countries which provide essential scientific value for comparative studies and policy evaluation, but are unable or uninterested to become ERIC members and self-financed.
- Cooperation with industry is not possible since the individuals’ data cannot be shared for commercial purposes due to strict data protection regulations.
- A survey of ageing individuals needs to observe these individuals over time, adding data waves to a panel of data like adding floors to a house. The accounting rules, however, forbid charging the costs of an added survey wave of data as “construction costs”, which contradicts the essence of constructing a longitudinal survey.
- The impossibility of classifying survey costs as construction costs very much complicates funding by research ministries and makes it impossible to use Structural Funds from the ERDF.

#### *Our needs and expectations vis-a-vis Horizon Europe*

- **Introduction of a new type of EU support for the enhancement of survey infrastructures which require European coverage, enabling innovation, development and international coordination among the countries (“INFRACOV”).**
- **Extension of synergies between Horizon Europe and Structural Funds by widening the application possibilities including the costs of constructing additional survey waves.**