

User Guide Release 9-0-0

WHAT'S NEW?!

We are happy to offer you a few new features in the SHARE-RV Release 9-0-0!

- Administrative data is linked up to SHARE Wave 9.
- The most current reporting year of VSKT and RTBN is 2022.
- Altogether administrative data are available for 5893 German SHARE respondents: 5840 in the VSKT and 4224 in the RTBN.
- The VSKT is available in a new data format. The long long format provides respondents' employment histories in one fix and in one variable part (see [chapter 2.2.1](#))

PLEASE NOTE: When using SHARE-RV data for publications, please cite the dataset as „Forschungsdatenzentrum der Rentenversicherung, SHARE-ERIC (2024). *SHARE-RV*. Release version: 9.0.0. SHARE-ERIC. Data set. DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.SHARE-RV.900.“ The obligatory basic disclaimer for SHARE Waves 1-9 and all SHARE citation requirements can be found under <https://share-eric.eu/data/data-access/citation-requirements>.

In addition, please do not forget to provide us with information about all publications using SHARE data by emailing to info@share-project.org.

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Version: 9-0-0 (October 2024)

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1. ABOUT SHARE-RV

1.1 WHAT IS SHARE-RV ABOUT?

SHARE-RV is a cooperation project between the SHARE BERLIN Institute gGmbH ([SBI](http://www.share-berlin.eu)¹) and the Research Data Center of the German Pension Insurance ([FDZ-RV](http://www.fdz-rv.de)²) in Berlin. It stands for the direct linkage of survey data of the *Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe* ([SHARE](http://www.share-eric.eu)³) with administrative records of the “Deutsche Rentenversicherung”, German Pension Insurance ([DRV](http://www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de)⁴). More precisely, it is the linkage of the German subsample of SHARE survey data and selected administrative records provided by the FDZ-RV. The project started as a pilot study in 2009 as part of the 3rd SHARE wave and was primarily funded by the Volkswagenstiftung. Thanks to the follow-up funding of the Forschungsnetzwerk Alterssicherung (FNA) until 2022 and the current funding of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation), the project continues at least until SHARE`s tenth wave of data collection.

The goals of the project SHARE-RV are to link survey data from SHARE with data from the DRV and to make them available to the entire research community. Hence, SHARE-RV allows the investigation of connections between various aspects of respondents` lives and their working history or their socio-economic status in later life.

1.2 HOW IS SHARE-RV ORGANIZED?

The project is based on a direct linkage, meaning that the data of exactly the same person (here German SHARE respondents) were linked using the respondents` Social Security Number (SSN) as a unique identifier. When linking survey data with the records of the DRV, respondents` written consent is required. Respondents are asked for consent during the regular SHARE interview by the interviewer, which is documented on a separate consent form. The consent form collects respondents` SSN as well as some basic demographics which are needed to check the SSN. Filled-in consent forms without the respondents` signature cannot be considered for the linkage. If respondents are not able or not willing to provide their SSN, it is possible to find it out based on basic

¹ www.share-berlin.eu

² www.fdz-rv.de

³ www.share-eric.eu

⁴ www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de

demographics provided by the respondents. In order to be absolutely sure that the correct records are linked, a lot of effort is put in checking and correcting the SSN.

1.3 WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR RECORD LINKAGE?

In SHARE Wave 3, all German respondents were asked to consent to record linkage. In Wave 5, Wave 6, Wave 8 and Wave 9 all respondents who have not consented before or were new in the SHARE sample were asked to consent. The corresponding administrative data of the consenters are drawn yearly by the DRV at fixed dates.

Please note that the survey and the admin data are not necessarily representing and accordingly reporting the same year (see Chapter 4.3 [reporting year](#) for more details).

1.4 FOR WHICH SHARE RESPONDENTS ARE ADMINISTRATIVE DATA AVAILABLE?

Firstly, the DRV is only allowed to provide the records if respondents consented explicitly during the interview. Secondly, all inhabitants with at least one spell of activity that is subject to mandatory pension insurance are included in the administrative records of the DRV. So, what does that mean concretely and which activities are subject to mandatory pension insurance?

1. Who is compulsorily insured?

Generally, all employees who work in Germany are subject to mandatory pension contributions in the German Pension Insurance. Nevertheless, there are some exceptions to this rule, some special arrangements for certain occupational groups, and some activities/situations that go along with compulsory insurance independently of the employment status.

Additional to employees, also some other groups are subject to mandatory pension insurance, these are⁵:

- apprentices/trainees
- persons who raise children
- non-commercial caregivers
- persons with disabilities

⁵ https://www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de/DRV/DE/Rente/Arbeitnehmer-und-Selbststaendige/02_Pflicht-und-freiwillig-Versicherte/pflicht-und-freiwillig-versicherte_Inhalt_01_selbststaendig_und_pflichtversichert.html

- persons in military or voluntary service
- persons who receive compensatory service (e.g. unemployment or sickness benefit)
- Students with marginal jobs (including exceptions)

Although the rule is that self-employed persons do not have to be insured in the DRV, there are, furthermore, some self-employed persons who are compulsorily insured:

- craftsmen
- teacher, midwives, educator, caregivers
- artists and publicists
- self-employed with only one customer
- pilots and coast boatmen

→ SHARE respondents who fall into these groups are hence included in the administrative RV records that are available for linkage, provided they have given consent for that.

For people in marginal employment, there are special regulations⁶ that depend on the duration of the employment, the monthly salary as well as on the person's choice. For the so-called "Mini-Jobs" (max. 450€/month) there are two regulations: Short-term Mini-Jobs, that is up to three month, are not compulsorily insured, but marginal employments for more than three months have to be insured. The so-called "Midi-Jobs" (450,01€-850€/month) are subject to mandatory social insurance, but employers do not have to pay the full social insurance contributions. In both cases – Mini-Job and Midi-Job – it is possible to ask for an exemption from compulsory pension insurance. For detailed information, please see: "Geringfügige Beschäftigung und Beschäftigung in der Gleitzone"⁷. In the data of the German Pension Insurance marginal employment is documented no matter if it is compulsorily insured or not. The difference can only be seen in the earning points.

⁶ https://www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de/DRV/DE/Rente/Arbeitnehmer-und-Selbststaendige/04_Mini-Midi-und-Nebenjobs/04_Mini-Midi-und-Nebenjobs.html

⁷ https://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Publikationen/a630-geringfuegige-beschaeftigung.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

2. Who isn't obligated to be insured?

There is no statutory duty to be insured in the DRV for

- civil servants
- judges
- professional militaries
- statutory members of spiritual cooperatives
- marginal employed persons
- old-age pensioners after the month, in which the standard retirement age was reached
- self-employed and freelancers, for whom there is no duty for insurance

→ SHARE respondents who fall into these groups are normally not included in the administrative records of the DRV that are available for linkage, except they had at least one month of insured activity.

Members of some occupational groups, actually, can be exempted from compulsory insurance as well. For members of professional associations (“Berufsständische Kammern”) and liberal professions, special pension schemes were founded. These professional pension schemes are completely comparable to the DRV and also part of the 1st pillar of the pension system in Germany. The professional pension schemes for the liberal professions only exist for the members of specific professional associations (“Berufskammern”) as there are⁸

- physicians, veterinaries, dentists
- pharmacists
- architects
- notaries and lawyers
- tax consultants and chartered accountants
- psychological psychotherapists

The insurance in the professional pension schemes, however, does not apply automatically. Firstly, every single person has to ask for the exemption from compulsory insurance at the DRV. Secondly, since 2012 only persons who actually work profession-

⁸ <http://www.abv.de/english-summary.html>

specific can be insured in a pension scheme. Thirdly, the exemption from compulsory insurance has to be checked again with every change in job. However, the exemption also lasts for periods of e.g., unemployment, child-raising etc.

→ SHARE respondents who fall into these groups are normally not included in the administrative records of the DRV that are available for linkage, except they did not work profession-specific and could not be exempted.

Anyway, there are persons who have an account at the German Pension Insurance but just with a very few entries. This can happen when there was a period that was subject to mandatory pension insurance and the status changed later to e.g. civil servant. In the German Pension Insurance already one month of compulsory insurance counts.

Unfortunately, we cannot tell from the data if this is the case or not. But in some cases, the SHARE data can help: From the variable “job type” for example, you can find out if a respondent started to work in an occupation that is not subject to compulsory insurance. The following table shows the relevant occupations of the respondents for whom - despite their consent - no admin data is available.

Table 1 Occupation relevant to compulsorily insurance

Occupation	Frequencies	Percent	Cum.
Employee	34	22.22	
Civil Servant	85	55.56	77.78
Self-employed	26	16.99	94.77
unknown	8	5.23	100.00
Total	153	100.00	

Source: FDZ-RV – SUF SHARE-RV 9-0-0.

Some respondents, however, fulfill the conditions for linkage and record availability (written consent and spells of compulsory insurance), but their administrative data are not available anyway. This is the case if, for example, short-time insured persons ask for reimbursement of their contributions. Another reason for missing records could be that

entitlements were accumulated in the former German Democratic Republic and the respondents retired before their records could be transferred to the new system.

The availability of administrative data that could be linked to the corresponding records is summarized in wave-specific linkage rates (see Table 2). This rate is calculated as the number of respondents in a given wave whose data can be linked, divided by all respondents who participated in that wave. The linkage rates considered in Table 2 refer to the most recent release version only. As the number of respondents differs from wave to wave due to attrition and new persons being interviewed, the linkage rate differs from wave to wave, too.

Table 2 Linkage rate by wave

Release 9-0-0	No. of interviews in SHARE	No. of linkable cases	Record linkage rate in %
Wave 3	1918	1189	62.0
Wave 4	1619	1122	69.3
Wave 5	5750	4139	72.0
Wave 6	4411	3476	78.8
Wave 7	3800	3051	80.3
Wave 8	3868	3027	78.3
Wave 9	4467	3252	72.8

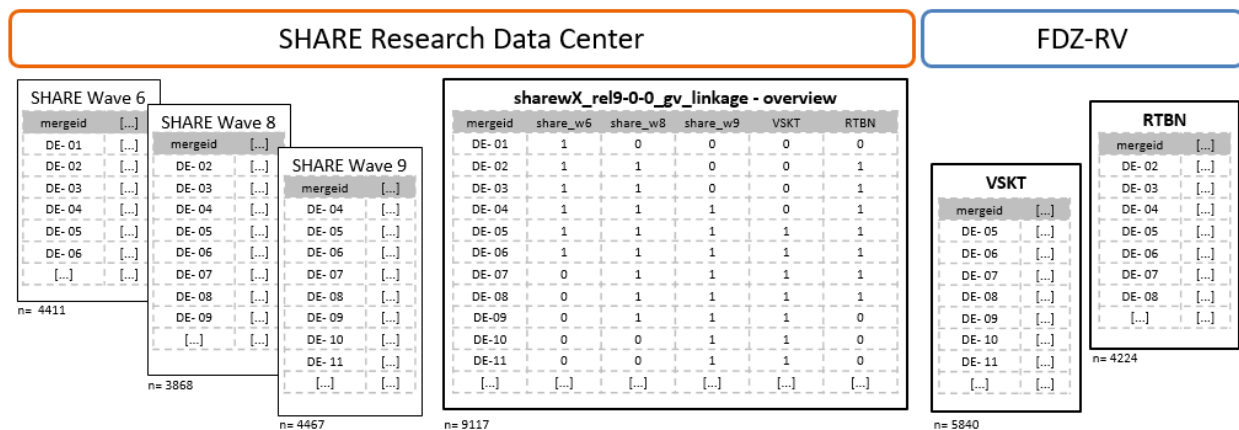
Source: FDZ-RV – SUF SHARE-RV 9-0-0.

2. DATA

All data sets (SHARE and the administrative records) will be updated regularly, resulting in new release versions. A new release version of the administrative data will be published when either a new release of the SHARE data or a new version of the administrative records becomes available.

Hence, users have to ensure that they use the most recent release of the [datasets](#)⁹. The SHARE survey data and the administrative data sets are provided separately by the corresponding research data center. Figure 1 gives a detailed overview of the two dataset providers and the available data sets.

Figure 1 Datasets



2.1 SHARE

2.1.1 SURVEY DATA

SHARE provides multidisciplinary and cross-national panel data that is bi-annually collected in 27 European countries and Israel. It contains information on health, socio-economic status as well as social and family networks of more than 160,000 individuals aged 50 or over and their (younger) partners. To date, SHARE has collected more than 616,000 interviews in nine panel waves on current living circumstances, two waves on retrospective life histories (SHARELIFE) as well as two SHARE Corona surveys. The first wave was collected in 2004/2005, the second in 2006/2007, SHARELIFE in 2008/2009, the fourth wave mainly in 2011, the fifth wave in 2013, the sixth wave in 2015 and the seventh in 2017. SHARE Wave 8 was collected in 2019/early 2020 and was interrupted

⁹ For an overview of SHARE releases see: www.share-eric.eu/data/data-documentation/share-data-releases

by the COVID-19 Pandemic¹⁰. Wave 9 was fielded in 2022. In total, 29 countries have participated in SHARE. However, not all countries participated in every wave and the timing of data collection can also slightly differ between countries¹¹. The German SHARE data collection started with the first wave. Up to Wave 9 approximately 11,100 individuals have been interviewed at least once. The SHARE Research Data Center provides the SHARE survey data separately for each wave including all countries. Therefore, the SHARE data should be reduced to German respondents only. A detailed documentation of the SHARE data can be found [here](#)¹².

2.1.2 SHARE GV_LINKAGE (OVERVIEW)

A generated data file “*sharewX_reI9-0-0_gv_linkage*”, the so-called ‘overview’ data set, includes only German respondents and was specifically generated for the project SHARE-RV. This data set summarizes very useful [information](#)¹³ about the availability of the data, e.g. who consented and whether and which administrative data are available. It can be used in the early stages of analyses to find out for which respondents the administrative data are available.

Different from the standard SHARE modules, which are wave-specific, the ‘overview’ dataset includes all respondents who participated in at least one wave between Waves 3-6, 8 or 9. This implies that not all cases included in the ‘overview’ dataset will merge when linking it to a specific wave of the SHARE data, e.g. merging the ‘overview’ data set with a German SHARE Wave 9 data set results in 4650 unmatched cases. These are respondents who did not participate in the German wave 9, such as the ones with the fictitious mergeid “DE-01”, “DE-02” and “DE-03” (see [Figure 1](#)).

The variables “share_w3”, “share_w4”, “share_w5”, “share_w6”, “share_w8”, and share_w9 indicate in which SHARE Waves the respondent participated. The variables “share_w1”, “share_w2”, “share_w7” indicate whether a respondent participated in wave 1, in wave 2 and/or wave 7 respectively under the condition that they have participated in at least one of the later waves (wave 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and/or 9). As the FDZ-RV provides two different data sources, the “[Versicherungskontenstichprobe \(VSKT\)](#)” and the

¹⁰ For more information on Wave 8 fieldwork, please see [SHARE Release Guide](#) or [SHARE Wave 8 Methodology Volume](#) (chapter 1).

¹¹ For detailed information see: www.share-eric.eu/data/data-documentation/waves-overview

¹² www.share-eric.eu/data/data-documentation

¹³ For detailed information see www.share-eric.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Other_Publications/SHARE-RV/English_SHARE-RV_9-0-0_Codebook_overview.pdf

“[Versichertenrentenbestand \(RTBN\)](#)”, the variables “vskt” and “rtbn” summarize which data sets are available via FDZ-RV.

2.2 THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

2.2.1 VERSICHERTENKONTENSTICHPROBE (VSKT)

The data in the format of the VSKT is longitudinal and contains monthly information on respondents’ employment histories from January of the year in which the respondent turned 14 until December of the year the respondent turned 65. The VSKT contains information e.g. on the type of employment, earnings points for each month, and child-care periods. The dataset ‘fix’ includes time-invariant information as demographics as well as accumulated pension entitlements. For detailed information please take a look at the [VSKT codebook](#)¹⁴.

2.2.2 VERSICHERTENRENTENBESTAND (RTBN)

The RTBN is cross-sectional and available for retirees only. It summarizes respondents’ benefits which are accumulated until retirement. In addition, the amount of the pension which is paid is included. For detailed information please take a look at to the [RTBN codebook](#)¹⁵.

The two administrative data sets (VSKT and RTBN) are also not wave-specific but include all respondents who consented and whose administrative data are available. Again, not all cases will merge when combining the VSKT (the same holds for the RTBN) data set with any wave-specific SHARE data. The administrative data includes only those respondents whose data are available independently from the SHARE wave they participated in.

¹⁴ www.share-eric.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Other_Publications/SHARE-RV/English_SHARE-RV_9-0-0_Codebook_VSKT.pdf

¹⁵ www.share-eric.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Other_Publications/SHARE-RV/English_SHARE-RV_9-0-0_Codebook_RTBN.pdf

3. DATA ACCESS AND DOWNLOAD

Researchers must register for both datasets separately. Registered SHARE users will be informed about new releases and other important news automatically.

In order to access the SHARE data, researchers have to [register](#)¹⁶ as SHARE users at the SHARE Research Data Center. Terms and conditions of the Research Data Center can be found there as well. Upon registration, users are able to download SHARE data. Once logged in, you can directly download the 'overview' dataset 'Linkage Release 9.0.0'. In order to get access to the administrative records of the FDZ-RV, researchers additionally have to register as users at the FDZ-RV. Please note: The FDZ-RV will only grant data access if the project leader has minimum a doctor's degree. The administrative data of the FDZ-RV which can be linked to the survey data will be provided via secure data transfer. Please follow the step-by-step instruction given in [Appendix A](#) to register as FDZ-RV user and request the administrative data. At the time of writing, the homepage is available in German only.

4. DATA HANDLING

4.1 DATA FORMATS AND LANGUAGES

All data is provided in Stata and SPSS format. For using other statistical programs, the data can be transferred by users themselves.

The datasets of the FDZ-RV are published in German. For English speaking users, a syntax for English labeling is provided (SPSS). In Stata, the language of the labels can be changed by using the command "[label language](#)¹⁷ EN" (or "label language DE").

Please note that SHARE-Data and administrative RV-data are at least readable by Stata12 (characters in extended ASCII format).

If you use Stata 14 or newer, the German "Umlaut" will not be displayed correctly. In this case, the files can be opened by using the "[useold](#)"¹⁸ command (should be installed from within Stata by typing "ssc install useold").

Feel free to contact us, in case you have any problems with the data formats!

¹⁶ www.share-eric.eu/data/become-a-user

¹⁷ <https://www.stata.com/manuals/dlabellanguage.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://ideas.repec.org/c/boc/bocode/s458054.html>

4.2 HOW TO LINK THE DATA?

The administrative data are provided with the same identification number as used in the SHARE data (mergeid) so that it is linkable in the same way as all SHARE modules. [easySHARE](#)¹⁹ can be linked with the administrative data using the same identifier (mergeid) as well.

Although the project SHARE-RV started in the third wave of SHARE (SHARELIFE), the linkage is not limited to data of this wave. As all SHARE respondents have a stable identifier, the administrative data can also be linked with data of the same respondents of previous and following waves. As a consequence, the administrative data sets consist of records of respondents who may have participated in different SHARE waves.

SHARE's German target population consists of all persons aged 50 years and over at the time of sampling who have their regular domicile in Germany. In addition, the respondents' current partners living in the same household will also be interviewed, regardless of their age. Therefore, it is possible to do analyses not only on individual level but also on household level if both took part in the SHARE interview. In order to identify persons belonging to the same household please refer to the specific-wave household identifier (hhid*). More information could be found in the [SHARE Release Guide](#)²⁰, Chapter 'Merging the data'.

4.3 REPORTING YEAR

The variable 'reporting year' in the administrative data sets gives the user information about the year the data refers to. Given that it was not always possible to update the data for all respondents every year, the data set includes the most recent version available for each respondent. This means, for example, that the administrative data of the longitudinal data set includes information until December 2022 if the reporting year is 2022.

¹⁹ www.share-eric.eu/data/data-set-details/easyshare

²⁰ www.share-eric.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Release_Guides/SHARE_release_guide_9-0-0.pdf

4.4 WHAT ARE THE EARNING POINTS EXACTLY?

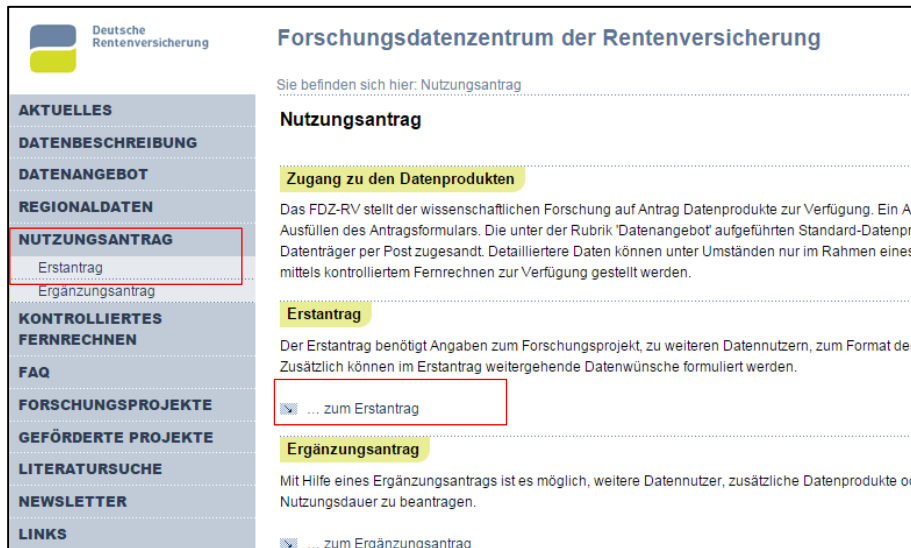
Basically, earning points are based on the level of the income in each individual year. Thereafter, voluntary contributions will be added after they have been converted into remuneration as well as earnings points with a fixed value (e.g., for child-raising periods). For each year, individuals' income will be related to the average income of all insured persons. If the income corresponds to this average income, individuals will receive one point. If the income was less, they will receive fewer points and if the income was higher, they will receive more points. Income from employment in the new Federal States (East Germany) will be updated to the level of the old Federal States by using a predetermined factor. These points are called earning points (Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund, 2012). For more information please refer to the [Pension Law](#)²¹.

²¹ www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/international/europ_vereinbarungen_fremdsprachig/leben_und_arbeiten_europa_englisch.html

APPENDIX A

Please note: The FDZ-RV will only grant data access if the project leader has minimum a doctor's degree.

1. Go to the [FDZ-RV website](#) and click on “Nutzungsantrag” > “zum Erstantrag”



The screenshot shows the website of the Deutsche Rentenversicherung Forschungszentrum der Rentenversicherung. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: AKTUELLES, DATENBESCHREIBUNG, DATENANGEBOT, REGIONALDATEN, **NUTZUNGSANTRAG** (highlighted with a red box), KONTROLLIERTES FERNRECHNEN, FAQ, FORSCHUNGSPROJEKTE, GEFÖRDERTE PROJEKTE, LITERATURSUCHE, NEWSLETTER, and LINKS. The main content area is titled 'Nutzungsantrag' and includes a breadcrumb trail 'Sie befinden sich hier: Nutzungsantrag'. Below this, there are sections for 'Zugang zu den Datenprodukten', 'Erstantrag', and 'Ergänzungsantrag'. The 'Erstantrag' section contains a dropdown menu with the option '... zum Erstantrag' highlighted by a red box.

2. [Click on](#) “Neuer Antrag” to get the form which has to be filled out.



The screenshot shows the 'Antrag zur wissenschaftlichen Nutzung von Mikrodaten' form. The page title is 'Antrag zur wissenschaftlichen Nutzung von Mikrodaten'. Below the title, there are navigation links: 'Antragssteller', 'Weitere Personen', 'Projektbeschreibung', 'Datenart', 'Nutzungsform', and 'Übersicht'. The main content area is titled 'Haben Sie Antragsdaten zwischengespeichert?' and contains a text box with instructions: 'Falls Sie bereits den Antrag teilweise ausgefüllt und gespeichert haben, können Sie hier unter der Angabe der Antragsnummer die Daten mit "Antragsdaten lesen" abrufen und mit der Erfassung fortsetzen. Falls Sie einen neuen Antrag beginnen wollen, betätigen Sie die Schaltfläche "Neuer Antrag"'. Below this text is an input field for 'Antragsnummer' and two buttons: 'Neuer Antrag' and 'Antragsdaten lesen'.

3. Please provide the requested information on the next two screens and click on “Weiter”.

4. By choosing **“Scientific Use File”** and then **“Themenfile”**, it is possible to select **“SHARE-RV”**. Then click on **“Weiter”** and check your personal data carefully.

Deutsche Rentenversicherung
Forschungsdatenzentrum der Rentenversicherung

Antrag zur wissenschaftlichen Nutzung von Mikrodaten

Antragssteller Weitere Personen Projektbeschreibung Datenart Nutzungsform Übersicht

Welche Daten werden benötigt

Scientific Use File (SUF)

Basisfile

Themenfile

Datenangebot (Mehrfachauswahl möglich):

- Aktiv Versicherte und Rentengeschehen 2003 (Regionalfile)
- Aktiv Versicherte und Rentengeschehen 2001 (Regionalfile)
- BASID 2007
- SHARE-RV**
- Demographiedatensatz Rentenbestand/-wegfall Erwerbsminderung und Diagnosen 2014
- weitergehender Datenbedarf
- Public Use File (PUF)

Zurück Eingabe löschen Antragsdaten zwischenspeichern Weiter

5. In order to send your application, **click on “Antrag senden”**.

Please print and sign the document and send it to the FDZ-RV.

Either by post: Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund
FDZ-RV – GB0600
10704 Berlin

Or as pdf by email: FDZ-RV-Berlin@drv-bund.de with **“Antrag auf Datennutzung”** as subject.

6. After you have sent your application, it will be reviewed by the FDZ-RV. After a successful review, you will receive a User Contract by mail. Here are a few essential regulations of the contract:

- The usage of SHARE-RV data is limited to those persons, who are mentioned by name in the contract. It is, furthermore, not allowed to publish the data.
- The usage of SHARE-RV data is limited to the duration of the contract. The data users are obligated to delete all data files by end of the contract.

7. The user contract has to be signed by the applicant, the head of the institution as well as the data administrator and sent back to the FDZ-RV. After the FDZ-RV received the signed contract, the data will be provided via secure data transfer free of charge. **Please note that the entire order process takes at least 2-3 weeks.**