

**Pre-Congress INFORMATION Session (Half-Day):
Introducing the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)**

Friday, July 6, 8:30am-12:30pm
Lund, Sweden

Background:

The Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) provides an infrastructure to help researchers better understand the individual and population ageing processes: where we are, where we are heading, and how we can influence the quality of life as we age – both as individuals and as populations. A particular aim of SHARE is to understand the implications for individuals of the diverse historical, cultural, and institutional settings in Europe. The SHARE database include *health variables* (e.g., self-assessed health, physical and cognitive functioning, health behaviour, and utilisation of healthcare), *psychological variables* (e.g., life satisfaction and control beliefs), *economic variables* (e.g., current work activity, job characteristics, sources and composition of current income, pension rights, wealth, education), and *social support variables* (e.g., assistance within families, transfers of income and assets, social networks, volunteer activities, and time use). The baseline wave in 2004 provides data on 27,000 persons aged 50 and over in 11 European countries, ranging from Scandinavia across Western and Central Europe to the Mediterranean. The second wave of data collection is presently going on, and data from additional countries, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Israel will be added. SHARE data is freely available for all researchers.

Objective:

The session will introduce SHARE and present highlights from some health-economics research conducted on SHARE data.

Faculty:

Members of the SHARE collaboration group.

Organisers:

Axel Börsch-Supan, Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging (principal investigator), and
Kristian Bolin, Lund University Centre for Health Economics (Swedish country-team leader)