

RatSWD.

German Data Forum

ESRA 2023 Conference
Session 'Survey Data Harmonisation 2'

Milano, 18 July 2023



Connecting and harmonizing empirical social science research in societal crises

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Project background

- Since March 2020: Numerous studies have emerged that empirically examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on society
- Collection of the studies by the German Data Forum
- Analysis of the studies:
 - The collected data **lacks accessibility, quality** and **interoperability**
- Origin of the **Best_FDM Project**



Best_FDM project*

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and Research

- Duration: December 2020 until November 2023
- Accompanied by a RatSWD working group on societal crises with the following experts:
 - Prof. Dr. Cordula Artelt, Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LifBi) / University of Bamberg
 - Prof. Dr. Thorsten Faas, Free University of Berlin
 - Prof. Dr. Monika Jungbauer-Gans, German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW)/ Leibniz University Hannover
 - Prof. Dr. Stefan Liebig, Free University of Berlin
 - Prof. Dr. Anja Strobel, Chemnitz University of Technology
 - Prof. Dr. Mark Trappmann, Institute for Employment Research (IAB) / University of Bamberg
- Coordination within the RatSWD Office: Andrés Saravia
- Central work package 1: Collection of empirical studies examining the societal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, available online at <https://www.konsortswd.de/ratswd/themen/corona/studien/>
- Central work package 2: Development of a **standard questionnaire**

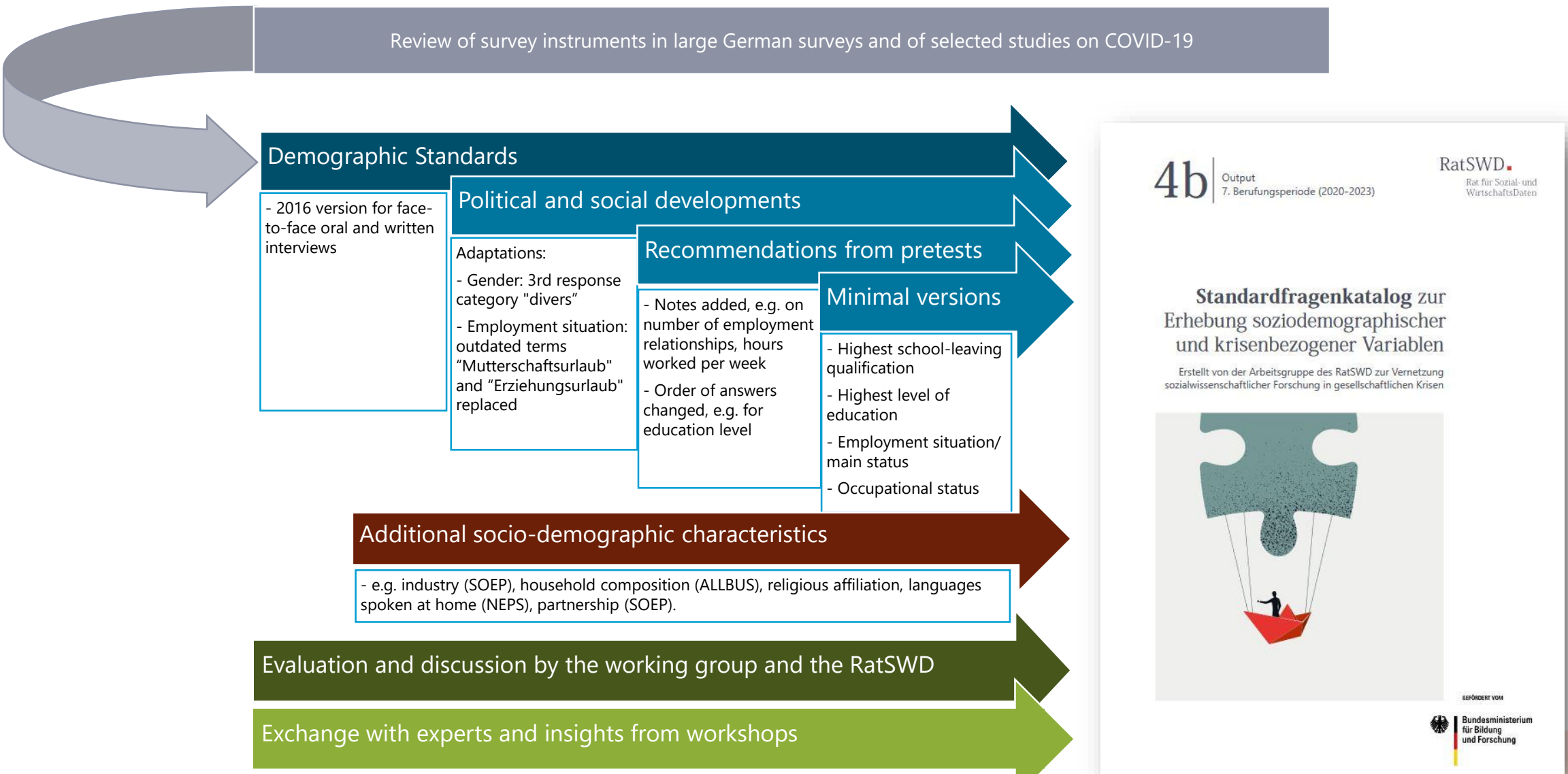
*Best_FDM = **B**essere Ergebnisse durch Interoperabilität und **s**tandardisiertes **F**orschungs**d**aten**m**anagement: Vernetzung empirischer sozialwissenschaftlicher Forschung in gesellschaftlichen Krisen (Better results through interoperability and standardised RDM: Connecting empirical social science research in societal crises)

Standard questionnaire

- Aim: to increase the interoperability and comparability of survey data through **input harmonisation**
- Intended for studies dealing with **societal crises** as well as for **general use in personal surveys**
- Comprises two parts: **socio-demographic** and **crisis-related** variables
- Was developed after a **systematic analysis** of social science studies on COVID-19 and **on the basis of established standards**



Development of the socio-demographic standard questions



Socio-demographic variables

Basic demographics	Labour market and economic situation	Culture and migration	Household and family
Age	Employment situation/ main status	Citizenship	Household size
Gender	Occupation	Country of birth	Household composition
Education	Professional position	Languages spoken at home	Marital status
Geographic characteristics	Household net income	Religious affiliation	Partnership

Collection of the Crisis-related Standard Questions

Review of survey instruments in large German surveys and of selected studies on COVID-19

Questions from COVID-19 studies

- Questions on own infection, infection in the environment, vaccination behaviour, acceptance of and compliance with Corona measures, among others.

- Taken i.a. from SOEP-CoV, NEPS-C, Mannheim Corona Study, COSMO

General crisis-related questions from panel studies and established psychological constructs

- Questions on different aspects of society that are generally relevant in crises.

- Taken i.a. from SOEP, NEPS, ESS, IAB, Research Institute for Social Cohesion

Specific questions on flight/migration and the climate crisis

- Aiming at different dimensions of crises with illustrative examples

- Taken i.a. from DeZIM rapid survey, UBA environmental awareness study

Reaction to Ukraine war: project extended its focus towards crises in general

Evaluation and discussion by the working group and the RatSWD

Exchange with experts and insights from workshops



Crisis-related variables

General crisis-related variables

Work and daily life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of work situation • Change in working hours • Change in place of work/ home office • Systemically relevant occupation • Childcare
Politics and society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust in institutions • Satisfaction with measures against the crisis • Receiving information on the crisis • Social cohesion
Life satisfaction, well-being and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General life satisfaction • Well-being • Subjective state of health
Other psychological characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Five personality traits • Resilience • Emotion regulation • Core Self-Evaluations • Willingness to take risks

Specific crisis-related variables (dimensions of crises)

<u>COVID-19 pandemic</u>	<u>Ukraine war</u>	<u>Climate crisis</u>
DIMENSION 1: Direct affection by or relation to the crisis		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own infection yes/no (RKI) • Infection in personal surroundings (RKI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relation to Ukraine (DeZIM) • Relation to Russia (DeZIM) • Refugee experience (DeZIM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection with nature (PACE) • Environmental consciousness (UBA)
DIMENSION 2: Threat perception through the crisis		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own risk of infection (RKI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns and fears related to the war in Ukraine (BBK/forsa) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns related to climate change (ESS)
DIMENSION 3: Acceptance of or compliance with specific measures against the crisis		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of corona measures (HOPP) • Compliance with corona measures (RAPID-COVID) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy of Germany's acceptance of refugees (DeZIM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of Germany's role in climate protection (UBA)
DIMENSION 4: Individual action in relation to the crisis		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination status (COVIMO) • Willingness to get vaccinated (COVIMO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own solidarity engagement (DeZIM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms of engagement for climate protection (UBA) • Willingness to change behaviour for climate protection (UBA)

Central findings

- Different **needs** of researchers depending on **research interests** and **available resources**
 - Adapted offers, e.g. short and long versions of standardised survey instruments
- Need for **improved data infrastructures** for research into societal crisis phenomena, including
 - **Cross-disciplinary collaboration**, e.g. with other consortia of the German National Research Data Infrastructure or other international institutions
 - **Linking of different data types**, e.g. geo-referenced survey data with spatial environmental and climate data
 - **International cooperation and connectivity**, mainly at the European level

New project: Vulnerability, Preparedness and Resilience in crises - Data infrastructures for research on social crisis phenomena

- December 2023 – September 2025
- Funded by the Consortium for the Social, Behavioural, Educational and Economic Sciences (KonsortSWD), based at the FU Berlin and WZB Berlin Social Science Center
- Objective: to **develop infrastructural services** which allow to analyse the vulnerability, preparedness and resilience of individuals and social structures in situations of crisis
- Work packages:
 - **Information portal** with regional data relevant to threats and crises
 - **Collection of survey instruments** on the topics of vulnerability, preparedness and resilience
 - **Development of a short module** on vulnerability, preparedness and resilience to be included in national (e.g. SOEP) and international surveys (e.g. ESS 2027)
- Supported through **experts** and **workshops**
- Concludes in a **publication**

Thank you for your attention!

Contact

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