

**COST Action IS1409 – Gender and Health Impacts of Policies  
Extending Working Life in Western Countries  
Short Term Scientific Missions STSM 2017  
SCIENTIFIC REPORT**

**COST Action:** IS1409

**STSM reference number:** COST-STMS-IC1409-37893

**Host institution:** German Center of Gerontology (DZA), Berlin, DE

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## **Background**

The use of longitudinal data is growing in all the social fields. One of the main longitudinal databases in Social Sciences is the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP). This product has been developed in Germany annually since 1984, so it counts 32 waves so far. SOEP contains some very interesting features: great variety of topics, representative micro-data on persons, households, and families (cross-sectional and panel data, biographic data, partner data), oversamplings (West&East Germans, foreigners, immigrants, refugees, high-income people), etc. It has an extraordinary potential to develop research that links labour market and health for many different samples.

## **Purpose of the stay**

The aim of this stay has been to learn methodologies in order to be applied to longitudinal data. Before the STSM, we chose SOEP as the best database to work with.

Additionally, there have been two specific goals. On one hand, create a network between institutions, the German DZA (with Laura Romeu-Gordo), and my university, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla (with me and my research group). On the other hand, contribute to the particular aims of the Action IS1409, creating the inter-institutional network and sketch a working paper.

## **Description of work plan developed during the STSM**

During the stay, we carried out the following works:

- Understanding the structure, features, and possibilities of SOEP
- Selecting topics and main variables to be included in the final database
- Sketching ideas to develop in the future
- Starting to work with the syntax in order to get a comprehensive database
- Data cleansing
- Studying two new statistical methods
- Outlining a working paper to be developed in the coming months

## **Description of main results obtained**

The preparatory character of this stay has permitted to get mainly learning results in terms of new methodologies to be applied to panel data. However, we have been able to obtain the comprehension and a primary establishment of SOEP database.

Therefore, we have obtained the following main results:

- Understanding of a complex longitudinal database – SOEP
- Developing syntax to create a panel database from different aggregated files: master file, persons-files, households-files, and biographic data.
- Learning two new statistical methods: quantile fixed-effects regression and random effects estimators model.
- Schematising the idea of a working paper to work with. We are going to focus on how critical changes of health during the working lives (those that end in a sickness leave, e.g. depression, acute myocardial infarction) can affect the labour trajectories of the people and their partners (if any). We will adopt a strong gender perspective. Furthermore, we control the interactions by age –accumulative effect-, place of residence (West vs East), and origin (migrants). We will try to assess whether there are either incentives or brakes to develop a longer or more continued working lives, mainly at its end.

These results have allowed the fulfilment of the main proposed objectives of the working plan.

### **Future collaboration with host institution**

Given the depth of the database we are dealing with, Laura and I agreed to continue with the collaboration in the future. Furthermore, we agreed to try to carry out a second stay once we progress in the work plan.

On the other hand, I will try to propose an inter-institutional collaboration between both institutions, and with my research group in Spain.

### **Publications and dissemination**

Due to the extension of this STSM, the work plan only considered learning new methodologies to be applied to longitudinal data, and managing longitudinal databases (German SOEP, in this case). Therefore, we have not been able to perform any consolidated publication. Nevertheless, and according to the work plan, we have outlined a working paper in which to work in the coming months.

In addition, I have made up in Spain a specific group of young researchers who will work with SOEP in the coming months to develop some of the main topics of this COST Action.

**Other comments**

I would like to thank all the staff and researchers of DZA, and specially, my wonderful hostess and supervisor Laura Romeu-Gordo, for this amazing stay. And, of course, I also thank the COST Action IS1409 for giving me this opportunity.