

**COST Action IS1409 – Gender and Health Impacts of Policies  
Extending Working Life in Western Countries  
Short Term Scientific Missions STSM 2019  
SCIENTIFIC REPORT**

**COST Action:** IS1409

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

**Hostess supervisor of the Action:** Dr. Laura Romeu-Gordo, DZA, DE, MC Member (DE), [laura.romeu-gordo@dza.de](mailto:laura.romeu-gordo@dza.de)

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**STSM Applicant:** Juan Manuel García González, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla, ES, MC substitute (ES), [jmgargon@upo.es](mailto:jmgargon@upo.es)

## **Background**

The use of longitudinal surveys is growing in all the social fields, especially in demographic and sociological areas in an interdisciplinary way with medical, gerontological and psychological topics. One of the most well-known ageing longitudinal survey in Europe is the German Aging Survey (DEAS). The DEAS is a nationwide representative cross-sectional and longitudinal survey of the German population 40+ years old. This product has been developed by the German Centre of Gerontology (DZA) since 1996, with further waves in 2002, 2008, 2011, and 2014; a sixth wave is currently conducted. DEAS contains many research areas to understand the process of aging of German population: employment and retirement, generations, family and social networks, activities outside the work environment and volunteer work, housing situation and mobility, economic situation and economic behaviour, subjective wellbeing and quality of life, health and health behaviour, need of assistance and need of care, attitudes, norms, values and images of age and ageing. This broad coverage of topics allows research of the interrelation among health, quality of later life, and ageing both at an individual and social level.

## **Purpose of the stay**

The aim of this stay was to learn the research instruments, sampling methodology, and the development of the fieldwork in a longitudinal aging survey. Before the STSM, during COST meetings, we chose DEAS as the best database to work with.

Additionally, there have been two specific goals. On one hand, consolidate the 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 sketching a longitudinal ageing survey for the Spanish population.

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

During the stay, we carried out the following works:

- Understanding the structure, features, and possibilities of DEAS
- Selecting topics, standard questionnaires, and variables to be included in a Spanish Ageing Survey
- Preparing a potential field work in Spain, a national territory similar to Germany

### **Description of main results obtained**

The exploratory character of this stay has permitted to get mainly learning results in terms of pre-production of a longitudinal ageing survey. Therefore, we have obtained the following main results:

- Understanding of a nationwide longitudinal ageing survey– DEAS
- Developing a questionnaire to study the process of ageing of the Spanish population from several points of view: social, psychological, medical, labour, cognitive development, loneliness, quality of life, health, quality of retirement.
- Learning the preparation of the fieldwork for Spain.
- Consolidating a research proposal to study cognitive decline in the Spanish old population.

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 research proposal and the ageing survey we are dealing with, Laura and I agreed to continue with the collaboration in the future.

### **Publications and dissemination**

Due to the short extension of this STSM, the work plan only considered learning the core of the German Ageing Survey to be considered in a future Spanish Ageing Survey. Therefore, we have not been able to perform any consolidated publication. Nevertheless, given the work-in-progress new wave of DEAS and the future ageing survey in Spain, we have established the network for future collaborations.

### **Other comments**

I would like to thank all the staff and researchers of DZA, and specially, my excellent hostess Dr. Laura Romeu-Gordo, and Dr. Claudia Vogel, director of DEAS, for this productive stay. And, of course, I also thank the COST Action IS1409 for giving me this opportunity.