The SOEP team is currently considering whether the SOEP research-based infrastructure (data, documentation, etc.). In 2013, approximately 61% of all users were male.

METHODOLOGY AND EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

The research project was carried out as an online survey using the web-based instrument LimeSurvey®. In November 2013, the online survey was conducted under strict adherence to data protection regulations. Among our invited SOEP contract holders, other users also had the option of taking part in the survey outside the framework of the LimeSurvey® by clicking on a link on the DIW Berlin webpage. A total of 585 anonymized responses were obtained for analysis. In 2012, for the first time, the user survey also included a small selection of questions from the annual main SOEP survey. The goal was to find out how SOEP data users differ from the approximately 20,000 SOEP respondents.

The most statistical software used most frequently by SOEP users (in %) is Stata. R signifies potential.

Under the age of 30 there are more female than male data users. Above the age of 30, this statistic is reversed. In 2013, approximately 61% of all users were male.

The SOEP team is pleased by the positive response to its service provision activities, since user satisfaction is among the most important goals of SOEP. The SOEP infrastructure.

CONCLUSIONS

Several characteristics of SOEP users remain relatively unchanged (e.g., research areas), but new trends have appeared, e.g., in the increased use of data by younger women. The SOEP team is pleased by the positive response to its service provision activities, since user satisfaction is among the most important goals of the SOEP infrastructure. The SOEP team is currently considering whether repetition of the SOEP User Survey at two-year intervals would be sufficient.

WHO ARE „FAMS”?

The 2013 SOEP User Survey was carried out under the direction of SOEP researcher Marcel Hebing by three students currently completing degrees as Specialists for Market and Social Research. During a period of in-house training lasting three years, the trainees gain experience with statistical programs, a range of evaluation methods, and approaches to quality and plausibility control. The program of “dual-track vocational training” also includes courses in the theoretical foundations of descriptive statistics and project-related application of methodologies at the school they are currently attending. At the end of the three years the students will be examined by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Berlin (IHK).

Upon completing their training, “FAMS” (German acronym) serve as a link between service and research. They also appear to attend more cultural events than SOEP respondents.

Twice as many SOEP users as SOEP respondents exercise at least once a week.

The SOEP data form the basis for competent political advice. One can therefore hypothesize that SOEP users have a higher interest in politics than SOEP respondents on average. The indicators in the chart at left clearly confirm this hypothesis.

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