

The German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study (GERPS): Aim, Scope and Design of a new SOEP Related Study

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Abstract

The new German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study (GERPS) will be launched in March 2018. The presentation concentrates on the aim, scope and design of this new and unique data base for research on international migration and social inequalities. During a period of three years and funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), GERPS will survey international mobile German citizens in four consecutive waves. People who have recently emigrated abroad as well as people who have recently re-migrated back to Germany will be interviewed via web-based questionnaires. Beside standard socio-economic and demographic information, the project concentrates on longitudinal individual data about changing living conditions as well as life events linked to the migration process to learn more about the individual consequences of cross-border mobility. To evaluate such consequences GERPS will be closely connected to the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) since the SOEP will provide necessary information about the internationally non-mobile population as a reference. Comparing emigrants and re-migrants with internationally non-mobile individuals will help us to identify possible positive as well as negative outcomes of migration in different relevant fields like income, employment, family and social ties as well as well-being. The presentation illustrates the capacity of this new official SOEP Related Study and the important links between GERPS and SOEP based on selected results from a previously conducted pilot study.

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