Almost 20 years after the start of BASE I (see below), current and future cohorts of elderly people are no longer represented adequately in the sample. For this reason, in 2008 we initiated the follow-up and extension of the Berlin Aging Study on the basis of a multi-disciplinary, longitudinal approach combining the socio-economic and biological dimensions of aging. The focus is on socio-economic, cognitive, medical, and genetic data. The first wave (including the preparation of the second wave of SOEP assessment) is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). In BASE II, the Socio-Economic Panel cooperates with the Max Planck Institute for Human Development (coordinator), the Research Group on Geriatrics at the Charité Berlin, and the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics.

Complement Sample of the SOEP

- About 1,100 young and 1,100 older adults are assessed “like in SOEP” as a related study
- This results in a multi-dimensional socio-economic measurement of phenotypes that goes beyond what had been measured in BASE I
- BASE II participants can be analyzed in comparison to the representative SOEP data set

Physical and Genetic Assessment

- In addition to the SOEP interview, participants will undergo medical screening in regard to clinical health, functional capacity, subjective health, and well-being
- Furthermore, a genome wide association analysis assessing 950,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms will be performed for an initial sample of 1,000 participants

Creating a Unique Longitudinal Survey

- By integrating the participants into the SOEP as a “related study” or part of an “innovation sample” and adding medical and genetic screenings, BASE II establishes the basis for a new longitudinal and multi-disciplinary Berlin Aging Study
- BASE II includes a group of young adults which, in contrast to BASE I, allows the prospective study of the influence of early and middle adulthood on developmental paths in old age