



Bringing GUIDE to Austria:

Europe's first comparative birth cohort survey

Cassandra Simmons, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy & Research

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COORDINATE
data children wellbeing

Policy context

- EU Child Guarantee
 - Prevent and combat social exclusion by guaranteeing access to a range of key services
- Austrian Youth Strategy (current 2020-2024)
 - 33 youth goals across 4 domains (learning & employment, participation & commitment, QoL and togetherness, media and information)
- The Vienna Children and Youth Strategy (2020 – 2025), among others
- Child and Adolescent Health Strategy (developed in 2011 but updated since then and monitored)



Current data scene in Austria

Administrative data

- Data on service use (health and social, i.e. Childcare services)
- Education & labour market outcomes (child and youth welfare statistics)
- Family benefits (childcare benefit, family allowance, etc)
- Housing conditions
- Birth registry (some demographic characteristics)



Current data scene in Austria

Household/parent collected information

- Household information on material well-being (EU-SILC, HFCS, etc.)
- EU-SILC & LFS modules on use of services (public childcare)
- Austrian Konsumerhebung (Household Budget Survey)
- Zeitverwendungserhebung/HETUS (Time-use survey)
- Some data collected by social partners on childcare across provinces (Kinderbetreuungsatlas)



Current data scene in Austria

Microdata: surveys interviewing children & youth

- Some longitudinal surveys (although limited in topic)
- Other education-based surveys: International Computer and Information Literacy study (ICILS), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS)

Survey	Last wave	Sample age	Topics
PISA	2022	15-16	school performance, ICT, wellbeing, social interaction, etc.
Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)	2021	4 th grade	Reading literacy, background information (student, parents, teachers, schools)
European Survey Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD)	2019	15-16 year olds	Substance use
Health Behavior in School-aged Children	2017-2018	11, 13 & 15	Health & well-being, social determinants
Mental Health in Austrian Teenagers (MHAT) Study	2017	10-18	Behavioural & emotional problems, QoL, health-related variables, demographics, treatment & help-seeking, parent information (child's early development)
Children & youth media study	2022, 2021	6-10, 11-18	Digital-use related questions
EU-Kids Online	2010	9-16	Internet use

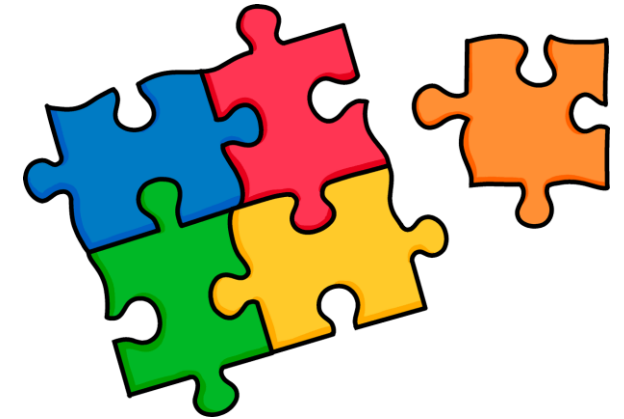
Current data scene in Austria

Microdata: surveys interviewing children & youth

- Adhoc surveys in-between focusing on youth and children—often focused on particular topic
 - Individual primary data collection efforts
- Step in the right direction: **Austrian Socio-Economic Panel (ASEP)**
 - Although not a perfect replacement!

What's missing?

- **Wellbeing** as a wide-ranging **multi-dimensional construct** (and not just individual components, i.e. material aspects or objective measures)
 - Subjective child and youth wellbeing
- **Child's perspective:** Children and youth as own actors
 - Limited subjective data on younger children (<10 years old)
- Limited **developmental and longer-term focus**
 - Longitudinal component (controlling for cohort differences)
 - Linking early life up to early adulthood
- **Comparative** with wide range of other countries



Benefits of an Austrian birth cohort study

- Identifying **causal mechanisms** over the life course
 - Entire lifecourse (in addition with SHARE, GGS and EU-SILC)
- Testing **longer-term impact** of policy changes
- Identifying Austrian-relevant factors in development of children and youth
- **Intergenerational** differences and impact of **digitalization**
- **Linkage of data** with administrative sources (wide range of information)



Benefits of a pan-European cohort study

- Ability to directly compared across European countries
- Lessons from other countries
- Better understanding national/cultural context and its impact on child and youth wellbeing
- Control groups for impact of policies
- Establish cross-national fundamental knowledge on child well-being and development aspects
- Examples SHARE, GGS, ESS



Potential of GUIDE in Austria

- No birth cohort studies currently in Austria
- Changes across cohorts over time (i.e. digitalization)
- Post-COVID world, societal transformations (longevity, migration/labour mobility, climate change)
- Comparative aspect
- Policymaking purposes: impact of policies on children over time



Growing Up
In Digital Europe

Challenges and caveats of GUIDE in Austria

- Political culture: “science-adversity” and risk-averse
 - SHARE as an example of good practice?
 - Political discussions on combatting child poverty
 - Children and youth underrepresented
- Methodology/feasibility: size of sample, keeping the panel valid for more than 20 years
 - Solutions ahead ...
- Resources: economic costs and research infrastructure
 - Centres for research on childhood and youth?
 - Now: Netzwerk Jugendforschung.at
 - Political momentum: EU Child Guarantee
- Ethics/lack of ethics commission?



@EuroCentre_SWPR



European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Berggasse 17, 1090 Vienna, Austria

+43 1 319 45 05-0

ec@euro.centre.org