

Call for proposals: studying time use in Switzerland

The question of how people spend and structure their time has been a core interest of the social sciences for decades. By measuring the patterns of everyday human behaviour, time-use data reveal the social division of labour and shed light on differences in consumption, leisure and care (Cornell, Gershuny & Sullivan 2019). For this reason, a growing number of European countries conduct nationally representative time use surveys (TUS), producing rich sources of social science data. However, this has not yet been the case for Switzerland. Therefore, researchers from LIVES and FORS would like to launch a collaborative project on time use in Switzerland, involving the implementation of nationally representative TUS.

We plan to conduct the TUS as part of an externally funded project consisting of several work packages, each focusing on a substantive question of interest in the social sciences. **We therefore invite interested LIVES and FORS researchers to submit a short proposal for a work package on the study of time use** that could be integrated into a joint project to be submitted to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) for funding.

We are particularly interested in two types of research questions:

- (1) Questions focusing on time use at different stages of the life course (such as adolescence, mid-adulthood or old age) or comparing time use between different life-course roles (such as student, parent, worker, homemaker, retiree);
- (2) Questions focusing on inequalities in time use (whether in relation to paid and unpaid work, leisure, sleep or family time, digital media) by gender, social class, or age group.

Proposals for work packages should specify a) the research question(s); b) their theoretical and/or empirical interest for the social sciences, c) the type of time use information that would be needed (e.g., individual vs. household level, seasonal variations, oversampling of subgroups of interest); and d) the resources needed to analyze the data (typically a PhD student or post-doctoral researcher).

While we plan to base the survey design on the Harmonized European Time Use Survey (HETUS, please see the guidelines and questionnaire [here](#)), there may be potential to add questions and/or time use dimensions. Please outline them in your proposal.

Current planning is that the TUS would be collected on the refreshment sample of the Swiss Household Survey (SHP) in 2026 or 2027. This would provide a longitudinal dimension to these data – and possibly allow for the later replication of the TUS.

The provisional timeline looks as follows. LIVES and FORS will run a pilot study in 2024 and we plan to submit an application for a collaborative SNF-project in April 2025 based on a selection of the proposed work packages. In case of funding, the research project would start in autumn 2026 and the collection of the TUS would probably take place in 2026 or 2027, data being available in 2028.

For questions on the project or the TUS, colleagues may join a hybrid meeting on 19. 3. 2024, 14:00-15:00 in Géopolis, room 5799 or on ZOOM (link: <https://unil.zoom.us/j/7052813514?omn=94798981959>). For questions, please contact Caroline.Roberts@unil.ch concerning the data collection and Daniel.Oesch@unil.ch concerning the work packages. Please **submit a proposal of max. 2-4 pages by 1 May 2024** to the LIVES secretariat at UNIL: Caroline.Jeanneret@unil.ch.

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