

ADDITIONAL FILE 1: HARMONIZATION GUIDELINES

GENERAL VARIABLES

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Country	(country)	1. Germany 2. Italy 3. Netherlands 4. Spain 5. UK
	ID	(ID)	Germany → 10000000+ID Italy → 20000000+ID Netherland → 30000000+respnr Spain → 40000000+hc1 UK → 50000000+abserno
	Proxy	(proxy)	0. proxy 1. respondent
Germany	Who has answered the questionnaire? At the end of each of the three visits (IV1N410, IV2N657a, IV3N895)	1. only participant 2. mostly participant 3. mostly relatives/friends 4. other situation	1,2 → 1 3,4 → 0
Italy	Type of interview (int)	0. direct 1. indirect	0 → 1 1 → 0
Netherlands	Not available	all face-to-face data come from respondent	1
Spain	Type of interview (proxy) *this variable was not provided*	1. no 2. yes	1 → 1 2 → 0
UK	Not available		1

	Weights – European standard population, 2001	(wEU65t74) (wEU75p)	Range: 0- highest
Germany			weights by sex and age (65+) according to the European Standard Population, 2001 (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database). Per 5-year age/sex category: wEU01=N/n in which N=expected sample size (EU standard population), and n=observed sample size (sample size cohorts). We chose 2001 as reference year, because this was the median year of all baseline interviews across the cohorts. Since there are no participants in HCS above the age of 72, it was not possible to compute weights for 65+. Therefore, weights were computed for two age-categories: - 65-74 years including all cohorts - 75+ years for It, NL, Sp As a result, weighted analysis can only be done stratified for age.
Italy			
Netherlands			
Spain			
UK			
	Weights – per country	(w....)	Range: 0- highest
Germany		(wactife09)	wactife09=N/n N=expected sample size acc to German standard population, 2009; n=observed sample size in Actife, age-range 65+
Italy		(wprova97)	wprova97=N/n N=expected sample size acc to Italian standard population, 1997; n=observed sample size in Prova, age-range 65+
Netherlands		(wlasa01)	wlasa01=N/n N=expected sample size acc to Dutch standard population, 2001), and n=observed sample size, age-range 65+

Spain		(wpeña08)	wpeña08=N/n N=expected sample size acc to Spanish standard population, 2008; n=observed sample size in Peñagrande, age-range 65+
UK		(whcs02)	Whcs02=N/n N=expected sample size UK standard population, 2002; n=observed sample size HCS, age-range 65+

OSTEOARTHRITIS

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Self-reported knee OA	(srknee)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		missing
Italy	Symptomatic arthrosis/arthritis of the knee reported by the patient (ARG01)	1. yes 2. no	1 → 1 2 → 0
Netherlands	Do you have osteoarthritis (erheum01)	-5. not available 0. no, never 1. no, previous yes 2. yes, previous no 3. yes, previous yes	-5 → -1 0 → 0 1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 1
Spain	Not available		missing
UK	Not available		missing
	Self-reported hip OA	(srhip)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		missing
Italy	Symptomatic arthrosis/arthritis of the hip reported by the patient (ARA01)	1. yes 2. no	1 → 1 2 → 0
Netherlands	Do you have osteoarthritis (erheum01) Would you please tell me if you have complaints of the hip (erheum8h)	-5. not available 0. no, never 1. no, previous yes 2. yes, previous no 3. yes, previous yes -2 not available 1. not mentioned 2. mentioned	If erheum01 ≥ 2 and erheum8h = 2 → 1 If erheum01 < 2 → 0 If erheum01 ≥ 2 and erheum8h = -2 → -1 If erheum01 = -5 → -1
Spain	Not available		missing

UK	Not available		missing
	Self-reported hand OA	(srhand)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		missing
Italy	Symptomatic arthrosis of the hand reported by the patient (ARM01)	1. yes 2. no	1 → 1 2 → 0
Netherlands	Do you have osteoarthritis (erheum01) Would you please tell me if you have complaints of - the fingers (erheum8a) - hand/wrist (erheum8b)	-5. not available 0. no, never 1. no, previous yes 2. yes, previous no 3. yes, previous yes -2 not available 1. not mentioned 2. mentioned	If erheum01 ≥ 2 and (erheum8a=2 or erheum8b=2) → 1 If erheum01 < 2 → 0 If erheum01 ≥ 2 and (erheum8a=-2 and erheum8b=-2) → -1 If erheum01 < -5 → -1
Spain	Not available		missing
UK	Not available		missing
	Self-reported non-specific OA	(srnonsp)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		missing
Italy			If yes on srknee, srhand or srhip → 1 If no on srknee, srhand and srhip → 0
Netherlands	Do you have osteoarthritis (erheum01)	-5. not available 0. no, never 1. no, previous yes 2. yes, previous no 3. yes, previous yes	If (erheum01 ≥ 2) → 1 If (erheum01 < 2) → 0 If (erheum01 < 0 or sysmis(erheum01)) → -1
Spain	Have you had pains in the joints or bones? (OA)	1. yes 2. no 9. don't know	If (OA=1 and OA_diagnosis=2) → 1 If (OA=2 or (OA=1 and OA_diagnosis=2)) → 0 If (OA=9) → -1

	Diagnostic in medical record (OA_diagnosis)	1. OA 2. other musculoskeletal diagnosis 9. no musculoskeletal diagnosis	
UK	Not available		missing
STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Clinical knee OA	(clknee)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		missing
Italy	Clinical judgement of the doctor: diagnosis of symptomatic arthrosis of the knees (ARG12)	1. definite 2. possible 3. no	1 → 1 2 → 1 3 → 0
Netherlands	Not available		missing
Spain	Not available		missing
UK	Told to have knee OA by doctor (kqoadoc)	0. no 1. yes 2. don't know	0 → 0 1 → 1 2 → -1
STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Clinical hip OA	(clhip)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		missing
Italy	Clinical judgement of the doctor: diagnosis of arthrosis of the hip (ARA11)	1. definite 2. possible 3. no	1 → 1 2 → 1 3 → 0
Netherlands	Not available		missing
Spain	Not available		missing
UK	Not available		missing
STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE

	Clinical hand OA	(clhand)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		missing
Italy	Clinical judgement of the doctor: diagnosis of symptomatic arthrosis of the hands (ARM10)	1. definite 2. possible 3. no	1 → 1 2 → 1 3 → 0
Netherlands	Not available		missing
Spain	Not available		missing
UK	Hand observation (left/right): - heberdens nodes (heheber)	0. no 1. yes	0 → 0 1 → 1
STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Clinical non-specific OA	(clnonsp)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Has a doctor ever told you that you have or had arthrosis/arthritis? (IV1N114)	1. no 2. yes, still causes impairment 3. yes, no impairment anymore	1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 1
Italy	A doctor said he has arthrosis (AR12)	1. yes 2. no 9. don't know	Two definitions are possible: 1. Based on AR12 1 → 1 2 → 0 9 → -1 2. Based on summing clknee, clhip and clhand: If (clknee=1 or clhip=1 or clhand=1) → 1 If (clknee=0 and clhip=0 and clhand=0) → 0
Netherlands	General Practitioner questionnaire: Has your patient been diagnosed with OA? (egoart)	0. no 1. yes	0 → 0 1 → 1
Spain	Diagnosis in medical record ? (OA_diagnosis)	1. OA 2. other musculoskeletal diagnosis 9. no musculoskeletal diagnosis	1 → 1 2,9 → 0
UK			If (clknee=1 or clhip=1) → 1

			If (clknee=0 and clhip=0) → 0
STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Radiographic knee OA	(xrknee)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		missing
Italy	joint space narrowing (k&l grading) medial and lateral: - right (kjsnml, kjsnll) - left (kjsnmr, kjsnlr) Femoral/tibial medial/lateral osteophytes - right (kostfml, kosttml, kostfll, kosttll) - left (kostfmr, kosttmr, kostflr, kosttlr)	Range: 0-3 Range: 0-3	If (kjsnml>=0 and kjsnmr>=0) xrknee=0. If (missing on any of the variables) xrknee=-1. If (kjsnml>=2 or kjsnmr>=2 or kjsnll>=2 or kjsnlr>=2) and (kostfml>=1 or kostfmr>=1 or kosttml>=1 or kosttmr>=1 or kostfll>=1 or kostflr>=1 or kosttll>=1 or kosttlr>=1) xrknee=1.
Netherlands	Not available		missing
Spain	Not available		missing
UK	knee x-ray: anterior-posterior tibiofemoral joint k&l grading - right (knxrtrl) - left (knxltrl) knee x-ray: ap right tfj medial osteophytes - right (knxrmst) - left (knxlmst) knee x-ray: ap right tfj lateral osteophytes - right (knxrlost) - left (knxllost)	Range: 0-4 0. no 1. yes	If (knxrtrl>=0 and knxltrl>=0) → 0 If (knxrtrl>=2 and (knxrlost>=1 or knxrmst>=1)) or (knxltrl>=2 and (knxllost>=1 or knxlmst>=1)) → 1
STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Radiographic hip OA	(xrhip)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes

Germany	Not available		missing
Italy	Hip x-ray: joint space narrowing (K&L grading) superior/axial - left (hjsnsl, hjsnal) - right (hjsnsr, hjsnar) Osteophytes: acetabular/femoral - left (hostal, hostfl) - right (hostar, hostfr)	Range: 0-3 Range: 0-3	If (hjsnsl>=0 and hjsnsr>=0) xrhip=0. If (missing on any of the variables) xrhip=-1. If (hjsnsl>=2 or hjsnsr>=2 or hjsnal>=2 or hjsnar>=2) and (hostal>=1 or hostar>=1 or hostfl>=1 or hostfr>=1) xrhip=1.
Netherlands	Not available		missing
Spain	Not available		missing
UK	Not available		missing
STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Radiographic hand OA	(xrhand)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		missing
Italy	Hip x-ray: joint space narrowing (K&L grading) dip/pip of T2 and T3 and cmc - left (dipjsnl3, dipjsnl2, pipjsnl3 pipjsnl2, cmcjsnl) - right (dipjsnr3, dipjsnr2, pipjsnr3 pipjsnr2, cmcjsnr) Osteophytes: dip/pip of T2 and T3 and cmc - left (dipostl3, dipostl2, pipostl3, pipostl2, cmcostl) - right (dipostr3, dipostr2, pipostr3, pipostr2, cmcostr) Rheumatoid arthritis (yes/no) (mra)	Range: 0-3 Range: 0-3 0. no 1. yes	If (dipjsnl3>=0 and dipjsnr3>=0) or (mra=1) xrhand=0. If (missing on any of the variables) xrhand=-1. If (dipjsnl3>=2 or dipjsnl2>=2 or dipjsnr3>=2 or dipjsnr2>=2 or pipjsnl3>=2 or pipjsnl2>=2 or pipjsnr3>=2 or pipjsnr2>=2) and (dipostl3>=1 or dipostl2>=1 or dipostr3>=1 or dipostr2>=1 or pipostl3>=1 or pipostl2>=1 or pipostr3>=1 or pipostr2>=1) xrhand=1.
Netherlands	Not available		missing

Spain	Not available		missing
UK	handxray: joint space narrowing - dip (hxrlpipj, hxrrdipj, hxrmdipj, hxridipj, hxlldipj, hxlrddipj, hxlmddipj, hxldipj) - pip (hxrlpipj, hxrrpipj, hxrmppipj, hxripipj, hxllpipj, hxlrpipj, hxlmpipj, hxlipipj) - ip (hxrtipj, hxltipj) - cmc (hxrtcmcj, hxltcmcj) handxray: osteophytes - dip (hxrlpipj, hxrrpipj, hxrmppipj, hxripipj, hxllpipj, hxlrpipj, hxlmpipj, hxlipipj) - ip (hxrtipj, hxltipj) - cmc (hxrtcmcj, hxltcmcj)	Range: 0-4 Range: 0-3	If jsn>=2 and osteophytes>=1 in any of the joints 1 → 1 If jsn<2 and osteophytes=0 in all of the joints → 0

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Date of birth		
Germany	Date of birth: day, month, year (IV1N008_01, IV1N008_02, IV1N008_03)		
Italy			
Netherlands	Birthday (geb_dat)	SPSS date format	
Spain	Not available		
UK	Date of birth: day (hdobdd) Date of birth: month (hdobmm) Date of birth: year (hdoby)		
	Age at baseline	(age)	Range: 50-highest (continuous)
Germany	Years between date of interview and date of birth	range: 65 - highest	
Italy	Age (age)	range: 65-highest	
Netherlands	The age at baseline depends on the year taken as baseline. (eage)	range: 55.0-highest	Copy and rounded of to the nearest integer
Spain	Age (age)	range: 65-highest	
UK	Years between date of birth (hdobdd, hdomm, hdoyy) and date of interview : -HCS ('99-'04): hdoidd, hdoimm, hdoiyy -MFSU ('04-'05): fqdoidd, fqdoimm, fqdoiyy	range: 60-highest	
	Year of baseline interview	(baseline)	range: 1995-2009
Germany			Copy year
Italy	Date of interview (DTinter)	dd.mm.yy	Copy year
Netherlands	Date of interview (t5_dat)	Spss date format: in days from 1-1-1582 → recoded into actual dates (edateint)	Copy year
Spain			Copy year
UK	HHQ: year of interview	yyyy	Copy year

	Sex	(sex)	0. Male 1. Female
Germany	Sex (IV1N007)		
Italy	Sex (sex)	1. Male 2. Female	1→0 2→1
Netherlands	Sex (sex)	1. Male 2. Female	1→0 2→1
Spain	Sex (sex)	0. Male 1. Female	0→0 1→1
UK	Sex (absex)	1. Male 2. Female	1→0 2→1
	Urbanisation grade	(urban)	-1. missing 1. rural (<300 p/km ² , <5000 inhabitants) 2. intermediate (5000-30000 inhabitants) 3. urban (>300 p/km ² , >5000 inhabitants)
Germany	Not available as variable. Can be differentiated by rural and urban area only.		
Italy	The urbanisation grade for all participants is urban.		3
Netherlands	Urbanisation grade per municipality (CBS 1971) (burb_71c)	1. A3 (rural, <300 p/km ² , <5,000 inh) 2. A4 (rural, <300 p/km ² , <5,000 inh) 3. B1 (intermediate, <5,000 inh) 4. B2 (intermediate, <20,000 inh) 5. B3 (intermediate, <30,000 inh) 6. C1 (urban, >300 p/km ² , <10,000 inh) 7. C2 (urban, >300 p/km ² , <30,000 inh) 8. C3 (urban, >300 p/km ² , <50,000 inh) 9. C4 (urban, >300 p/km ² , <100,000) 10. C5 (urban, >100,000)	1,2 → 1 3,4,5 → 2 6,7,8,9,10 → 3
Spain	All participants live in one region of Madrid - Peñagrande		All → 3
UK	Not available		All → -1
	Residence	(residence)	-1. missing 0. community-dwelling 1. institutionalized

Germany	What kind of house do you live in? (IV3N877)	1. one family house 2. two family house/row house 3. apartment in apartment building	1→0 2→0 3→0
Italy	Place of interview (residencepr)	1. home of the subject 2. home of a relative 3. hospital 4. nursing home or rest 5. other	1→0 2→0 3→0 4→1 5→0
Netherlands	Housing type (ehindep)	-3. no observation -2. no answer -1. unknown 1. independent 2. residential home 3. nursing home - somatic 4. nursing home – psycho geriatric 5. hospital 6. psychiatric hospital 8. monastery	-3,-2,-1→-1 1→0 2→0 3→1 4→1 5→1 6→1 8→0
Spain	To live in residence (residence)	0. no residence 1. yes residence	0→0 1→1
UK	Residence (fqresid)	1. your own home(owner) 2. rented accommodation 3. a residential home 4. a nursing home 5. other(please specify)	1→0 2→0 3→1 4→1 5→0 (except for granny flat→1)
	Race/ethnicity	(ethnicity)	-1. missing 0. Caucasian 1. non-caucasian
Germany	Not available	All caucasian	All 0
Italy	Race (raceprova)	All Caucasian	All 0
Netherlands	Ethnic identification (aethnic)	-2. born Neth+nat=Neth 1. Dutch/Netherlands 2. Arubian 3. Antillian 4. Chinese	-2→0 1→0 2→1 3→1 4→1

		5. Greece 6. Italian 7. Yugoslavian 8. Capeverdian 9. Moroccan 10. Moluccan 11. Portuguese 12. Spanish 13. Surinam 14. Tunisian 15. Turkish 16. other 17. Indonesian 18. Iranian 19. American 20. European 21. Polish 22. French 23. Indian 24. German 25. English	5→0 6→0 7→0 8→1 9→1 10→1 11→0 12→0 13→1 14→1 15→1 16→1 17→1 18→1 19→0 20→0 21→0 22→0 23→1 24→0 25→0
Spain	Not available		All -1
UK	Not available		All -1
	Marital status	(marital)	-1. missing 0. not married 1. married 2. widowed 3. divorced/separated
Germany	Marital status (IV1N020)	1. married 2. single/unmarried 3. divorced 4. widowed 5. living apart	1 → 1 2 → 0 3 → 3 4 → 2 5 → 3
Italy	Marital Status (MaritalStatus)	1. Never married 2. married/cohabiting	1 → 0 2 → 1

		3. separated/divorced 4. widowed 9. don't know	3 → 3 4 → 2 9 → -1
Netherlands	Marital status (emarst)	1. never married 2. married 3. divorced 4. widowed	1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 3 4 → 2
Spain	Marital status (Marital_status)	1. single 2. married 3. widowed 4. separated/divorced 5. free union 6. no answer	1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 2 4 → 3 5 → 0 6 → -1
UK	Hhq: marital status (hmstat)	1. single 2. married 3. divorced or separated 4. widowed 5. cohabiting	1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 3 4 → 2 5 → 0

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Education	(edu)	-1. missing 1. Elementary school not completed 2. Elementary school completed 3. Vocational education or general secondary education 4. College or university education
Germany	Highest academic qualification (IV1N010)	1. none (incl. persons having attended general school for at least seven years) 2. secondary general school-leaving certificate 3. intermediate school-leaving certificate 4. Fachhochschule/University entrance qualification 5. abitur 6. college certificate 7. university certificate 8. other	1 → 1 2 → 2 3 → 2 4 → 3 5 → 3 6 → 4 7 → 4 8 → -1
Italy	Highest educational level (schooltitle)	1. none 2. less than primary school 3. primary school completed 4. secondary school completed 5. corsi prof completed 6. high school completed 7. pre-university completed 8. university completed 9. don't know range: ...	1 → 1 2 → 1 3 → 2 4 → 3 5 → 3 6 → 4 7 → 4 8 → 4 9 → -1
	Years of education (yschool)		

Netherlands	Education level attained (aeducat)	1. elementary not completed 2. elementary education 3. lower vocational education 4. general intermediate education 5. intermediate vocational education 6. general secondary education 7. higher vocational education 8. college education 9. university education	1 → 1 2 → 2 3,4,5,6 → 3 7,8,9 → 4
Spain	What level of education do you have (education)	1. neither read nor write 2. did not finish primary school 3. complete primary education 4. secondary school/high school 5. university 9. no answer	1,2 → 1 3 → 2 4 → 3 5 → 4
UK	Age (yrs) finished ft education (hendedu) Age (yrs) finished ft education (bands) (hendeduc)	range: 11-27 (In the UK, an individual; can leave school at 16. Thereafter, they may go to college/ enter a vocational scheme/ stay at school until 18. Thereafter, they may go to University until age 21-24) 1. ≤14 2. ≥15	<15 → 1 15-17 → 2 18-20 → 3 >20 → 4
	Income	(income)	-1. missing 0. <500 Euro 1. ≥500 Euro
Germany	Not available		
Italy	Monthly income (incomep)	1. ≥500 euro 2. <500 3. refusal 9. don't know	1 → 1 2 → 0 3,9 → -1
Netherlands	Income categories in guilders (eincat)	-2. no answer 1. f 1.000 – 1.250	-2 → -1 1 → 0

		2. f 1.251 – 1.500 3. f 1.501 – 1.750 4. f 1.751 – 2.000 5. f 2.001 – 2.250 6. f 2.251 – 2.500 7. f 2.501 – 3.000 8. f 3.001 – 3.500 9. f 3.501 – 4.000 10. f 4.001 – 4.500 11. f 4.501 – 5.000 12. >f 5.000	2-12 → 1
Spain	What is the total amount of the income (<i>income_home</i>)	1. None 2. less than 120 euros 3. >=120 to <300 4. >=300 to <600 5. >=600 to <900 6. >=900 to <1200 7. >1200 9. no answer	1-4 → 0 5-7 → 1 9 → -1
UK			
	Socio-economic status	(SES)	-1. missing 1. I large employers and higher managerial occupations, higher professional occupations 2. II lower managerial and professional occupations 3. III intermediate occupations 4. IV small employers and own account workers 5. V lower supervisory and technical occupations 6. VI semi-routine occupations 7. VII routine occupations
Germany	Main occupation during your life (<i>IV1N019</i>)	1. leading position (e.g. manager, director) 2. middle leading position (e.g. master, supervisor) 3. white-collar worker (administrator, assistant) 4. blue-collar worker (e.g. salesman) 5. trained operator	1 → 1 2 → 2 3 → 3 4 → 4 5 → 5

		6. untrained operator 7. self-employed (e.g. craftsman, tradesman) 8. freelancer (e.g. doctor, lawyer) 9. housewife/househusband 99. no answer	6 → 7 7 → 4 8 → 1 9 → 7 99 → -1
Italy	Type of work before retirement (WO2)	0 None 0.10 Accountant and auditor of financial statements 0.11 Chemist 0.12 Physical 0.13 Geologist, geophysicist, meteorologist, astronomer 0.14 Technician, physical and chemical sciences. 0.15 Specialist in physical and chemical sciences and assimilated technician 0.21 Architect and urban planner 0.22 Engineer, civil. 0.23 Engineer, electrical and electronic 0.24 Engineer, mechanical 0.25 Engineer, chemical 0.26 Engineer, metallurgical 0.29 Engineer, mining 0.30 Engineer, work organization, or in areas such as ceramics, glass 0.31 Surveyor 0.32 Designer 0.33 Technician, engineering/civil. 0.34 Electrical and electronic engineering. 0.35 Technician, mechanics. 0.36 Technician, industrial chemistry . 0.37 Technician, metallurgy. 0.38 Technician, mining. 0.39 Technician, industry - methods, time, work. 0.41 Pilots, navigators and mechanics of air and sea navigators 0.42 Officer and pilot of sea and river.	0 → -1 0.1-1.99 → 1 2.0-2.99 → 2 3.0-3.99 → 3 4.0-4.99 → 4 5.0-5.99 → 5 6.0-8.99 → 6 9.0-10.0 → 7

		0.43 Officer, mechanics. 0.51 Biologists, zoologists, and specialists. 0.52 Bacteriologist, pharmacologist, biochemist, specialist in human and animal pathology 0.53 Agronomy. 0.54 Technician, biological, agricultural and medical sciences 0.61 Doctor and surgeon. 0.62 Assistant, medical. 0.63 Dentists. 0.64 Assistant, dental. 0.65 Veterinary. 0.66 Assistant, veterinary. 0.67 Pharmacist. 0.68 Assistant, pharmacist. 0.69 Dieticians and specialists of the problems of nutrition. 0.71 Nurse, professional. 0.72 Nurse, generic. 0.73 Midwife, professional. 0.74 Midwife, not graduate . 0.75 Optometrist, optician. 0.76 Physiotherapist, therapist, masseur. 0.77 Technician, medical radiology. 0.79 Doctor, orthopaedic/hygienist. 0.81 Statisticians. 0.82 Mathematician and actuarial science. 0.83 Analyst, systems/database 0.84 Technician, statistica/mathematic/computer. 0.90 Economist and specialist in marketing. 1.21 Lawyer, attorney and legal adviser. 1.22 Judge 1.29 Operator, legal sector/consultant for companies/etc.. 1.31 Professor, university/higher school.	
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		1.32 Teacher, secondary education. 1.33 Teacher, primary education. 1.34 Teacher, pre-primary education. 1.35 Director/inspector/programmer, school. 1.41 Minister/member, religion. 1.49 Other members of the clergy and healers. 1.51 Author and critic. 1.59 Author, journalist, writer, such as: editorial secretary, commentator 1.61 Sculptor, painter, artist, designer of caricatures, restorer 1.62 Decorators window dresser, designer, fashion designer 1.63 Photographers, cameramen, reporters. 1.71 Composer, musician, singer, conductor, choir, brass band 1.72 Choreographer and dancer. 1.73 Actor and director. 1.74 Manufacturer of cinema, theater, radio and television 1.75 Artist, cinema. 1.79 Announcer, presenter, animator of the show. 1.80 Athlete, sportsman and coache. 1.91 Librarian, archivist. 1.92 Sociologist, anthropologist, psychologist, geographer, historian 1.93 Social worker and cultural entertainment. 1.94 Specialist, staff problems/training. 1.95 Philologist, translator and interpreter. 1.99 Engineer, brevets, advertising campaigns, insurers 2.01 Members of the legislative body 2.02 Senior official, public administration. 2.11 Director-general. 2.12 Production director.	
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		2.19 Director, sales, research, accounting, staff and transport 3.00 Department head in private or public companies. 3.10 Intermediate Official in the public sector. 3.21 Stenographer, typist, teletype. 3.22 Operator, drilling machines. 3.31 Assistant/clerk, accounts, accounting machine, bank, post office 3.39 Clerk, payroll/contributions. 3.41 Labourer, accounting machines and calculators. 3.42 Labourer, machines for automatic processing of data 3.51 Head station. 3.52 Head of the postal services. 3.59 Manager/controller, transport services (land, air, etc.) 3.60 Heads and train conductors. 3.70 Messenger and postman. 3.80 Workers telephones and telegraphs. 3.91 Clerk, shipping and receiving goods, warehousemen, laundry workers weighing 3.92 Clerk, purchasing departments. 3.93 Clerk, administrative services. 3.94 Clerk, acceptance/travel offices. 3.95 Clerk, library and information binders, proofreader drafts 4.00 Director, wholesale and retail. 4.10 Owners-managers, wholesale and retail trade. 4.21 Heads sales. 4.22 Worker, supply. 4.31 Agents trade-technical, and commercial and technical inspectors. 4.32 Touts, agents and traveling salesmen. 4.41 Insurance agents, real estate agents and stock exchanges	
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		4.42 Seller, business services/advertising space. 4.43 Seller, auction; estimator, merchandise. 4.51 Salesman, clerk-commercial, demonstrator, mannequin 4.52 Peddler/Seller, newspapers/kiosks in general 4.90 Other staff of Commerce (pawnshop). 5.00 Directors hotels, bars, restaurants, purser. 5.10 Owners-managers of restaurants, cafes, hotels. 5.20 Director room, intendant, bursar. 5.31 Servants, barmen, Sommellerie. 5.40 Housekeeper, caretaker of the hotel, Mistress, maid plans, baby sitter 5.51 Keeper of buildings. 5.52 Maid Service, cleaner in homes. 5.60 Officer, washing/ironing/cleaning of linen. 5.70 Hairdresser, beautician, manicure. 5.81 Fireman. 5.82 Policeman, public/private. 5.89 Other personnel providing security services. 5.91 Guide. 5.92 Officer, funeral/embalming 5.99 Bookmakers, croupiers, steward. 6.00 Director/head, farms. 6.11 Farm worker, polyvalent. 6.12 Farm worker, skilled 6.2 Employees. 6.21 Roundsman, many tasks. 6.22 Officer, field cropping or vegetables. 6.23 Officer, growing trees and shrubs. 6.24 Officer, drystock breeding. 6.25 Officer, dairy breeding. 6.26 Officer, poultry rearing. 6.27 Officer, vivarium and gardens. 6.28 Conductor of agricultural machinery. 6.29 Beekeeper, breeding silkworms, harvesting	
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		resins, irrigator, gardener 6.31 Woodman. 6.32 Workers forest except woodcutters. 6.41 Fisherman. 6.49 Farmer, fish/oyster; hanter, fur/seals/whale 7.00 Department Heads, Heads workers. 7.11 Miner and quarrier. 7.12 Workers of the initial processing of the extracted material 7.13 Driller, cemented, acidification of wells, reps probes 7.21 Steel furnaces conductor: blast furnaces, electric furnaces 7.22 Lemina, both ferrous and non ferrous materials. 7.23 Secondary smelting/reheating furnaces conductor. 7.24 Metal Colatore: pouring molten metal into molds. 7.25 Makers of molds and cores for casting metals. 7.26 Workers at the heat treatment of metals: temperature 7.27 Conductor, dies and presses. 7.28 Workers at electrogalvanic procedure for the protective coating 7.29 Additional production workers and processing of metals: eg. Cleaners 7.31 Workers to chemical treatment of wood. 7.32 Workers preparing the wood sawyers, collators, breeders 7.33 Workers preparing pulp for making paper. 7.34 Workers who process the dough into paper. 7.41 Tritatori, mixers, crushers for chemicals. 7.42 Conductors furnaces & equipment for heat treatment of chemicals substances 7.43 Conductors filtering apparatus for separating oil from sediment 7.44 Conductors and equipment used for the	
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		production of reaction 7.45 Workers refining of oil. 7.49 Conductors of furnaces and equipment for the chemical processing of synthetic fibers 7.51 Textile fiber preparer: sorting, washing, blending, battitu 7.52 Yarn spinners, twistors, winders coils. 7.53 Workers maintenance and adjustment of frames. 7.54 Orditori, weaver of fabrics, upholstery, carpets. 7.55 Weavers knitwear and hosiery. 7.58 Washers, bleaching, dyeing of yarn and fabrics. 7.59 Workmen to finishing of textiles: washers in seltro, workers at 7.61 Cernitori, tanners, dyers, depilatories, dresser of skins 7.62 Cernitori, tanners, dyers, depilatories, dresser of furs 7.71 Millers and production staff of rice and spices. 7.72 Employees in production and refining of sugar. 7.73 Butchers and meat processors, including pork. 7.74 Workers for the cultivation and preservation of preserves. 7.75 Workers treatment of milk and its derivatives. 7.76 Bakers and confectioners. 7.77 Workers in the preparation of tea, coffee and cocoa 7.78 Workers of the preparation of malt, wine, vinegar, fruit juices 7.79 Workers in the production of vegetable oil and canned fish 7.81 Packer of cigars 7.83 Packer cigarettes 7.89 Mixers tobacco, preparatory pressed for pipe tobacco 7.91 Complete tailors, cutters and packers clothes	
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		tailor-cutter 7.92 Cutters, sewers dresses in fur. 7.93 Modiste boxes of hats. 7.94 Designers of models, dressed in leather cutter. 7.95 Sewers and embroiderers. 7.96 Upholsterers and packers of mattresses. 7.99 Packer of tents and tarpaulins, editors of umbrellas 8.01 Clothes and shoes repair entirely to order. 8.02 Shoe factory worker. 8.03 Worker of leather: cutting, sewing, riding 8.11 Carpenter, made of furniture. 8.12 Conductor machines for sawing, shaping, carving wood 8.19 Wooden beaters, rivestitori, restorers, inlayers, sculptors 8.20 Cutters, finishers, sculptors, engravers, cleaning of stones. 8.31 Smith, blacksmith and forger. 8.32 Tools-fitter tool, repair of metal models 8.33 Regulators-conductors of machine tools. milling machines, lathes, grinders etc.. 8.34 Conductors of machine tools. 8.35 Polishers, grinders, wire presses, shearing machines, bending 8.39 Gunsmith, editor of locks. 8.41 Manufacture, repair, install machine tools and other mechanical devices 8.42 Watchmakers and mechanics of precision optical instruments, prostheses ortopedich 8.43 Mechanics of motor vehicles. 8.44 Mechanics of aircraft engines. 8.48 Fitters, steam fitters, diesel engines, turbines 8.51 Adjusters of electrical and electromechanical 8.52 Adjusters electronic devices.	
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		8.53 Assemblers of electrical and electronic equipment and components manufacture. 8.54 Receptors repair of radio and television. 8.55 Electricians in domestic installations, ships, aircraft, and maintenance 8.56 Fitters installation of telephone and telegraph. 8.57 Fitters of power lines. 8.58 Electricians and electrical workers to quality control during the prod 8.61 Operators of radio and television broadcasting stations 8.62 Operators of equipment for sound and projection of cinema 8.71 Plumbers and pipe fitters installers. 8.72 Welders and cutters with the oxyhydrogen blowpipe 8.73 Fitters repair of sheet metal parts. body, boilers etc. 8.74 Fitters carpentry and metal structures. 8.80 Jewelers and goldsmiths. 8.91 Blowers, grinders, cutters, cernitori and cleaning of glassware 8.92 Potters, molders, colatori, pressers of clay. 8.93 Conductors furnaces in glass and ceramic kilns, pottery, bricks 8.94 Engravers vitrified products. 8.95 Painters on glass and ceramics. 8.99 Preparation of meals of clay, abrasive paste, fiber glass 9.01 Workers of the manufacture of rubber and plastic: grinders 9.02 Makers and vulcanization of tires. 9.10 Packers on paper and cardboard, assembled by hand and machine 9.21 Typesetting. composers and printers in general,	
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		composers 9.22 Conductors printing machines, rotary presses, offset lithographic 9.23 Stereotypical molds to make the typesetting 9.24 Engravers plates for printing. 9.25 Engravers. 9.26 Bookbinder, embossing cover. 9.27 Print, development and enlargement in the darkroom films. 9.29 Printmakers fabric and screen printing. 9.31 Painters, coatings, lacquers constructions. 9.39 Painters roller and brush for decoration and protection, wood 9.41 Luthiers, manufacturers and tuners for musical instruments. 9.42 Handmade baskets, wicker, rattan, brushes, brooms, furniture 9.43 Producers of manufactured concrete and asbestos cement for construction 9.49 Stuffed animals, and manufacture of linoleum, dolls and games 9.51 Mason employees in general, builder of brick walls 9.52 Workers of reinforced concrete, owners of cages for reinforced concrete. 9.53 Copritori of roofs slate, tiles, plastic, asphalt 9.54 Wooden Carpenters, joiners, parquet floor in buildings, ships and aircraft. 9.55 Plasterers, Plasterer. 9.56 Applicators insulation and soundproofing material. 9.57 Glaziers, tilers, glaziers-decorators, glaziers automobile. 9.59 Mason track on his own, mason maintenance, paper and cloth upholstery	
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		9.61 Conductors and employees to power for the production of electricity. 9.69 Conductors fixed machinery: air/gas compressors, stoker boilers 9.71 Loading and unloading of ships and land vehicles, warehouse worker 9.72 Fitters, repairers, equipped with apparatus for elevation, cables on 9.73 Conductors of cranes and mobile towers, plant elevation. 9.74 Conductors diggers, of bulldozers, dredges, bulldozers, bitumier 9.79 Conductors truck, tipper truck, bus service in the mines 9.81 Heads of sailors cleaners, qualified rating. 9.82 Mariner engine room. 9.83 Lead locomotives, suburban trains and mining. 9.84 Head freight train, engaged in trade, coupled switcher 9.85 Lead trams, taxis, buses, trucks, trucks, motorcycles, motor tricycles 9.86 Conductors of animal-drawn vehicles. 9.89 Traffic Controllers ports, locks, lighthouse keepers 9.99 Laborers in general 10 Housewife	
Netherlands	Which occupation did you have during the longest period in your life? (bjjoblo2, bljclass) Longest job coded into bljclass using the occupational class SBC92.	11. elementary occupations 21. lower non-specialized occupations 22. low teaching and instruction occupation 24. lower agricultural occupations 25. lower natural science occupations 26. lower technical occupations 28. lower transport occupations 29. lower (para)medical occupations 31. lower administrative & commercial occupations	11 → 7 21 → 7 22 to 37 → 5 44 to 57 → 3 62 to 78 → 2 82 to 98 → 1 999 to 9999 → -1

		33. lower security occupations 37. lower service & care occupations 44. medium agricultural occupations 45. medium natural science occupations 46. medium technical occupations 48. medium transport occupations 49. medium (para)medical occupations 51. medium administrative & commercial occupations 53. medium juridical & security occupations 55. medium linguistic & cultural occupations 56. medium social occupations 57. medium service & care occupations 62. higher pedagogical occupations 64. higher agricultural occupations 65. higher natural science occupations 66. higher technical occupations 68. higher transport occupations 69. higher (para)medical occupations 71. higher administrative & commercial occupations 73. higher juridica & security occupations 75. higher linguistic & cultural occupations 76. higher social occupations 78. higher managers 82. scientific pedagogical occupations 85. scientific natural science occupations 86. scientific technical occupations 89. scientific (para)medical occupations 91. scientific administrative & economic occupations 93. scientific juridical & policy occupations 96. scientific social occupations 98. scientific managers 999. missing 9999. not available	
Spain	What has been your main occupation? Occupation was	1. I Large employers and graduated of 2 or 3 cycles of university	1 → 1 2 → 2

	classified using the National Classification of Occupations (CON-1989) but with an extra category for housewives. (Salvany et al, Propuesta de un indicador de la clase social basado en la ocupación. Gac Sanit 1989; 3(10):320-326) (occupation)	2. II Young employees and graduates of 1 cycle of university 3. IIIa administrative and security 4. IIIb own account workers 5. IVa skilled manual workers 6. IVb semi-skilled manual workers 7. V unskilled 8. housewives	3 → 3 4 → 4 5 → 5 6 → 6 7 → 7 8 → 7
UK	Current NS-SSEC (National Statistics Socioeconomic Classification) (nssec)	1. I 2. I 3. II 4. III 5. IV 6. V 7. VI 8. VII	1 → 1 2 → 1 3 → 2 4 → 3 5 → 4 6 → 5 7 → 6 8 → 7

MEDICAL STATUS

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Cardiovascular diseases	Ever had a cardiovascular disease (cvd)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Has a doctor ever told you that you have or had a myocardial infarction? (IV1N104) Has a doctor ever told you that you have or had a heart failure? (IV1N106)	1. no 2. yes, still causes impairment 3. yes, no impairment anymore dito	1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 1 If yes on either one of the questions → 1 If no on all questions → 0 If missing on any of the questions and no on the other questions → -1
Italy	Chronic heart disease: - angina (angina) - myocardial infarction (infarction) - heart failure (heart_failure)	1. definite 2. possible 3. no	After discussion with Sabina, “possible” was defined as no: If yes on either one of the questions → 1 If no or possible on all questions → 0 If missing on any of the questions and no/possible on the other questions → -1
Netherlands	Do you have a heart disease or have you had a myocardial infarction? (ehart01)	-5. no interview -1. not available, asked 0. no, never 1. no, yes previous cycle 2. yes, no on previous cycle 3. yes, yes on previous cycle	-5 → -1 -1 → -1 0 → 0 1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 1
Spain	Heart disease (Heart)	1. yes 2. no 2000. missing	1 → 1 2 → 0 2000 → -1
UK	Hhq: gp/doctor defined heart attack (hdocha) Hhq: gp/doctor defined angina (hdocang)	0. no 1. yes	0 → 0 1 → 1 If yes on either one of the questions → 1 If no on all questions → 0 If missing on any of the questions and no on the other questions → -1

	Arterial diseases	Ever had an arterial disease (artd)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Not available		
Italy	arterial diseases (peripheral artery disease) (arterial)	1. definite 2. possible 3. no	Possible defined as no If yes on either one of the questions → 1 If no on/possible all questions → 0 If missing on any of the questions and no/possible on the other questions → -1
Netherlands	Do you have diseases or abnormalities of the arteries or blood-vessels in your belly or legs? (eartveil)	-5. no interview -1. not available, asked 0. no, never 1. no, yes previous cycle 2. yes, no on previous cycle 3. yes, yes on previous cycle	-5 → -1 -1 → -1 0 → 0 1 → 2 → 1 3 → 1
Spain	Circulation disorders (Circulation)	1. yes 2. no 2000. missing	1 → 1 2 → 0 2000 → -1
	Have you visited the doctor in the last year for that problem? (Circulation_d)	dito	
UK	Not available		
	Diabetes Mellitus	Ever had diabetes mellitus (diab)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Has a doctor ever told you that you have or had diabetes? (IV1N118)	1. no 2. yes, still causes impairment 3. yes, no impairment anymore	1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 1
Italy	Diabetes (diabetes)	1. definite 2. possible 3. no	1 → 1 2,3 → 0
Netherlands	Do you have diabetes? (ediabe01)	-5. no interview -1. not available, asked 0. no, never 1. no, yes previous cycle	-5 → -1 -1 → -1 0 → 0 1 →

		2. yes, no on previous cycle 3. yes, yes on previous cycle	2 → 1 3 → 1
Spain	Diabetes (Diabetes) Have you visited the doctor in the last year for that problem? (Diabetes_d)	1. yes 2. no 9. missing dito	1 → 1 2 → 0 9 → -1
UK	Ever been told had diabetes (hdiab)	0. no 1. yes 9. don't know	0 → 0 1 → 1 9 → -2
	Stroke	Ever had a stroke (cva)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Has a doctor ever told you that you have or had a stroke? (IV1N108)	1. no 2. yes, still causes impairment 3. yes, no impairment anymore	1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 1
Italy	Stroke (stroke)	1. yes 2. possible 3. no	1 → 1 2 → 0 3 → 0
Netherlands	Did you ever have a stroke or attack? (ecva01)	-5. no interview -1. not available, asked 0. no, never 1. no, yes previous cycle 2. yes, no on previous cycle 3. yes, yes on previous cycle	-5 → -1 -1 → -1 0 → 0 1 → 2 → 1 3 → 1
Spain	Strokes (Strokes)	1. yes 2. no 20000. missing	1 → 1 2 → 0 20000 → -1
UK	Ever been told had stroke/tia (hstroke)	0. no 1. yes 9. don't know	0 → 0 1 → 1 9 → -1
	Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	Ever had cancer (cancer)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes

Germany	Has a doctor ever told you that you have or had cancer? (IV1N122)	1. no 2. yes, still causes impairment 3. yes, no impairment anymore	1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 1
	What sort of cancer? Please name (IV1N123)	String	
Italy	Cancer (cancer)	1. definite 2. possible 3. no	1 → 1 2 → 0 3 → 0
Netherlands	Do you have a tumour or cancer or have you ever had it? (ecancer1)	-5. no interview -1. not available, asked 0. no, never 1. no, yes previous cycle 2. yes, no on previous cycle 3. yes, yes on previous cycle	-5 → -1 -1 → -1 0 → 0 1 → 2 → 1 3 → 1
Spain	Neoplastic process (Neoplastic)	1. yes 2. no 20000. missing	1 → 1 2 → 0 20000 → -1
UK	Not available		
	Chronic non-specific lung disease	Ever had a chronic non-specific lung disease (cnsld)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Has a doctor ever told you that you have: - asthma (IV1N089) - pulmonary emphysema (IV1N097) - chronic bronchitis (IV1N099) - COPD (IV1N101)	0. no 1. yes	If (IV1N089=1 or IV1N097=1 or IV1N099=1 or IV1N101=1 or IV1N092=1 or IV1N098=1 or IV1N100=1 or IV1N102=1) → 1 If (IV1N089=0 and IV1N097=0 and IV1N099=0 and IV1N101=0 and IV1N092=0 and IV1N098=0 and IV1N100=0 and IV1N102=0) → 0
Italy	chronic non-specific lung diseases (chronic)	1. definite 2. possible 3. no	
Netherlands	Do you have CARA (asthma, chronic bronchitis or pulmonary-emphysema)? (ecara01)	-5. no interview -1. not available, asked 0. no, never	-5,-1 → -1 0,1 → 0 2,3 → 1

		1. no, yes previous cycle 2. yes, no on previous cycle 3. yes, yes on previous cycle	
Spain	Respiratory diseases (Respiratory)	1. yes 2. no 20000. missing	1 → 1 2 → 0 20000 → -1
UK	hhq: seen doctor in last year for chest (hdocch)	0. no 1. yes 9. don't know	0 → 0 1 → 1 9 → -1
	Medication use	(meduse)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Scanning of barcodes of medication. Information available on medication use. (No variables generated yet)		
Italy	Medication use (medication)	1. yes 2. no	1 → 1 2 → 0
Netherlands	During the past two weeks, did you take any medicine prescribed by a doctor? (emvar13)	-5. no interview -1. not available, asked 1. no 2. yes	-5,-1 → -1 1 → 0 2 → 1
Spain	Medication: yes/no (medications_yes_no)	0. no 1. yes	0 → 0 1 → 1
UK	Drugs categories: -cardiovascular system (hdrugtc) -respiratory sytem (hdrugtr) -gastro-intestinal system (hdrugtj) -endocrine (hdrugth) -central nervous system (hdrugtn) -malignant disese & immunosuppression (hdrugtm) -nutrition & blood (hdrugts) -musculoskeletal & joint disease (hdrugtj) -eye (hdrugte)	0. no 1. yes 9. don't know	If yes on any of the drugs listed → 1 If no on all of the drugs listed → 0 If missing on any of the drugs and no on all of the other drugs listed → -1

	-ear (hdrugta) -nose (hdrugto) -skin(hdrugtd) -miscellaneous (hdrugtq) -genito-urinary tract (hdrugtu)		
	Number of medications	(nmed)	-1. missing Range 0-8 (8=8 or more)
Germany	Scanning of barcodes of medication. Information available on number of medication (No variables generated yet)		
Italy	number of medication (nmedication)		
Netherlands	The name, dose and frequency of a maximum of 8 medications were copied from the containers , the total number of medication was counted (em#med)	-2. not available range 0-8	-2 → -1 0-8 → copy
Spain	Total number of medications (Medications number)	range: 0-highest	0-8 → copy 9-highest → 8
UK	Sum of the following variables: thiazides & related diuretics (hdrugc1) frusemide (hdrugc2) spironolactone (hdrugc3) other diuretics (hdrugc4) potassium supplements (hdrugc5) beta-blockers only (hdrugc6) digoxin (hdrugc7) amiodarone (hdrugc8) other anti-arrhythmic drugs (hdrugc9) ace inhibitors (hdrugc10) angiotensin-ii receptor antagonists (hdrugc11) calcium-channel blockers (hdrugc12)	0. no 1. yes 9. don't know	If 9 on all variables → -1. Sum all variables. 0-8 → copy 9-highest → 8

nitrates (hdrugc13) nicorandil (hdrugc14) alpha-adrenoreceptor blocking drugs (hdrugc15) warfarin (hdrugc16) aspirin (hdrugc17) clopidogrel (hdrugc18) dipyridamole (hdrugc19) peripheral & cerebral vasodilators (hdrugc20) statins (hdrugc21) fibrates (hdrugc22) other moxonidine (hdrugc23) inhaled steroids (hdrugr1) inhaled selective (2-adrenoreceptor stimulant) (hdrugr2) inhaled antimuscarinic bronchodilators (hdrugr3) aminophylline / theophylline (hdrugr4) antihistamines (hdrugr5) other singulair (hdrugr6) h2-receptor antagonists (hdrugg1) proton pump inhibitors (hdrugg2) antacids (hdrugg3) cisapride (hdrugg4) anti-emetics (hdrugg5) ispaghula husk (hdrugg6) bulk-forming laxatives (excluding ispaghula) (hdrugg7) senna (hdrugg8) stimulant laxatives (excluding senna) (hdrugg9) liquid paraffin (hdrugg10) softener laxatives (excluding liquid paraffin) (hdrugg11) lactulose (hdrugg12)		
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magnesium salts (hdrugg13) osmotic laxatives (excluding lactulose, etc) (hdrugg14) anti-diarrhoeal drugs (hdrugg15) anti-spasmodics (hdrugg16) aminosalicylates (hdrugg17) other misoprostol (in arthrotec & napratec) (hdrugg18) insulin (hdrugh1) sulphonylureas (hdrugh2) biguanides (hdrugh3) other oral diabetes drugs (hdrugh4) thyroxine (hdrugh5) carbimazole and other hyperthyroidism drugs (hdrugh6) female hormone replacement therapy (hdrugh7) male sex hormones (hdrugh8) growth hormone (hdrugh9) oral steroids (hdrugh10) other desmospray (hdrugh11) benzodiazepines (hdrugn1) hypnotics and anxiolytics (excluding benzodiazepine) (hdrugn2) anti-psychotics (hdrugn3) lithium (hdrugn4) ssris (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor) (hdrugn5) tcas (tricyclic antidepressants) (hdrugn6) antidepressants (excluding ssris and tcas) (hdrugn7) paracetamol (hdrugn8) codeine containing drugs (hdrugn9) opioid containing drugs (hdrugn10) anticonvulsant drugs (hdrugn11)		
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migraine drugs (hdrugn12) l-dopa containing drugs (hdrugn13) other parkinsons disease drugs (hdrugn14) drugs for vestibular disorders (hdrugn15) other lioresal - baclofen (hdrugn16) tamoxifen (hdrugm1) prostate cancer drugs (hdrugm2) other (hdrugm3) vitamin a (hdrugs1) vitamin b1 (thiamine) (hdrugs2) vitamin b2 (riboflavin) (hdrugs3) vitamin b6 (pyridoxine) (hdrugs4) nicotinamide (hdrugs5) vitamin b12 (hdrugs6) vitamin c (hdrugs7) vitamin d only (hdrugs8) vitamin e (hdrugs9) vitamin k (hdrugs10) multivitamins (hdrugs11) calcium (hdrugs12) calcium & vitamin d (hdrugs13) iron supplements (hdrugs14) folic acid (hdrugs15) cod liver oil (hdrugs16) fish oils (hdrugs17) evening primrose oil (hdrugs18) fortisip, ensure and other supplement drinks (hdrugs19) other (hdrugs20) nsaids (hdrugj1) cox-2 specific inhibitors (hdrugj2) bisphosphonates (hdrugj3) raloxifene (hdrugj4) allopurinol and other gout drugs (hdrugj5) rheumatic disease modifying drugs (hdrugj6)		
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	quinine (hdrugj7) glucosamine sulphate (hdrugj8) chondroitin sulphate (hdrugj9) other (hdrugj10) beta blocker eye drops (hdruge1) miotic eye drops (hdruge2) sympathomimetic eye drops (hdruge3) carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (hdruge4) prostaglandin analogues (hdruge5) tear deficiency eye drops (hdruge6) anti-inflammatory preparations (hdruge7) other chloramphenicol eye ointment (hdruge8) ear drops (hdruga1) other (hdruga2) steroid nasal sprays (hdrugo1) other tramazoline in dexta-rhinaspray duo (hdrugo2) topical steroids (hdrugd1) emollients (hdrugd2) anti-fungal agents (hdrugd3) other 10% coal tar solution with betnovate (hdrugd4) antibiotics (hdrugq1) other daktarin oral gel (hdrugq2) finasteride (hdrugu1) drugs for urinary incontinence (hdrugu2) sildenafil (hdrugu3) drugs for impotence (hdrugu4) other (hdrugu5)		
	Pain/anti-inflammatory medication	(painmed)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Scanning of barcodes of medication. Information available on pain medication (No variables generated yet)		

Italy	Drugs for joint pain/difficulty of movement (AR36) Anti-inflammatory/pain medication (medicpain)	1. yes 2. no 9. don't know 1. yes 2. no	1 → 1 2 → 0 9 → -1
Netherlands	ATC-codes were assigned to each drug (ematc1–ematc8)	N01xxxx (anesthetics) N02xxxx (analgetics) M01Axxx (prostaglandines) L04Axxx (anti-inflammatory)	If (ematc1='N01xxxx' or ematc1='N02xxxx' or ematc1='M01xxxx' or ematc1='L04Axxx') painmed=1. Dito for medication 2-8. Else painmed=0. If (sysmis(emvar13)) painmed=-1.
Spain	Medicaments for Osteoarthritis (maximum of 4) in ATC-codes (Note that these medications may be pain medication or anti-inflammatory medication) (OA_med1, OA_med2, OA_med3, OA_med4)	N01xxxx (anesthetics) N02xxxx (analgetics) M01Axxx (prostaglandines) L04Axxx (anti-inflammatory) 20000. missing	If (OA_med1='N01' or OA_med1='N02' or OA_med1='M01' or OA_med1='L04A') painmed=1. If (OA_med2='N01' or OA_med2='N02' or OA_med2='M01' or OA_med2='L04A') painmed=1. If (OA_med3='N01' or OA_med3='N02' or OA_med3='M01' or OA_med3='L04A') painmed=1. If (OA_med4='N01' or OA_med4='N02' or OA_med4='M01' or OA_med4='L04A') painmed=1.
UK	Paracetamol (hdrugn8) Codeine containing drugs (hdrugn9) Opioid containing drugs (hdrugn10)	1. yes 2. no 9. don't know	If (hdrugn8=1 or hdrugn9=1 or hdrugn10=1) → 1 If (hdrugn8=0 & hdrugn9=0 & hdrugn10=0) → 0 If (hdrugn8=9 & hdrugn9=9 & hdrugn10=0) → -1 If (hdrugn8=0 & hdrugn9=0 & hdrugn10=9) → -1 If (hdrugn8=0 & hdrugn9=9 & hdrugn10=0) → -1 If (hdrugn8=9 & hdrugn9=0 & hdrugn10=0) → -1 If (hdrugn8=9 & hdrugn9=0 & hdrugn10=9) → -1 If (hdrugn8=0 & hdrugn9=9 & hdrugn10=9) → -1

COGNITIVE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Cognitive functioning	(cognition)	-1. missing 0. good cognitive functioning 1. poor cognitive functioning
Germany	Mini-Mental State Examination (no total score generated yet)		MMSE>23 → 0 MMSE≤23 → 1
Italy	Mini-mental state examination (MMT)	range: 0-30	MMSE>23 → 0 MMSE≤23 → 1
Netherlands	Mini-mental state examination (emmsesc)	-2. too many missings range: 0-30	-2 → -1 MMSE>23 → 0 MMSE≤23 → 1
Spain	Total score of errors in the test of Pfeiffer (Pfeiffer_errors)	range: 0-11	Pfeiffer_errors<3 → 0 Pfeiffer_errors≥3 → 1
UK	Strawbridge frailty questionnaire: frail on Strawbridge cognitive domain (fqscog)	0. no 1. yes	0 → 0 1 → 1
	Depressive symptoms	(depression)	-1. missing 0. no depressive symptoms 1. depressive symptoms
Germany	HADS (no total score generated yet)	Range: 0-21 No case: 0-7 Possible case: 8-10 Probable case: 11-21	0-7 → 0 ≥8 → 1
Italy	Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS)	0-10: no depression 11-20: mild depression 21-30: severe depression	0-10 → 0 >10 → 1
Netherlands	CES-D (ecesdint)	-2. no valid data range 0-60	-2 → -1 0-15 → 0 ≥16 → 1
Spain	CES-D (Depression_n)	range 0-60	0-15 → 0 ≥16 → 1
UK	HAD-D (hhadd)	range: 0-21	0-7 → 0

		No case: 0-7 Possible case: 8-10 Probable case: 11-21	$\geq 8 \rightarrow 1$
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ANTHROPOMETRY/BODY COMPOSITION

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Body height	(height)	-1. missing range: 0-highest (cm)
Germany	Measured height in meters, centimetres (IV2N534)	range: 0-highest	copy
Italy	Body height in cm (bodyheight)	range: 0.0-highest	copy
Netherlands	Measured height in centimetres (emed150)	-2. not available -1. no (valid) data range 0-highest	copy
Spain	Height (cm) (height_c)	range:0-highest 20000. missing	copy
UK	Height (cm) (aht)	range: 0-highest	copy
	Body weight	(weight)	-1. missing range: 0-highest (kg)
Germany	Measured weight in kilograms (IV2N529)	range: 0-highest	copy
Italy	Body weight in cm (bodyweight)	range: 0.0-highest	copy
Netherlands	Measured weight in kilograms (emed153)	-2. not available -1. no (valid) data range 0-highest	-2,-1 → -1 copy
Spain	Self-reported Weight (kg) (Weightpen)	range: 0-highest	copy
UK	Weight (kg) (awt)	range: 0-highest	copy
	Body mass index	(BMI)	-1. missing $\text{weight}/(\text{height}/100)^2$
	Waist circumference	(waist)	-1. missing range: 0-highest (kg)
Germany	Not available Skin thickness at three different positions available as proxy		-1

Italy	Waist circumference, cm (waistprova)	range: 0-highest	copy
Netherlands	Measured waist in cm, two measurements (emed156, emed157)	-2. not available -1. no (valid) data range 0-highest	-2,-1 → -1 copy
Spain	Not available		-1
UK	Waist circumference (cm) (awaist)	range: 0-highest	copy

LIFE STYLE

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Alcohol use	(alcohol)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	How often do you drink alcoholic beverages on average? (IV2N654)	1. daily 2. several times during the week 3. several times during the month 4. less than once a month 5. never	1-4 → 1 5 → 0
Italy	In the last year: - wine (AL1) - beer (AL3) - liquor (AL5)	1. yes 2. no 3. abstemious 4. don't know	If yes on any of the items → 1 If no on all items → 0 If abstemious on all items → 0 If don't know on all items → -1
Netherlands	Do you drink alcohol? (emalcohu)	-5. not available, interview terminated -1. not available, asked 1. no 2. yes	1 → 0 2 → 1 -5,-1 → -1
Spain	Do you drink alcohol regularly (not just at parties or celebrations)? (alcohol_fr)	1. yes 2. no 9. no answer	1 → 1 2 → 0 9 → -1
UK	Ever drink alcohol? (hdrink)	0. no 1. yes 9. dk	0 → 0 1 → 1 9 → -1
	Alcohol use per week in categories	(alccat)	-1. missing 0. non-drinker 1. very low (0/<1 M&F) 2. low (1-10M, 1-7F) 3. moderate (11-21M, 8-14F) 4. fairly high (22-35M, 15-21 F) 5. high (>35M, >21 F)
Germany	Have you ever drunk alcohol in your life?	1. yes	All → -1

	(IV2N651) How often do you drink alcoholic beverages on average? (IV2N654) How much beer, wine and liquor have you had last weekend (i.e. Saturday AND Sunday)? beer (IV2N655a) lite ale (IV2N655b) must (IV2N655c) wine/champagne (IV2N655d) liquor (IV2N655e) How much beer, wine and liquor have you had the last working day? (IV2N656) beer (IV2N656a) lite ale (IV2N656b) must (IV2N656c) wine/champagne (IV2N656d) Liquor (IV2N656e)	2. no 1. daily 2. several times during the week 3. several times during the month 4. less than once a month 5. never rounded to 0,5 l rounded to 0,5 l rounded to 0,5 l rounded to 0,25 l Number of shots (2 cl) 1. monday 2. tuesday 3. wednesday 4. thursday 5. friday	
Italy	In the last year: - wine (AL1) - beer in the last month (AL3) - liquor (AL5) Liters of ... on average in the last month - wine (AL2) - beer (AL41) Number of liquor glasses or correct coffee past month (AL61, AL62)	1. yes 2. no 3. abstemious 4. don't know range: 0-highest range: 0-highest	Glasses of wine=AL2/4/0.15 Glasses of beer=AL41/4/0.25 <u>Glasses of liquor=AL61/4. +</u> Glasses of alcohol per week Men 0 → 0 <1 → 1 1-10 → 2 11-21 → 3 22-35 → 4

			>35 → 5 Women 0 → 0 <1 → 1 1-7 → 2 8-14 → 3 15-21 → 4 >21 → 5
Netherlands	Do you drink alcohol? (emalcohu) Which of the below mentioned possibilities represents your alcohol use for the past year the closest? (emalcohd) When you were drinking alcohol, how many glasses did you usually drink each time? (emalcohn)	-5. not available, interview terminated -1. not available, asked 1. no 2. yes -2. not available 1. daily 2. 5-6 days a week 3. 3-4 days a week 4. 1-2 days a week 5. 1-3 days a month 6. <1 day a month -3. wrong skip -2. not available 1. 11 glasses or more 2. 8-10 glasses 3. 6-7 glasses 4. 4-5 glasses 5. 2-3 glasses 6. 1 glass	If (sex=0 and emalcohd≤2 and emalcohn=6) → 2 If (sex=0 and emalcohd≤2 and emalcohn=5) → 3 If (sex=0 and emalcohd≤2 and emalcohn=4) → 4 If (sex=0 and emalcohd≤2 and (emalcohn=3 or emalcohn=2 or emalcohn=1)) → 2 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=3 and emalcohn=6) → 2 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=3 and emalcohn=5) → 2 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=3 and emalcohn=4) → 3 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=3 and emalcohn=3) → 4 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=3 and emalcohn=2) → 4 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=3 and emalcohn=1) → 5 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=6) → 2 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=5) → 2 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=4) → 2 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=3) → 3 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=2) → 3 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=1) → 3 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=5 and emalcohn=6) → 1 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=5 and (emalcohn=5 or emalcohn=4 or emalcohn=3 or emalcohn=2 or emalcohn=1)) → 2 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=6 and emalcohn>1) → 1 If (sex=0 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=1) → 2 If (sex=0 and emalcohu=1) → 0

			If (sex=1 and emalcohd<=2 and emalcohn=6) → 2 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=1 and emalcohn=5) → 4 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=1 and (emalcohn=4 or emalcohn=3 or emalcohn=2 or emalcohn=1)) → 5 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=2 and emalcohn=5) → 3 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=2 and (emalcohn=4 or emalcohn=3 or emalcohn=2 or emalcohn=1)) → 5 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=3 and emalcohn=6) → 2 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=3 and emalcohn=5) → 3 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=3 and emalcohn=4) → 4 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=3 and (emalcohn=3 or emalcohn=2 or emalcohn=1)) → 5 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn>=4) → 2 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=3) → 3 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=2) → 3 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=4 and emalcohn=1) → 4 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=5 and emalcohn=6) → 1 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=5 and (emalcohn=5 or emalcohn=4 or emalcohn=3 or emalcohn=2 or emalcohn=1)) → 2 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=6 and emalcohn>1) → 1 If (sex=1 and emalcohd=6 and emalcohn=1) → 2 If (sex=1 and emalcohu=1) → 0
Spain	Do you drink alcohol regularly (not just at parties or celebrations)? (alcohol_fr) How often do you drink alcohol? (Alcohol)	1. yes 2. no 9. no answer 1. Less than 1/month 2. 1 or more times/month 3. at least 1 time/week 4. daily 5. it does not take anything 9. lost	All → -1

	How many days this past week have you been drinking any alcoholic beverages? (drink_fr)	range: 0-7 99. missing	
UK	Alcohol (units per week) (halccat)	0. non-drinker 1. very low (0/<1 M&F) 2. low (1-10M, 1-7F) 3. moderate (11-21M, 8-14F) 4. fairly high (22-35M, 15-21 F) 5. high (>35M, >21 F)	copy
	Smoking	(smoke)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Have you ever smoked at least 1 cigarette per day for one year (or a total of 20 packs in your life)? (IV1N146) Did you quit smoking? (IV1N148) How many cigarettes a day did you smoke, referring to the total time you smoked? (IV1N150) Did you mainly smoke factory-made or hand-rolled cigarettes, referring to the total time you smoked? (IV1N151) Have you ever smoked a pipe or cigars? (IV1N154) Do you still smoke a pipe or cigars? (IV1N155)	1. yes 2. no 1. yes 2. no range: 0-highest 1. factory-made 2. hand-rolled 1. yes 2. no 1. yes, pipe 2. yes, cigar 3. no	(IV1N146=1 and IV1N148=1) and (IV1NN154=1 and IV1N155=3) → 0 (IV1N146=1 and IV1N148=2) or (IV1NN154=1 and IV1N155<3) → 1 IV1N146=2 and IV1NN154=2 → 0
Italy	Cigarette smokers (SM1) Pipe/cigars (SM7)	1. yes 2. no	SM1=1 or SM7=1 → 1 SM1=2 and SM7=2 → 0

	Number of cigarettes on average per day (SM2)	range: 0-highest	
Netherlands	Do you smoke? (emvar31) Did you ever smoke before? (emvar32) How many cigarettes or self-rolled cigarettes do you smoke a week on average? (emvar37) How many pipes/cigars do you smoke a week on average? (emvar43)	-5. not available, interview terminated -1. not available, asked 1. no 2. yes -2. not available 1. no 2. yes -2. not available -1. not available, asked range 0-highest -2. not available -1. not available, asked range 0-highest	1 → 0 2 → 1 -5,-1 → -1
Spain	Summary variable smoker (smoker)	1. no smoke 2. ex-smoker for more than 7 years 3. ex-smoker for less than 7 years 4. occasionally (not daily) 5. fumador habitual (daily) 9. lost	1 → 0 2 → 0 3 → 0 4 → 1 5 → 5 9 → -1
UK	Smoker status (hsmkstat) Current cigarettes per day (hccigs) Current roll-up oz per week (hcrollup) Current cigars per day (hccigar) Current pipe tobacco oz per week (hctobac)	0. never 1. ex 2. current range: 0-highest	0 → 0 1 → 0 2 → 1
	Physical activity (continuous)	(pa)	-1. missing Range: 0-highest min/week
Germany	LAPAQ Did you go for a walk during the past two weeks?	Did you During the past two weeks?	Multiply frequency and duration per activity. (Sum min/two weeks)/2

	(IV2N575) - how many times (IV2N576) - how long each time (IV2N577) Did you cycle during the past two weeks? (IV2N580) - how many times (IV2N581) - how long each time (IV2N582) Did you work in the garden during the past two weeks? (IV2N584) - how many times (IV2N585) - how long each time (IV2N586) Do you do sports? (IV2N588) During the past two weeks... - which sport (IV2N589) - how many times (IV2N591) - how long each time (IV2N592) Do you do a second sport? (IV2N593) During the past two weeks... - which sport (IV2N594) - how many times (IV2N596) - how long each time (IV2N597) Do you do light household tasks? (IV2N599) During the past two weeks... - how many days (IV2N600) - how long each day (IV2N601) Do you do heavy household tasks? (IV2N602) During the past two weeks... - how many days (IV2N603) - how long each day (IV2N604)	0. no 1. yes Per activity, the time spend in minutes/day is calculated. The times spend on all activities are summed to express physical activity in minutes/day.	
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Italy	Number of weekly hours devoted to: - bowling (PA011) - hunting/fishing (PA012) - walking (PA013) - dancing (PA014) - cycling (PA015) - gardening (PA016) - gymnastics/fitness (PA017) - swimming (PA018)	range: 0-highest	(Sum hours/week) *60. Note that the time spend on household activities is not included!
Netherlands	Observation physical condition (elphya01) Did you go for a walk during the past two weeks? (elphya07) - how many times (elphya08) - how long each time (elphya09) Did you cycle during the past two weeks? (elphya11) - how many times (elphya12) - how long each time (elphya13) Did you do sports during the past two weeks? (elphya21) - which sport (elphya22) - how many times (elphya23) - how long each time (elphya24) Did you do a second sport during the past two weeks? (elphya25) - which sport (elphya26)	-5. not available, interview terminated -4. not available, short interview 1. bedridden 2. in electric wheelchair 3. in mechanical wheelchair 4. not 1, 2 or 3 Did you During the past two weeks? -3. not available, wrong skip -2. not available -1. not available, asked 1. no 2. yes How many times: range 0-highest How long each time (minutes): range 0-highest Per activity, the time spend in minutes/day is calculated. The times spend on all activities are summed to express physical activity in minutes/day. Multiplying the times spend per activity with the MET-scores (Metabolic equivalent scores, adapted from Ainsworth, Compendium of physical activities: classification of energy costs of human physical activities,	Multiply frequency and duration per activity. (Sum min/two weeks)/2

	- how many times (elphya27) - how long each time (elphya28) Did you do light household tasks during the past two weeks? (elphya32) - how many days (elphya33) - how long each day (elphya34) Did you do heavy household tasks during the past two weeks? (elphya36) - how many days (elphya37) - how long each day (elph38)	Med.Sci.Sports Exerc. 1993; 25(1):71-80) and the respondents weight results in the kilocalories/day.	
Spain	PASE - hours per week: - walking (PASE_walk) - light sports (PASE_sport_light) - moderate sports (PASE_sport_moder) - vigorous sports (PASE_sport_vigor) - light housework (PASE_house_light) - heavy housework (PASE_house_heavy) - care of garden (PASE_garden) - caring for sick people (PASE_sick) - caring for children (PASE_children)	Range: 0-highest (hours/week)	(Sum all activities)*60.
UK	PAQ: for a list of 69 activities (including walking, leisure /sports activities and housekeeping), it was reported if they did it (yes/no) and if yes, for what met. hr. energy expenditure per month (MET.h per month)	Did you 0. no 1. yes MET.h per month: range: 0-highest	(((MET.h per month)/MET)/4)*60.
	Physical activity (dichotomous)	(pad)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	LAPAQ Did you go for a walk during the past two weeks? (IV2N575) - how many times (IV2N576) - how long each time (IV2N577)	Did you During the past two weeks? 0. no 1. yes	Multiply frequency and duration per activity. (Sum min/two weeks)/2 If min/week of physical activity>0 → 1. If min/week of physical activity=0 → 0.

	Did you cycle during the past two weeks? (IV2N580) - how many times (IV2N581) - how long each time (IV2N582) Did you work in the garden during the past two weeks? (IV2N584) - how many times (IV2N585) - how long each time (IV2N586) Do you do sports? (IV2N588) During the past two weeks... - which sport (IV2N589) - how many times (IV2N591) - how long each time (IV2N592) Do you do a second sport? (IV2N593) During the past two weeks... - which sport (IV2N594) - how many times (IV2N596) - how long each time (IV2N597) Do you do light household tasks? (IV2N599) During the past two weeks... - how many days (IV2N600) - how long each day (IV2N601) Do you do heavy household tasks? (IV2N602) During the past two weeks... - how many days (IV2N603) - how long each day (IV2N604)	Per activity, the time spend in minutes/day is calculated. The times spend on all activities are summed to express physical activity in minutes/day.	
Italy	Number of weekly hours devoted to: - bowling (PA011) - hunting/fishing (PA012)	range: 0-highest	(Sum hours/week) *60. Note that the time spend on household activities is not included!

	- walking (PA013) - dancing (PA014) - cycling (PA015) - gardening (PA016) - gymnastics/fitness (PA017) - swimming (PA018)		If min/week of physical activity>0 → 1. If min/week of physical activity=0 → 0.
Netherlands	Observation physical condition (elphya01) Did you go for a walk during the past two weeks? (elphya07) - how many times (elphya08) - how long each time (elphya09) Did you cycle during the past two weeks? (elphya11) - how many times (elphya12) - how long each time (elphya13) Did you do sports during the past two weeks? (elphya21) - which sport (elphya22) - how many times (elphya23) - how long each time (elphya24) Did you do a second sport during the past two weeks? (elphya25) - which sport (elphya26) - how many times (elphya27) - how long each time (elphya28)	-5. not available, interview terminated -4. not available, short interview 1. bedridden 2. in electric wheelchair 3. in mechanical wheelchair 4. not 1, 2 or 3 Did you During the past two weeks? -3. not available, wrong skip -2. not available -1. not available, asked 1. no 2. yes How many times: range 0-highest How long each time (minutes): range 0-highest Per activity, the time spend in minutes/day is calculated. The times spend on all activities are summed to express physical activity in minutes/day. Multiplying the times spend per activity with the MET-scores (Metabolic equivalent scores, adapted from Ainsworth, Compendium of physical activities: classification of energy costs of human physical activities, Med.Sci.Sports Exerc. 1993; 25(1):71-80) and the respondents weight results in the kilocalories/day.	Multiply frequency and duration per activity. (Sum min/two weeks)/2 If min/week of physical activity>0 → 1. If min/week of physical activity=0 → 0.

	Did you do light household tasks during the past two weeks? (elphya32) - how many days (elphya33) - how long each day (elphya34) Did you do heavy household tasks during the past two weeks? (elphya36) - how many days (elphya37) - how long each day (elph38)		
Spain	PASE - hours per week: - walking (PASE_walk) - light sports (PASE_sport_light) - moderate sports (PASE_sport_moder) - vigorous sports (PASE_sport_vigor) - light housework (PASE_house_light) - heavy housework (PASE_house_heavy) - care of garden (PASE_garden) - caring for sick people (PASE_sick) - caring for children (PASE_children)	Range: 0-highest (hours/week)	(Sum all activities)*60. If min/week of physical activity>0 → 1. If min/week of physical activity=0 → 0.
UK	PAQ: for a list of 69 activities (including walking, leisure /sports activities and housekeeping), it was reported if they did it (yes/no) and if yes, for what met. hr. energy expenditure per month (MET.h per month)	Did you 0. no 1. yes MET.h per month: range: 0-highest	(((MET.h per month)/MET)/4)*60. If min/week of physical activity>0 → 1. If min/week of physical activity=0 → 0.
	Physical activity (categorical)	(pacat)	-1. missing 0. low 1. medium 2. high
Germany	LAPAQ Did you go for a walk during the past two weeks? (IV2N575) - how many times (IV2N576) - how long each time (IV2N577) Did you cycle during the past two weeks?	Did you During the past two weeks? 0. no 1. yes Per activity, the time spend in minutes/day is calculated. The times spend on all activities are	(kcal/day)*7 Categorize into tertiles

	(IV2N580) - how many times (IV2N581) - how long each time (IV2N582) Did you work in the garden during the past two weeks? (IV2N584) - how many times (IV2N585) - how long each time (IV2N586) Do you do sports? (IV2N588) During the past two weeks... - which sport (IV2N589) - how many times (IV2N591) - how long each time (IV2N592) Do you do a second sport? (IV2N593) During the past two weeks... - which sport (IV2N594) - how many times (IV2N596) - how long each time (IV2N597) Do you do light household tasks? (IV2N599) During the past two weeks... - how many days (IV2N600) - how long each day (IV2N601) Do you do heavy household tasks? (IV2N602) During the past two weeks... - how many days (IV2N603) - how long each day (IV2N604)	summed to express physical activity in minutes/day.	
Italy	Number of weekly hours devoted to: - bowling (PA011) - hunting/fishing (PA012) - walking (PA013) - dancing (PA014)	range: 0-highest	((Hours/week)*60)*MET Categorize into tertiles

	- cycling (PA015) - gardening (PA016) - gymnastics/fitness (PA017) - swimming (PA018)		
Netherlands	Observation physical condition (elphya01) Did you go for a walk during the past two weeks? (elphya07) - how many times (elphya08) - how long each time (elphya09) Did you cycle during the past two weeks? (elphya11) - how many times (elphya12) - how long each time (elphya13) Did you do sports during the past two weeks? (elphya21) - which sport (elphya22) - how many times (elphya23) - how long each time (elphya24) Did you do a second sport during the past two weeks? (elphya25) - which sport (elphya26) - how many times (elphya27) - how long each time (elphya28) Did you do light household tasks during the past two weeks? (elphya32)	-5. not available, interview terminated -4. not available, short interview 1. bedridden 2. in electric wheelchair 3. in mechanical wheelchair 4. not 1, 2 or 3 Did you During the past two weeks? -3. not available, wrong skip -2. not available -1. not available, asked 1. no 2. yes How many times: range 0-highest How long each time (minutes): range 0-highest Per activity, the time spend in minutes/day is calculated. The times spend on all activities are summed to express physical activity in minutes/day. Multiplying the times spend per activity with the MET-scores (Metabolic equivalent scores, adapted from Ainsworth, Compendium of physical activities: classification of energy costs of human physical activities, Med.Sci.Sports Exerc. 1993; 25(1):71-80) and the respondents weight results in the kilocalories/day.	(kcal/day)*7 Categorize into tertiles

	- how many days (elphy33) - how long each day (elphy34) Did you do heavy household tasks during the past two weeks? (elphy36) - how many days (elphy37) - how long each day (elph38)		
Spain	PASE - hours per week: - walking (PASE_walk) - light sports (PASE_sport_light) - moderate sports (PASE_sport_moder) - vigorous sports (PASE_sport_vigor) - light housework (PASE_house_light) - heavy housework (PASE_house_heavy) - care of garden (PASE_garden) - caring for sick people (PASE_sick) - caring for children (PASE_children)	Range: 0-highest (energy expenditure/week)	COMPUTE PASE_proxy = PASE_walk + PASE_sport_light + (2 * PASE_sport_moder) + (3 * PASE_sport_vigor) + PASE_house_light + (2 * PASE_house_heavy) + (2 * PASE_garden) + (2 * PASE_sick) + (2 * PASE_children) . Categorize into tertiles
UK	PAQ: for a list of 69 activities (including walking, leisure /sports activities and housekeeping), it was reported if they did it (yes/no) and if yes, for what met. hr. energy expenditure per month (MET.h per month)	Did you 0. no 1. yes MET.h per month: range: 0-highest	(MET.h per month)/30 Categorize into tertiles
	Walking	(walking)	-1. missing Range: 0-highest Min/week
Germany	LAPAQ Did you go for a walk during the past two weeks? (IV2N575) - how many times (IV2N576) - how long each time (IV2N577)	0. no 1. yes	Min/week
Italy	Number of weekly hours devoted to: - walking (PA013)	range: 0-highest	Min/week
Netherlands	Observation physical condition (elphy01)	-5. not available, interview terminated -4. not available, short interview	Min/week

	Did you go for a walk during the past two weeks? (elphya07) - how many times (elphya08) - how long each time (elphya09)	1. bedridden 2. in electric wheelchair 3. in mechanical wheelchair 4. not 1, 2 or 3 Did you During the past two weeks? -3. not available, wrong skip -2. not available -1. not available, asked 1. no 2. yes How many times: range 0-highest How long each time (minutes): range 0-highest	
Spain	PASE: Frequency and time of: - walking (PASE_walk_fr, PASE_walk_t)	0. never 1. <1 week 2. 1-2/week 3. 3-4/week 4. 5-7/week 9. no answer 1. <30 min every time 2. 30-60 min every time 3. >60 min every time 9. no answer	Take the “average” frequency and time per category. “>60 min” is interpreted as 60 or more. If walk_fr=0 → 0 If walk_fr=1 and walk_t=1 → 0.5*15 If walk_fr=1 and walk_t=2 → 0.5*45 If walk_fr=1 and walk_t=3 → 0.5*60 If walk_fr=2 and walk_t=1 → 1.5*15 If walk_fr=2 and walk_t=2 → 1.5*45 If walk_fr=2 and walk_t=3 → 1.5*60 If walk_fr=3 and walk_t=1 → 3.5*15 If walk_fr=3 and walk_t=2 → 3.5*45 If walk_fr=3 and walk_t=3 → 3.5*60 If walk_fr=4 and walk_t=1 → 6*15 If walk_fr=4 and walk_t=2 → 6*45 If walk_fr=4 and walk_t=3 → 6*60 If walk_fr=9 or walk_t=9 → -1
UK	Walking outdoors (minutes per day): - continuous (hwlktot)	Did you 0. no 1. yes	Min/week

		range: 0-600	
	Sports activities	(sports)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Do you do sports? (IV2N588) During the past two weeks... - which sport (IV2N589) - how many times (IV2N591) - how long each time (IV2N592) Do you do a second sport? (IV2N593) During the past two weeks... - which sport (IV2N594) - how many times (IV2N596) - how long each time (IV2N597)	0. no 1. yes Per activity, the time spend in minutes/day is calculated. The times spend on all activities are summed to express physical activity in minutes/day.	If yes on IV2N588 or IV2N593 → 1 If no on IV2N588 and IV2N593 → 0
Italy	Number of weekly hours devoted to: - bowling (PA011) - hunting/fishing (PA012) - dancing (PA014) - cycling (PA015) - gymnastics/fitness (PA017) - swimming (PA018)	range: 0-highest	If PA011>0 or PA12>0 or PA14>0 or PA15>0 or PA17>0 or PA18>0 → 1 If all 0 → 0
Netherlands	Did you do sports during the past two weeks? (elphya21) - which sport (elphya22) - how many times (elphya23) - how long each time (elphya24) Did you do a second sport during the past two weeks? (elphya25) - which sport (elphya26) - how many times (elphya27) - how long each time (elphya28)	Did you During the past two weeks? -3. not available, wrong skip -2. not available -1. not available, asked 1. no 2. yes	If yes on elphya21 or elphya25 → 1 If no on elphya21 and elphya25 → 0 If missing (elphya21) → -1
Spain	PASE:	0. never	If PASE_sport_light_fr>0 or

	Frequency and time of: - light sports (PASE_sport_light_fr, PASE_sport_light_t) - moderate sports (PASE_sport_moder_fr, PASE_sport_moder_t) - vigorous sports (PASE_sport_vigor_fr, PASE_sport_vigor_t)	1. <1 week 2. 1-2/week 3. 3-4/week 4. 5-7/week 9. no answer	PASE_sport_moder_fr>0 or PASE_sport_vigor_fr>0 → 1 If PASE_sport_light_fr=0 and PASE_sport_moder_fr=0 and PASE_sport_vigor_fr=0 → 0 If PASE_sport_light_fr=9 and PASE_sport_moder_fr=9 and PASE_sport_vigor_fr=9 → -1
UK	PAQ: for a list of 69 activities (including walking, leisure /sports activities and housekeeping), it was reported if they did it (yes/no) and if yes, for what met. hr. energy expenditure per month (MET.h per month)	Did you 0. no 1. yes	If yes on any sports/exercise activity → 1 If no on all sports/exercise activity → 0. If missing on all sports/exercise activity → -1
	Diet/nutrition		Too heterogeneous, not possible to harmonize
Germany	Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA) (no total score variable generated yet)	range: 0-30 Can be classified into 3 categories: normal, at risk and bad condition	
Italy	Reason weight change last year: - diet (WE041) - physical movement (WE042) - surgery/illness (WE043) - other (WE044)	1. no 2. yes 9. don't know	
Netherlands	Not available		
Spain	Not available		
UK	All dietary food items are in terms of "weekly equivalent frequencies" except for milk (pints/day) and sugar (teaspoons/day). Corrections for portion size have been applied to variables as necessary. The 126 food items were combined into 54 food groups (dfgrp1-dfgrp54)	range: 0-highest	

PHYSICAL FUNCTIONING

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	5 times chair stands	(chair)	-1. missing Range 0-highest (seconds)
Germany	Time in seconds needed to perform five rises from a chair to an upright position as fast as possible without the use of the arms (IV1N367)	range: 0-highest 99. Not applicable	Range 0-highest
Italy	Chair test: seconds needed to rise 5 times (CTB2)	range: 0-highest	Range 0-highest
Netherlands	Time in seconds needed to stand up from a kitchen chair without use of arms (echair7)	-6. not available, no measurement -2. not available, unable -1. no valid answer range 0-highest	Range 0-highest
Spain	chair rises: - able to (BAL5_A) - time (secs) (BAL5_C)	1. yes could do 2. no 3. not applicable Range: 0-highest	Range 0-highest
UK	chair rises: 5 rises done (crfive) chair rises: time (secs) (crttime)	0. no 1. yes range: 0-highest	Range 0-highest
	5 times chair stands, categorical	(chairc)	-1. missing 0. unable 1. poor 2. fair 3. good 4. excellent
Germany	Time in seconds needed to perform five rises from a chair to an upright position as fast as possible without the use of the arms (IV1N367)	range: 0-highest 99. Not applicable	Create quartiles of chair. Fastest quartile indicates excellent performance If (chair=-1) → 0 Q1 → 4 Q2 → 3

			Q3 → 2 Q4 → 1
Italy	Chair test: seconds needed to rise 5 times (CTB2)	range: 0-highest	Create quartiles of chair. Fastest quartile indicates excellent performance If (chair=-1) → 0 Q1 → 4 Q2 → 3 Q3 → 2 Q4 → 1
Netherlands	Time in seconds needed to stand up from a kitchen chair without use of arms (echair7)	-6. not available, no measurement -2. not available, unable -1. no valid answer range 0-highest	Create quartiles of chair. Fastest quartile indicates excellent performance If (chair=-1) → 0 Q1 → 4 Q2 → 3 Q3 → 2 Q4 → 1
Spain	chair rises: - able to (BAL5_A) - time (secs) (BAL5_C)	1. yes could do 2. no 3. not applicable Range: 0-highest	Create quartiles of chair. Fastest quartile indicates excellent performance If (chair=-1) → 0 Q1 → 4 Q2 → 3 Q3 → 2 Q4 → 1
UK	chair rises: 5 rises done (crfive) chair rises: time (secs) (crttime)	0. no 1. yes range: 0-highest	Create quartiles of chair. Fastest quartile indicates excellent performance If (chair=-1) → 0 Q1 → 4 Q2 → 3 Q3 → 2 Q4 → 1
	Walk test	(walk)	-1. missing Range: 1-10
Germany	Length of distance to walk? (IV1N358) (4 meters if possible given the space in the home, if not then 3 meters)	1. four meters 2. three meters	If 4m, categorize first attempt into deciles If 3 m, categorize first attempt into deciles

	Time in seconds needed to walk three/four meters at a normal pace (2 measurements) (IV1N360, IV1N361).	range: 0-highest	
Italy	Timed walk: Length of distance to walk (TMA1) Time needed to walk three/four meters (TMA31)	1. 4 m. 2. 3 m. 3. not applicable range: 0-highest	If 4m, categorize first attempt into deciles If 3 m, categorize first attempt into deciles
Netherlands	Time in seconds needed to walk 3 meters along a line, turn 360° and walk back (ewalk04)	-6. not available, no measurement -2. not available, unable -1. no valid answer range 0-highest	Categorize ewalk04 into deciles
Spain	Time needed to walk three/four meters - able to (BAL4_A) - distance (BAL4_B) - time in seconds (BAL4_C)	1. yes could do 2. no 3. not applicable 1. four meters 2. three meters 3. not applicable Range: 0-highest	If 4m, categorize into deciles If 3 m, categorize into deciles
UK	6 m timed up and go (sec) (tu6mupgo) 3m walk (sec) (tu3mwlk)	range: 0-highest range: 0-highest	Categorize tu3mwlk into deciles
	Walk test, categorical	(walkc)	-1. missing 0. unable 1. poor 2. fair 3. good 4. excellent
Germany	Length of distance to walk? (IV1N358) (4 meters if possible given the space in the home, if not then 3 meters) Time in seconds needed to walk three/four meters at	1. four meters 2. three meters range: 0-highest	Recode walk into 4 categories: -1 → -1 Categories depend on data

	a normal pace (2 measurements) (IV1N360, IV1N361).		
Italy	Timed walk: Length of distance to walk (TMA1) Time needed to walk three/four meters (TMA31)	1. 4 m. 2. 3 m. 3. not applicable range: 0-highest	-1 → -1 0, 1, 2, → 4 3, 4 → 3 5, 6, 7 → 2 ≥8 → 1
Netherlands	Time in seconds needed to walk 3 meters along a line, turn 360° and walk back (ewalk04)	-6. not available, no measurement -2. not available, unable -1. no valid answer range 0-highest	-1 → -1 0, 1, 2, → 4 3 → 3 4,5 → 2 ≥6 → 1
Spain	Time needed to walk three/four meters - able to (BAL4_A) - distance (BAL4_B) - time in seconds (BAL4_C)	1. yes could do 2. no 3. not applicable 1. four meters 2. three meters 3. not applicable Range: 0-highest	-1 → -1 0, 1, 2 → 4 3,4 → 3 5, 6, 7 → 2 ≥8 → 1
UK	6 m timed up and go (sec) (tu6mupgo) 3m walk (sec) (tu3mwlk)	range: 0-highest range: 0-highest	-1 → -1 0, 1, 2 → 4 3,4,5 → 3 6, 7 → 2 ≥8 → 1
	Tandem stand	(tandem)	-1. missing 0. unable 1. poor performance 2. good performance
Germany	Being able to balance for more than ten seconds:	0. no	If (IV1N352=1) → 2

	- side-by-side stand (IV1N350) - semi-tandem stand (IV1N351) -tandem stand (IV1N352) If “no” on IV1N352, for how many seconds? (IV1N353)	1. yes 2. not conducted range: 0-10	If (IV1N352=0 and IV1N353<4) → 0 If (IV1N353>3 and IV1N353<10) → 1 IV1N352=2 → -1 If (IV1N352=0 and sysmis(IV1N352) → -1
Italy	Balance test: seconds (BTA11)	range: 0-10	Sysmis(BTA11) → -1 BTA11<4 → 0 BTA11>3 and BTA11<10 → 1 BTA11=10 → 2
Netherlands	Tandem stand: able to Time in seconds able to hold the tandem stand, i.e. one foot in front of the other, heel against toe (etandem2)	-6. not available, test not done -3. not available, wrong skip -2. not available -1. not available, asked 1. normal test 2. not capable 3. falls almost directly 4. stops within 3 sec. 5. refusal 6. physically impossible -6. not available, no measurement -2. not available, unable -1. no valid answer Range: 4-10	etandem1<0 → -1 If (etandem1>1) → 0 If (etandem1=5) → -1 etandem2>3 and etandem2<10 → 1 etandem2=10 → 2
Spain	Tandem stand - able to (BAL3_A) - time in seconds (BAL3_B)	1. yes could do 2. no 3. not applicable 99. missing Range: 0-highest 99. missing	If (BAL3_A=2) → 0 If (BAL3_A=1 and BAL3_B<4) → 0 If (BAL3_A=1 and BAL3_B>3 and BAL3_B<10) → 1 If (BAL3_A=1 and BAL3_B>=10) → 2 If (BAL3_A=3) → -1 If (BAL3_A=1 and BAL3_B=99) → 2
UK	Flamingo stands: time in seconds to hold a one-leg stance for a maximum of 30 sec (fstime)	range: 0.00-30.00	If sysmis(fstime) → -1 fstime<=3 → 0 fstime>3 and fstime<10 → 1

			fstime>=10 → 2
	Physical performance score	(tpps)	-1. missing Range: 0-10.
Germany			The scores of the chair stands and walk test range from 1 (slowest) to 4 (fastest), corresponding to the quartiles of time needed in that cohort. The score of 0 was assigned when unable to complete the test. The tandem stand was categorized as described above (0,1,2 points). The total physical performance score is the sum of the three tests.
Italy			
Netherlands			
Spain			
UK			
	Functional limitations/ADL	A combination of the variables functional limitations, ADL and IADL was made because not all variables were available in all countries and the content of the variables was largely overlapping (adl). Note that the activities included differ across countries; however, we tried to match the activities as much as possible according to their underlying physical demands.	Per item (stairs, toenails, dress, rising, shower, fingers, highshelf, shop) -1. missing 0. no difficulty 1. with difficulty 2. unable to do alone Sum score: range: 0-10
Germany	What difficulties do you have when you want to: -walk up and down a staircase of 15 steps without having to stop? (IV1N371) -cut your toe nails? (IV1N372) -dress or undress yourself? (IV1N373) -sit down on and rise from a chair? (IV1N374) -walk outside for five minutes without having to stand still? (IV1N375) -use your own or public transportation? (IV1N377) -take a shower or bath? (IV1N376) -go shopping yourself? (IV1N378) -prepare and take your medication? (IV1N379) -do light housework yourself? (IV1N380)	1. none 2. some difficulties 3. moderate difficulties 4. much difficulties 5. I cannot, I need help	-walk up and down a staircase of 15 steps without having to stop? (IV1N371) -cut your toe nails? (IV1N372) -dress or undress yourself? (IV1N373) -sit down on and rise from a chair? (IV1N374) -take a shower or bath? (IV1N376) 1 → 0 2 ,3,4 → 1 5 → 2

Italy	Difficulty to (without help from a person or support): -move in and out of bed or chair (ADL011, ADL012) -walking into a room (ADL021, ADL022) -climbing a flight of stairs (ADL031, ADL032) -bathing or showering (ADL041, ADL042) -dressing or undressing (ADL051, ADL052) -eating and using cutlery (ADL061, ADL062) -using the toilet (ADL071, ADL072) -raising arms above the head (ADL081, ADL082) -using fingers to catch and handle small things (ADL091, ADL092) -lifting and carrying a weight of >5kg (ADL101, ADL102)	Difficulty: 1. yes 2. no Degree of difficulty: 1. little difficult 2. difficult 3. very difficult 4. impossible	-move in and out of bed or chair (ADL011, ADL012) -climbing a flight of stairs (ADL031, ADL032) -bathing or showering (ADL041, ADL042) -using fingers to catch and handle small things (ADL091, ADL092) -raising arms above the head (ADL081, ADL082) If difficulty=2 → 0 If difficulty=1 and degree=1,2,3 → 1 If difficulty=1 and degree=4 → 2
Netherlands	Sum of scores on 6 items: - Are you able to walk up and down a staircase of 15 steps without having to stop? (eadl1a) - Are you able to dress and undress yourself? (eadl2a) - Are you able to sit down and rise from a chair? (eadl3a) - Are you able to cut your own toenails? (eadl4a) - Are you able to walk outside for five minutes without having to stand still? (eadl5a) - Are you able to use your own or public transportation? (eadl6a) EQ-5D: self care (eqeq5d2)	-5. not available, interview terminated -2. not available -1. not available, asked 1. not available, I cannot 2. only with help 3. yes, with much difficulty 4. yes, with some difficulty 5. yes, without help 1. no problems 2. some problems 3. unable to	- Are you able to walk up and down a staircase of 15 steps without having to stop? (eadl1a) - Are you able to dress and undress yourself? (eadl2a) - Are you able to sit down and rise from a chair? (eadl3a) - Are you able to cut your own toenails? (eadl4a) - EQ-5D: self care (eqeq5d2) <0 → -1 1,2 → 2 3,4 → 1 5 → 0 EQ-5D: self care 1 → 0 2 → 1 3 → 2
Spain	Sum of scores on 7 items:	Per item:	- How difficult is it for you to pick up or

	- How difficult is it for you to pull or push a large object, such as an armchair? (FL_armchair) - How difficult is it for you to bend over, to crouch or to kneel down? (FL_Kneel) - How difficult is it for you to stretch the arms up above your shoulders? (FL_arms) - How difficult is it for you to pick up or handle small objects? (FL_pick_up) - How difficult is it for you to carry bags of less than 5 kg? (FL_bags) - How difficult is it for you to go up and down stairs? (FL_stairs) - How difficult is it for you to walk 1 km? (FL_walk) - Are you able to walk through a small room? (ADL_Walk) - Are you able to take a shower? (ADL_Shower) - Are you able to tidy yourself up? (ADL_Tidy) - Are you able to get dressed? (ADL_Dress) - Are you able to eat alone? (ADL_Eat) - Are you able to get out of bed? (ADL_Bed) - Are you able to stand up from the seat? (ADL_Seat) - Are you able to use the toilet? (ADL_Toilet)	1. no difficulty 2. any difficulty 3. more difficulty 4. unable 9. missing Sum score range: 0-7. Difficulty (yes/no): 1 point per item ≥ 2 OR Able (yes/no): 1 point per item =4	- handle small objects? (FL_pick_up) - How difficult is it for you to go up and down stairs? (FL_stairs) - Are you able to take a shower? (ADL_Shower) - Are you able to stand up from the seat? (ADL_Seat) - How difficult is it for you to stretch the arms up above your shoulders? (FL_arms) 1 $\rightarrow$ 0 2,3 $\rightarrow$ 1 4 $\rightarrow$ 2 9 $\rightarrow$ -1
UK	Townsend Disability scale (shortened): Difficulty: - washing down (fqwash) - removing jug from high shelf (fqjug) - tying a good knot in string (fqknot) - cutting toenails (fqtoe) - running to catch a bus (fqrunbus) - going up/down stairs (fqstair) - shopping and carrying basket (fqshop) - doing heavy household work (fqhouswk) - preparing a hot meal (fqmeal)	0. none 1. some difficulty 2. unable to do alone	- washing down (fqwash) - removing jug from high shelf (fqjug) - cutting toenails (fqtoe) - going up/down stairs (fqstair) - tying a good knot in string (fqknot) 0 $\rightarrow$ 0 1 $\rightarrow$ 1 2 $\rightarrow$ 2
	(I)ADL		Available in Italy and Spain

Germany	See functional limitations		
Italy	Difficulty: -writing (IADL011, IADL012) -preparing food (IADL021, IADL022) -doing light work at home (IADL031, IADL032) -difficulty to use telephone (IADL041, IADL042) -difficulty keeping the household accounts (IADL051, IADL052) -difficulty in driving a car (IADL061, IADL062) -difficulty to travel on public transportation (IADL071, IADL072) -difficulty opening a lock with a key (IADL081, IADL082) -difficulty for taking medication at correct time (IADL091, IADL092) -difficulty to kneel or bend down (IADL101, IADL102)	Difficulty: 1. yes 2. no Degree of difficulty: 1. little difficult 2. difficult 3. very difficult 4. impossible	
Netherlands	See functional limitations		
Spain	Sum scores on 8 items: - Are you able to use the telephone? (IADL_Phone) - Are you able to catch the bus? (IADL_bus) - Are you able to buy food? (IADL_buy) - Are you able to go out on an errand? (IADL_errand) - Are you able to cook? (IADL_cook) - Are you able to do the light work of the house? (IADL_lightw) - Are you able to do the heavy work of the house? (IADL_heavyw) - Are you able to manage your own money? (IADL_money) - Are you able to drive or take drugs prescribed for you? (IADL_drugs)	Per item: 1. able 2. help in any 3. unable 9. missing Sum score range: 0-8. Independence (yes/no): 1 point per item =1	
UK	See functional limitations		
	Days of limited activity	Not available in 3 or more cohorts	Available in NL

	Gait pattern	Not available in 3 or more cohorts	Available in Germany and NL
Germany	Questions to interviewer: How would you rate the gait balance of the participant? (IV1N362)	1. very good (walking straight and stable) 2. good 3. moderate 4. bad (unsteady and fluctuating)	
Italy	-use a stick or crutches to help him walk (ADL121) -using a wheelchair to move (ADL131) -walks leaning on a person (ADL141) -walking leaning on the furniture of the house (ADL151)	1. yes 2. no 3. not walk 9. don't know	
Netherlands	Interviewer's observations during walk test: - no particularities (ewalk09) - problems starting (ewalk10) - unstable gait (ewalk11) - limps (ewalk12) - has stiff legs (ewalk13) - slides (ewalk14) - trains with one leg (ewalk15) - unstable turn (ewalk16) - walks irregular (ewalk17) - other (ewalk18)	-2. not available 0. not mentioned 1. mentioned	
Spain	Not available		
UK	Degree of walking problems (hwlkprob)	0. no limiting abnormality 1. abnormal gait/walking problems, no aid 2. using walking aid 3. requires help from another person 4. unable to walk	
	Walking aid	(walkaid)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	Walking aid during walk test (IV1N359)	1. none 2. one walking stick 3. two walking sticks/crutches 4. walking frame	1 → 0 2,3,4 → 1

Italy	Use a stick or crutches to help him walk (ADL121)	1. yes 2. no 3. not walk 9. don't know	1 → 1 2 → 0 3,9 → -1
Netherlands	Walking aid during walk test (ewalk06)	-2. not available 1. walkingbar 2. stick 3. rollator 4. leaning on objects/interviewer 5. other 6. none	-2 → -1 1,2,3 → 1 4 → 0
Spain	Not available		
UK	Walking aid during time up and go (tuwlkaid)	0. none 1. stick 2. frame 3. other	0 → 0 1,2,3 → 1
	Grip strength	(gripl, gripr)	Range: 0-highest (kg)
Germany	Hand grip strength is measured in kilograms using the JAMAR dynamometer. Both hands measured twice (IV3N803, IV3N804, IV3N805, IV3N806)	range: 1-highest	Mean of 2 trials per hand
Italy	test with right hand: first (kg) (GS51) test with right hand: second (kg) (GS52) test with right hand: third (kg) (GS53) test with left hand: first (kg) (GS61) test with left hand: second (kg) (GS62) test with left hand: third (kg) (GS63)	range: 1-highest	Mean of first 2 trials per hand
Netherlands	Hand grip strength was measured in kilograms using a strain-gauged dynamometer (Takei TTK 5001, Takei Scientific Instruments Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan): both hand were measured twice. (emed616, emed617, emed618 emed619)	-2. not available -1. no valid data range: 0-highest	Mean of 2 trials per hand
Spain	Not available		All missing
UK	Hand grip strength was measured in kilograms using the JAMAR dynamometer. Both hands were	range: 0-highest	Mean of first 2 trials per hand

	measured 3 times. (agripr1 agripr2 agripr3 agripl1 agripl2 agripl3)		
	Knee extensor strength	Not available in 3 or more cohorts	Available in Italy

SUBJECTIVE HEALTH

STUDY	QUESTION (variable name)	VALUE	EPOSA CODE
	Quality of life	(EQ, PCS MCS)	The SF-12 and SF-36 will be pooled, the Euroqol and SF12/36 will not be harmonized.
Germany	SF-12 (no total score generated yet)		Copy
Italy	Not available		
Netherlands	Sf-12 - physical component - mental component EuroQol (lasae335)	-1. no valid data range: 0-100 -2. no valid score range: 0-1	SF-12: Copy Euroquol: with uk-weights
Spain	Not available		
UK	Euroquol - mobility (kqeumob) - self care (kqeucare) - usual activities (kqeuact) - pain/discomfort (kqeupain) - anxiety/depression (kqeu anx) SF36: - physical health summary (hsf36p) - mental health summary (hsf36m)	1. no problem 2. some problem 3. confined/unable to perform 1. no pain/anxious 2. moderate pain/anxious 3. extreme pain/anxious range: 0-100	Euroquol: with uk-weights SF-36: Select the 12 questions from the SF-12 and compute the component scores.
	Pain	(pain)	-1. missing 1. not at all 2. mild 3. moderate 4. severe 5. very severe
Germany	Structured Pain Interview (Basler et al.,		

		4. severe 5. very severe	
Spain	Not available		
UK	SF36: bodily pain during past 4 weeks (hbodily) WOMAC pain score (knee) (kqwomac) Hand: any pain right and left hand (herp , help)	1. very severe 2. severe 3. moderate 4. mild 5. very mild 6. none range: 0-18 0. no 1. yes	1 → 5 2 → 4 3 → 3 4,5 → 2 6 → 1
	Self perceived health	(sph)	-1. missing 1. bad 2. fair 3. good/excellent
Germany	Self-perceived health (IV1N394)	1. excellent 2. very good 3. good 4. suboptimal 5. poor	1,2,3 → 3 4 → 2 5 → 1
Italy	Self-perceived health (SPH1)	1. good/excellent 2. so-so 3. bad	1 → 3 2 → 2 3 → 1
Netherlands	Self-perceived health (esubhea1)	-5. not available 1. excellent 2. good 3. fair 4. sometimes good/bad 5. poor	-5 → -1 1,2 → 3 3,4 → 2 5 → 1
Spain	How would you describe your health today? (Health today)	1. very good 2. good	1,2 → 3 3 → 2

		3. fair 4. poor 5. very poor 9. missing	4,5 $\rightarrow$ 1 9 $\rightarrow$ -1
UK	SF36: General health status (hgenhlth)	1. poor 2. fair 3. good 4. very good 5. excellent	1 $\rightarrow$ 1 2 $\rightarrow$ 2 3,4,5 $\rightarrow$ 3

SOCIAL FUNCTIONING

	Social participation		Too heterogeneous, not possible to harmonize
Germany	6-item Lubben Social Network Scale (no total score variable generated yet) Considering the people to whom you are related either by birth or marriage... 1. How many relatives do you see or hear from at least once a month? 2. How many relatives do you feel at ease with that you can talk about private matters? 3. How many relatives do you feel close to such that you could call on them for help? Considering all of your friends including those who live in your neighborhood.... 4. How many of your friends do you see or hear from at least once a month? 5. How many friends do you feel at ease with that you can talk about private matters? 6. How many friends do you feel close to such that you could call on them for help?	range: 0-30 0. none 1. one 2. two 3. three or four 4. five thru eigh 5. nine or more	
Italy	assist grandchildren/children (SP1) bring food to children / grandchildren (if F) (SP2) guests lunch / dinner (SP3) number of weekly hours devoted to: - find relatives (SP4) - meet friends (SP5) - playing cards (SP6) - volunteering (SP7) - cinema / theater / concerts / exhibitions (SP8)	1. yes, every day 2. yes, sometimes 3. yes, rarely 4. no range: 0-168	

	- Mass / Church (SP9)		
Netherlands	Are you involved in one or more of these associations or organisations? (escocpyn) - organization for the elderly (esocp01) - trade union, employers organisation (esocp02) - political party/organization (esocp03) - church or religious organization (esocp04) - neighbourhood association (esocp05) - womens association (esocp06) - organisation to assist elderly or disabled (esocp07) - action group or association with social aim (esocp08) - patients association (esocp09) - choir, musical society, drama club (esocp10) - hobby/social club (esocp11) - sporting club (esocp12) - other (esocp13) Do you visit activities or meetings of: -dito (esocp14-esocp26) How often do you participate in activities or meetings of associations or organisations (esocp27)	-2. not available 0. not mentioned 1. mentioned -3. not available, wrong skip -2. not available 1. no 2. yes -3. not available, wrong skip -2. not available 1. almost never 2. a few times a year 3. 4. 5. 6. a few times a week 7. every day -3. missing	

	How often did it occur in the last year that you helped someone with daily chores in and around the house? (eins_giv)	-1. no answer 1. never 2. rarely 3. sometimes 4. often	
Spain	PASE-items: Caring for sick people frequency (pase_sick_fr) Caring for children frequency (pase_child_fr)	0. never 1. <1/week 2. 1-2/week 3. 3-4/week 4. 5-7/week 9. no answer	
UK	Social activity score (soactiv). This score is derived from the social health questionnaire which includes the participation and frequency in: - religious activities (sorelig, soreligf) - positions of office (sopoff, sopofff) - clubs (soclub, soclubf) - courses (socours, socoursf) - cultural visits (socult, socultf) - indoor games (sogames, sogamesf) - visiting friends (sovisit, sovisitf) - pubs/social clubs (sopub, sopubf) - individual hobbies (soindiv, soindivf) - diy (sodiy, sodiyf) - practical/craft hobbies (sopract, sopractf) - gardening (sogard, sogardf) - home computing (socomp, socompf)	Social activity score: range 0-100 Participation: 0. no 1. yes Frequency: 3. weekly 4. monthly 5. less often	
	Mastery	Not available in 3 or more cohorts	Only available in NL and UK
Germany	Not available		
Italy	Not available		
Netherlands	Locus of control (Pearlin and Schooler, 1978) (emastery) -Mastery item 01: control (emaster1) -Mastery item 02: problems (emaster2)	-2. no valid data range: 5 (low) - 25 (high) 1. strongly disagree	

	-Mastery item 03: changes (emaster3) -Mastery item 04: helpless (emaster4) -Mastery item 05: life (emaster5) -Mastery item 06: everything (emaster6) -Mastery item 07: future (emaster7)	2. disagree 3. no disagreement/ agreement 4. agree 5. strongly agree	
Spain	Not available		
UK	Derived from the social health questionnaire: - control at home (sohmctrl) - control at work (sowctrl) - life beyond own control (sobeyond) - more positives than negatives in next 5-10 yrs (sopositv) - keeping healthy depends on what do (sohlthy) - can reduce risk of heart attack (soriskmi) - can reduce risk of cancer (soriskca)	1. strongly disagree 2. moderately disagree 3. slightly disagree 4. slightly agree 5. moderately agree 6. strongly agree (It is advised to use the control at home variable only)	

RECEIVED CARE AND ASSISTENCE

	Hospitalisation	Note: reference period of hospitalisation differed across cohorts: - past 12 months in Germany, Italy, Spain - past 6 months in NL - 12 months after baseline interview in UK (hospital)	-1. missing 0. no 1. yes
Germany	During the past twelve months, have you stayed a night in a hospital? (IV1N181) -how many nights in total? (IV1N183)	0. no 1. yes range: 0-highest	0 → 0 1 → 1
Italy	hospitalization in the last year (HO1)	1. yes 2. no 9. don't know	1 → 1 2 → 0 9 → -1
Netherlands	Have been admitted to the hospital during the past 6 months ? (ehosp) Have you been admitted to a psychiatric hospital during the past 6 months? (epsyhosp)	-5. not available, interview terminated -2. not available 1. no 2. yes 3. do not know	If yes on either somatic or psychiatric hospital → 1 If no on both somatic or psychiatric hospital → 0
Spain	Have you been hospitalized last year? (Hospitalisation)	1. yes 2. no 9. missing	2 → 0 1 → 1 9 → -1
UK	Hospital admission since baseline (HCS, 1999-2004) - MSFU (2004/05) (fqhospad) - COS (2007) (chospad) Hospitalisation within 12 months after baseline interview (yes/no) (hcshosp)	0. no 1. yes Composed by EPOSA 0. no 1. yes	0 → 0 1 → 1
	Days of hospitalisation	Note: reference period of hospitalisation is past 12 months in Germany, Italy, Spain (hospdys)	-1. missing Range: 0-365
Germany	During the past twelve months, have you stayed a night in a hospital? (IV1N181)	0. no 1. yes	If hospital=1 copy IV1N182

	-how many nights in total? (IV1N182)	range: 0-highest	
Italy	days hospitalization in the last year (HO2)	range: 0-highest	If hospital=1 copy HO2
Netherlands	Not available		missing
Spain	Hospitalisation days in one year (Hospitalisa_fr)	range: 0-highest 999. missing.	If hospital=1 copy Hospitalisa_fr
UK	Not available		missing
	Contact health services	Not available in 3 or more cohorts	Some info available in NL and Spain
	Contact social services	Not available in 3 or more cohorts	Only available in NL
	Contact medical specialists	Not available in 3 or more cohorts	Only available in NL, diagnosis-specific information available in Germany and Spain
	Personal assistance		Received domestic care (domestic) -1. missing 0. no 1. yes, informal 2. yes, professional Received personal care (personal) -1. missing 0. no 1. yes, informal 2. yes, professional
Germany	If you need help or if you are being taken care of, who undertakes the care? (IV1N028, more than one answer allowed) At your home, who performs tasks like cooking, ironing, cleaning, etc.?	1. no one, I do it myself 2. spouse 3. son/daughter 4. other relatives 5. social service 6. housekeeper/private nursing service 7. neighbour/friend 8. other person 1. I do it myself 2. spouse	Depends on data

	(IV1N032, more than one answer allowed)	3. relative 4. other person who lives in the apartment/house 5. paid worker 6. social service	
Italy	Help from a person: *domestic. - preparing food (IADL025) - doing light work at home (IADL035) - keeping the household accounts (IADL055) *personal. - moving in/out bed/chair (ADL014) - walking into a room (ADL024) - bathing or showering (ADL044) - dressing or undressing (ADL054) - eating (ADL064) - using the toilet (ADL074) - cutting toenails (ADL115) - to take medication (IADL095) Personal care: person who helps (ADL161) Domestic care: person who helps (IADL111)	1. yes 2. no 1. son 2. daughter 3. wife 4. husband 5. daughter-in-law 6. other relatives 7. neighbour/friend 8. home care/social 9. salaried 10. other	Domestic care: If “no difficulty” on all of the IADL-tasks → 0 If “yes” on any of the IADL-tasks and IADL111≤7 → 1 If “yes” on any of the IADL-tasks and IADL111>=8 → 2 If “yes” on any of the IADL-tasks and IADL111=10 → -1 Personal care: If “no” on all of the ADL-tasks → 0 If “yes” on any of the ADL-tasks and ADL161≤7 → 1 If “yes” on any of the ADL-tasks and ADL161>=8 → 2 If “yes” on any of the ADL-tasks and ADL161=10 → -1
Netherlands	Are you getting help with: -personal care (erhelpyn) -domestic tasks (edhelpyn) Care provided by: - partner (erhelp01, edhelp01) - resident child (erhelp02, edhelp02)	-5. not available, interview terminated 1. no 2. yes 3. don’t know 4. refused	Domestic care: If (edhelpyn=1) → 0 If (edhelpyn=2 and (edhelp01=2 or edhelp02=2 or edhelp03=2 or edhelp04=2 or edhelp05=2 or edhelp06=2 or edhelp07=2)) → 1 If (edhelpyn=2 and (edhelp08=2 or edhelp09=2 or

	- resident other (erhelp03, edhelp03) - non-resident child (erhelp04, edhelp04) - non-resident other relative (erhelp05, edhelp05) - neighbours/acquaintances/friends (erhelp06, edhelp06) - volunteers (erhelp07, edhelp07) - district nurse (erhelp08, edhelp08) - elderly/home/alpha help (erhelp09, edhelp09) - private help (erhelp10, edhelp10) - personnel home/hospital (erhelp11, edhelp11) - other (erhelp12, edhelp12)	0. not mentioned 1. mentioned	- edhelp10=2 or edhelp11=2)) → 2 - If (edhelpyn=2 and edhelp12=2) → -1 - If (edhelpyn=-5) → -1 - Personal care: - If (erhelpyn=1) → 0 - If (erhelpyn=2 and (erhelp01=2 or erhelp02=2 or erhelp03=2 or erhelp04=2 or erhelp05=2 or erhelp06=2 or erhelp07=2)) → 1 - If (erhelpyn=2 and (erhelp08=2 or erhelp09=2 or erhelp10=2 or erhelp11=2)) → 2 - If (erhelpyn=2 and erhelp12=2) → -1 - If (erhelpyn=-5) → -1
Spain	Have you received help in the home? (help_home) Was the help sent by -social services (social_services) -private service (private_services) What type of help? (Help_1, Help_2)	1. yes 2. no 9. missing 1. yes 2. no 9. no answer 1. for care of the house 2. for personal hygiene 3. both 4. for an other cohabitant 9. no answer	- Domestic care: - If (help_home=1 and (help_1=1 or help_2=1 or help_1=3 or help_2=3) and (social_services=1 or private_services=1)) → 2 - If (help_home=1 and (help_1=1 or help_2=1 or help_1=3 or help_2=3) and (social_services=2 and private_services=2)) → 1 - If (help_1~=1 and help_1~=3) and (help_2~=1 and help_2~=3) → 0 - If (help_home=2) → 0 - If (social_services=9 and private_services=9) → -1 - If (help_1=9 and help_2=9) → -1 - If (help_home=9) → -1 - Personal care: - If (help_home=1 and (help_1=2 or help_2=2 or help_1=3 or help_2=3) and (social_services=1 or private_services=1)) → 2

			If (help_home=1 and (help_1=2 or help_2=2 or help_1=3 or help_2=3) and (social_services=2 and private_services=2)) → 1 If (help_1~=2 and help_1~=3) and (help_2~=2 and help_2~=3) → 0 If (help_home=2) → 0 If (social_services=9 and private_services=9) → -1 If (help_1=9 and help_2=9) → -1 If (help_home=9) → -1
UK			
	Aids and adaptations	Not available in 3 or more cohorts	Available in NL (detailed) and Spain (limited)