

YOUR PARTNER for Excellent Research





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WELCOME

to GESIS

We are the largest social science infrastructure in Germany and among the leading social science infrastructures in the world. With our expertise and services, we can assist you as a social science researcher in all phases of your research project. We support projects ranging from smaller third-party-funded projects to large-scale cross-national comparative studies. Our expertise in survey research – also in longitudinal and cross-cultural comparison – is grounded in our involvement in the main national and cross-national population surveys. Independence, sustainability, quality, and competence – these are the values to which we are committed.

What we stand for:

State-of-the-art research

Our research competencies lie in the areas of survey methodology, substantive social science research, and applied computer and information science. With this unique combination and the resulting synergies, we keep our infrastructure services up to date and, moreover, we provide fresh impetus for further research.

Strong network

We see ourselves as part of the global social science research community. We align our services to the desires and needs of our users and maintain close contacts with them. We collaborate in a spirit of trust with our partner universities, with other universities at home and abroad, and with our cooperation partners. As a member of the Leibniz Association, we are committed to the principle of "science for the benefit and good of humanity".

High quality

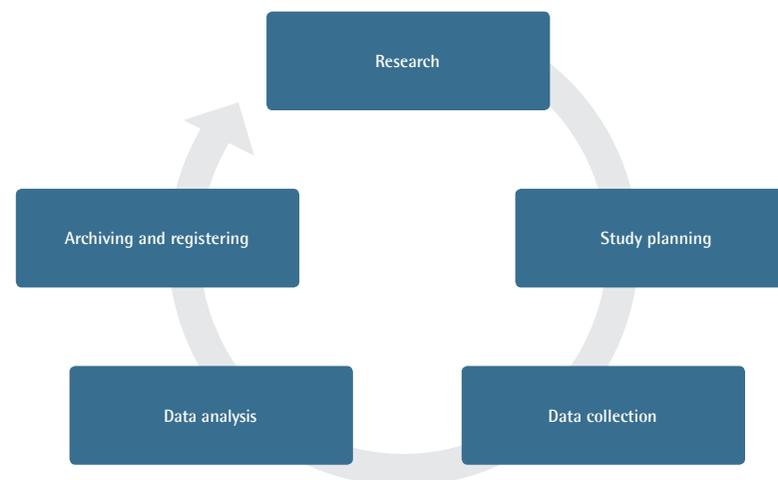
We keep up to date with a constant eye on thematic, methodological, and structural developments in the social sciences. In this way, we help our users to quickly adapt to new methods and techniques and to increase the quality of research.

Our services for your research:

We can offer you a wide range of infrastructure services that we have organized in a user-friendly way along a research data cycle.

Our portfolio includes products and services for the search of research data and information, for study planning, data collection, data analysis, and for the registration, preparation, archiving, and provision of the collected data. With this range of products and services, we will gladly support you in conducting your research project in such a way that you can adequately answer your research question.

Intensive research, consultation, and the sharing of our expertise at workshops, seminars, conferences, and symposia round off our portfolio.





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RESEARCH

Always Good Results

Use our databases and portals to access relevant data and research literature for your research projects and to obtain information on projects and institutions. We have prepared our offerings for you in a user-friendly way: it is freely accessible, quality controlled and interlinked. If you need advice, our experts will be happy to help you.

Research in the GESIS Web

On our website you can make an integrated search in all GESIS databases via the search slot. The results of your search will be displayed clearly arranged and structured according to the different type of information. That way, you can use a search term to search for relevant research data, literature as well as related survey tools such as items and scales, as well as tools for analyzing the data. Embedded in the web search is also our unique library of publications on empirical social research and applied computer science.

Searching for data and metadata

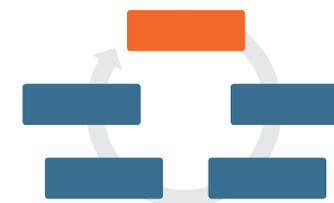
In our Data Catalogue DBK you will find data from and descriptions of all studies that have undergone long-term preservation in the GESIS Data Archive. In the DBK, you can search our extensive holdings online and download or order the data as reference studies or for secondary analysis. A number of study series are also available as cumulations for longitudinal analysis.

Selected national and cross-national comparative studies can also be found in our online study catalogue ZACAT, where you have the additional option of analyzing the data directly online and of downloading the data, documentation, and supplemental material through an advanced search function at study level and variable level.

An extensive collection of time series on German economic and social history is available to you via our database histat.

missy. Information, documentation, and tools for the analysis of official data are obtainable for you in our Microdata Information System MISSY. MISSY provides detailed metadata on the scientific use files of the German Microcensuses and on European Union official statistics, for example the Adult Education Survey AES, the European Union Labour Force Survey EU-LFS, and the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions EU-SILC.

Information on already registered research data sets from the social and economic sciences and of the OECD iLibrary can be found on the web pages of our data registration agency, da|ra. The search function enables you to identify suitable data on your research topic. You can also resolve the digital object identifier DOI at da|ra and obtain direct access to the data you are searching for.





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STUDY PLANNING

Our Aim is Your Success

Decades of experience have made us experts in the field of study planning. We can assist you in organizing your survey – be it paper, face-to-face, online, or mixed-mode. We can also give you advice on project design, so that the implementation of your study reflects the current state of survey research. Thus, excellent data quality is ensured.

Our services for your project design:

GESIS Survey Guidelines

The contributions in the "GESIS Survey Guidelines" provide an overview of all methodological aspects of the organization and implementation of surveys. They will serve as a guide when you are making fundamental decisions in your survey project and as an introduction to specific methods of constructing and assuring the quality of your questionnaire (e.g. reliability assessment and cognitive pretesting). Moreover, they convey the fundamentals of sampling theory and address the implementation of these fundamentals in various survey modes and cross-cultural surveys.

Individual project consultation

Our team of experts provides support in the form of individual consultation for publicly funded scientific projects. Together, we can develop suitable solutions for your scientific survey project, thereby creating the basis for high data quality. We will take all important methodological aspects into account – from the planning to the realization of your survey.

Our sampling specialists will jointly develop a sampling design with you and advise you, in particular, on drawing samples for cross-national comparative surveys. We will support you in estimating design effects and computing weighting factors.

Data management plans

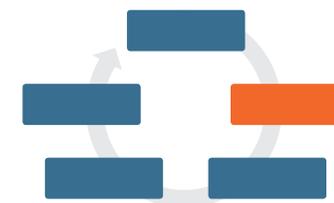
To ensure that the data you collect comply with expectations regarding transparency, reproducibility, and reuse, we will give you strategies in the form of data management plans with which you can organize the collection, checking, preservation, and possible dissemination of your data.

Survey instruments

The development of questionnaires and the evaluation of survey instruments are two of our areas of expertise. In our Pretest Lab, we will optimize your survey questions and instruments by means of the following services:

- Cognitive pretesting in combination with eye tracking
- Cognitive online-pretesting (web probing)
- Advice on the selection and application of different pretesting procedures

You will find over 200 tried-and-tested, extensively documented social science survey instruments in our Collection of Items and Scales for the Social Sciences, ZIS. As an open access /open publication service, ZIS enables the long-term accessibility of the items and scales, and it documents the theoretical background of the instruments, their development, and their quality criteria taking into account established scientific standards. Tap into this valuable resource!





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COLLECTING DATA

The Way to Good Answers

If you want to collect data, you have come to the right place. We will put at your disposal the resources that you need to ensure the quality of your data. Our expertise is based on experience acquired in our own survey programs, most notably the German General Social Survey ALLBUS, which has been conducted every two years since 1980, and the German Longitudinal Election Study GLES, the largest German national election study to date. We are also experts in the field of international survey research. Together with strong partners, we are responsible for conducting the surveys for many international studies, including the German national survey for the International Social Survey Programme ISSP, the European Value Study EVS, and the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies PIAAC.

Our experience guarantees the quality of our products and services. We offer you:

Consultation concerning data collection

We assist you with calls for tender and the subsequent assessment of the performance of commercial survey institutes and advise you on weighing up the pros and cons of the various survey modes. We also help you to improve data quality and provide you with methods of increasing response rates.

Quality assurance of the field – Survey Operations

Associated with the choice of the appropriate survey mode are effects on the participation and response behavior of respondents. The process, organization and documentation of field work and field management are important components for high-quality data. We support you with the conscious choice of the data collection strategy and its optimization. The focus is on reducing potential sources of errors, in particular reducing non-response errors and measurement errors, while taking the efficient use of resources into account. In addition, we offer recommendations for interviewer training to reduce the effects of interviewers.

Telephone samples

On request, we can draw telephone samples from a sampling frame that we have developed ourselves on the basis of numbers that are listed in the telephone book and unlisted numbers from the local network area. In addition, we have developed a sampling frame for mobile phone samples, so that we are also able to offer you a weighted dual-frame approach for your samples.

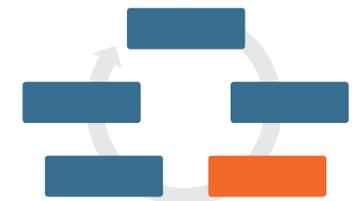
Share a ride on the GESIS Panel



With the GESIS Panel, we offer you as a social science researcher a probability-based mixed-mode access panel that will enable you to collect representative population data flexibly and at short notice.

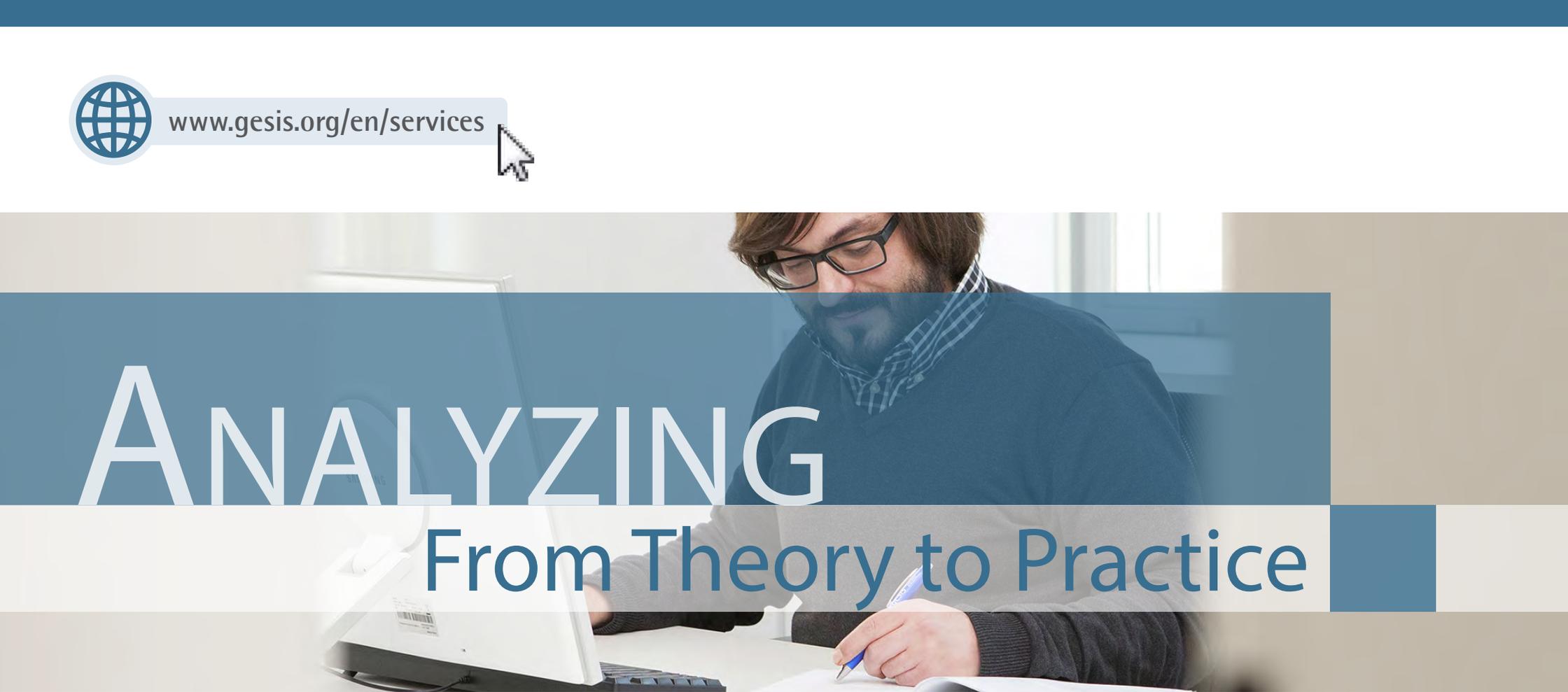
Surveys with the total sample are conducted since February 2014 in two-month intervals. Each survey lasts around 20 minutes. The data collected are representative of the German-speaking population who is resident in Germany and aged between 18 and 70.

Questions in the GESIS Panel measure, for example, attitudes, behaviors, and processes of change in the population. Moreover, the GESIS Panel offers you an opportunity to test causal hypotheses in survey experiments.





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ANALYZING From Theory to Practice

With our support, you will make headway with your data analysis. We are the ones to come to if your study contains data types whose analysis calls for specialist knowledge that goes beyond the usual methodological expertise. We will also be of help to you if you want to compare the data you have just collected with results from other studies in order to obtain a complete picture of your research topic. Alternatively, you can completely forgo the laborious collection of your own data and use the studies archived with us for secondary analysis.

These are the services we offer:

Data and information

About 5000 national and international studies are archived in our Data Archive and waiting to be used for secondary analysis or as a reference for your own studies. The studies in our Data Catalogue DBK and the accompanying supplemental material can be downloaded easily and in a user-friendly way. When selecting studies suitable for your purposes, our Data Service will be happy to answer your questions. Moreover, in our online study catalogue ZACAT, you can undertake initial analyses from a selection of our data holdings.

Via our online platform histat, you can avail of an extensive data service and obtain access to time series from historical economic and social science research.

Our Microdata Information System MISSY provides detailed information and metadata on the Microcensus scientific use files and on European official statistics data such as the Adult Education Survey, the European Union Labour Force Survey, the Community Innovation Survey, the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, and the Structure of Earnings Survey.

Tools and support

Our microdata tools document the practical handling of microdata and are supplemented with tables, graphics, and SPSS/Stata routines. For data preparation and analysis, you will find information on the delineation of specific survey units (e.g., households) and simple substantive analysis examples with detailed SPSS and Stata routines.



With our software package CharmStats, you can harmonize your data quickly and easily as CharmStats offers you the possibility of working with your own variables, documenting the procedure during implementation, and digitally publishing the complete harmonization for checking and citation.

We can advise you on all types of texts in the social science context, independent of whether you want to carry out qualitative or quantitative content analysis with or without computer assistance.

Guest stays

If you would like to conduct research with sensitive data or are looking for a guest stay opportunity, then you are in good hands with us.

In our Secure Data Center SDC, you can obtain access to and extensive advice on data that require special security safeguards on the grounds of data protection or that are subject to certain access restrictions. We can enable you to access and analyze the data via on-site access at a guest work station in the safe room at our Cologne location.

Also at our Cologne location, in our EUROLAB, you can avail of the opportunity for a guest stay, for example during a sabbatical or within the framework of a fellowship program or a research project. As a guest researcher, you will have your own work station in a stimulating research environment with excellent infrastructure.





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ARCHIVING

Data for the Future

The GESIS Data Archive DAS and the other GESIS repositories for the social sciences are among the most extensive in the social science community in the German-speaking countries. The Data Archive has been awarded the Data Seal of Approval and is thus certified as a trusted digital repository. You can deposit the data you have collected with us in order to make them available to researchers for further analysis. We also operate a full-text repository, the Social Science Open Access Repository SSOAR, where you can publish your research results online, thereby quickly making them publicly accessible.

GESIS Data Archive and other repositories

Data services after the survey process

After data collection, additional processes are needed to prepare, document, enhance and archive the data. We offer a variety of social science quantitative survey data services here. The data services are designed as a modular system and offer you the option of booking only individual modules or entire service packages as required. We support you with

- securing your data
- providing your data
- publish your data
- checking your data
- enriching your data
- and documentation of your data.

We also offer training in all mentioned above areas.

Archiving and sharing data

Long-term archiving in accordance with current standards and the distribution of research data are our core competence. The associated documentation and preservation of

the accompanying supplemental material ensures that your studies will be available in perfect condition for subsequent secondary analysis or comparability studies.

 **datorium** Our data repository datorium offers you the possibility of self-archiving data sets from smaller studies and projects. On our online platform, you can upload your research data simply and securely, assign metadata to them, and soon make them available to the scientific community. In this way, your research data will be visible and easily accessible.

Registering data

 Avail of the opportunity to have your research data registered with our data registration agency da|ra. Your data will be assigned a persistent digital object identifier DOI, and are thus permanently preserved, recognizable, locatable, and reliably citable.

Moreover, via the DOI name your data are linked to current and structured metadata. These metadata are administered

in a database that is provided and maintained on a long-term basis by da|ra and made available to the user. In this way, you can ensure that your data can be found, even if they are stored or cited at different locations.

Archiving and sharing literature

 **SSOAR** In our Social Science Open Access Repository SSOAR, you can make your unpublished and published works available to a broad readership in an uncomplicated way. In the case of published works, an embargo period may apply. After they have been released by the SSOAR team, your works are freely searchable online. A simple online query suffices. Moreover, your texts in SSOAR are permanently scientifically citable via URNs. Thus, readers can download your full-text documents and use them freely for their scientific work. This enhances the visibility of your research and ensures that it gets noticed more in





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POOLING KNOWLEDGE

GESIS Research Data Centers

In our Research Data Centers RDCs, we pool a number of our core competencies in relation to research data and make them available to you. In our RDCs, we offer you a special service for survey programs in which we partially collect data ourselves and/or carry out the tasks of preparing, archiving, and providing the data. When doing so, we are guided by the criteria of the German Data Forum RatSWD. Thus, with our services we can provide you with support and advice.



In the ALLBUS RDC you will find comprehensive information on the German General Social Survey ALLBUS, one of Germany's main survey programs. In ALLBUS, which is carried out by us, a representative cross-section of the German population is surveyed at two-year intervals using both constant and variable questions. The data undergo high-quality preparation and extensive documentation at the RDC. They reveal social change over time and enable the analysis of attitudes, values, and behaviors.



In the International Survey Programmes RDC we pool numerous international study series such as the International Social Survey Programme ISSP, the European Values Study EVS, and the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems CSES. Take advantage of the data preparation, efficient advice on the studies, and training events, which are helpful for the further use of the data!



In the Elections RDC we archive national election studies. Immediately after preparation and documentation, different user-friendly versions of the data are available to interested parties in research and training. Details of the surveys are documented in the respective methods reports. Moreover, via the RDC you have access to a wide range of consultation and training services in the area of election studies.



In the German Microdata Lab RDC, we prepare and provide access to official microdata. We offer a wide range of documentation material on the Microcensus, the Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure, and on European official data. The portfolio is rounded off with an extensive data service.



In the PIAAC RDC you will get access to the German and international data of the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies PIAAC. Moreover, we provide paradata, supplementary studies, and training sessions for users.



Although not an RDC, our Center of Excellence Women and Science CEWS focuses on a clearly delineated thematic field. CEWS is the national hub for the realization of equal opportunities for women and men in science and research. Our research and consultation in this area are addressed to all stakeholders in the area of gender equality in science, especially science organizations, political bodies, researchers, higher education institutions, and the media.



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Service

Training

Research

RESEARCH

A Guarantee of Quality

In order to be able to offer you a high-quality service, we continuously conduct interdisciplinary research in three large research areas: survey methodology, substantive social science research, and applied computer and information science. Our research results are used to sustainably improve our services and are also part of general basic research in the social sciences.

Survey methodology

The objective of both our basic and our applied research in the area of survey methodology is to improve standards, that is, to design surveys in such a way that the validity of the resulting findings is as optimal as possible. Our research ranges from sampling and the construction of survey instruments, through the implementation of the survey to data analysis. Our research priorities in this area are as follows:

- Survey statistics such as random samples
- Survey instruments such as scales and items
- Operationalization of data collection
- Intercultural surveys

Research Data Management

Open data, data science, data infrastructures are the key words to provide data for secondary analysis, to network them and to guarantee data security at the same time. To ensure this, GESIS researches in the field of research data management in the following areas:

- Data Sharing & Re-Use
- Data security & privacy
- metadata
- Long-term archiving
- New data forms

Contemporary Societal Issues

Our expertise is so efficient because we conduct our own research with our data. From the perspective of various social science disciplines, we conduct research on contemporary social phenomena and current social changes. For most parts, we pursue an international comparative perspective. Our research focuses in this area are:

- Gender & Social Structure
- Elections & Political Behavior
- Education & Competencies
- Policy & Impact

Applied computer science

In order to ensure a high quality level of our offers, we conduct research in the field of applied computer science. Our goal is to test, adapt, develop and evaluate novel methods, models and algorithms in the field of social sciences. Our main focuses are:

- Information Linking & Retrieval
- Network Science
- Open Science
- Text & Data Mining
- Computational Social Science





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SHARING KNOWLEDGE

The State of Knowledge is Crucial

As an infrastructure institution for the social sciences, one of our core tasks is to share our findings, knowledge, and competencies with the scientific community. We do so by means of publications, professional development events, lectures, conferences, and symposia.

Publications

Our researchers not only publish in renowned journals and with renowned publishers, we also release our own user oriented publications.

In the GESIS Scientific Series, we publish final reports of major research projects and proceedings of GESIS conferences.

The GESIS Papers series features preprints and contributions with important information on data and on the application of our services.

The following journals are published by us:

- The Historical Social Research HSR, an international bilingual journal, provides historical social researchers with articles on new methods in the field of history.
- The Social Indicators Information Service ISI is the GESIS journal for social reporting. Published twice yearly, it provides information on selected topics relating to social change.
- The journal methods, data, analyses mda features articles and contributions on the methods of survey research.

GESIS Training

In our training courses we offer participants the opportunity to acquire in-depth and application-related methodological competence in all phases of the research data cycle.

The English-language GESIS Summer School in Survey Methodology imparts in compact form a broad range of methods in the area of data collection. It targets junior researchers from all disciplines who work with methods of survey research.

The English-language GESIS Spring Seminar, which we have been providing for over forty years, comprises three one-week courses and is devoted to advanced procedures of quantitative data analysis.

In the GESIS Methods Seminar, which we have been providing since 1980, we impart basic knowledge of, and skills in, handling quantitative research data. The seminar is modularly structured and interdisciplinarily oriented; the focus lies on historical social research.

In our GESIS Workshops, we impart in one- to three-day courses competencies in numerous social science research methods, from qualitative interviews, through questionnaire construction, to analysis procedures.

Lecture series

For our lecture series, we invite acknowledged experts from the social sciences to lecture on the latest research in their field. Afterwards, there is enough time for in-depth discussion. You can attend the lectures in person or virtually via the Internet. The CSS Seminar constitutes part of our lecture series. It addresses topics relating to data science and social analytics.

Conferences and symposia

We regularly organize conferences and symposia on a wide range of social science and information science topics. In addition to insightful presentations, they offer participants an opportunity for exchanges and networking. These events include our regular user conferences on official data in Germany and Europe, symposia on our major research programs, such as PIAAC and the Eurobarometer, and the CSS Winter Symposium, which focuses on the new research field of computational social science.



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NETWORK

With Strong Partners

We recognize that we can succeed in providing a good service to researchers only if we ourselves play an active and formative role in the research community. For this reason, we have always taken seriously and promoted networking and internationalization.

We actively participate in the following national and international research networks:

Leibniz research alliances

The Leibniz Education Research Network "LERN" pursues the aim of optimizing educational potential. Within "LERN", we are active, for example, in the PIAAC Leibniz Network, which conducts research on current data on adult competencies.

In the Leibniz Research Alliance "INFECTIONS'21", we are part of an interdisciplinary research team in which we contribute our expertise in survey research with the aim of developing an early warning system for, and improved management of, epidemic outbreaks and an optimized containment of the spread of disease.

The focus of the Leibniz Research Alliance "Crises in a Globalised World" lies on financial crises, food crises, environmental crises, and crises of political orders. Our contribution consists in researching economic and financial crises from a historical-comparative perspective.

In the Leibniz Research Alliance "Science 2.0," which investigates innovative web applications and their potential for research and publication processes in science, we are represented on the steering committee and with projects in the focus area "technology development".

International survey programs

In the International Social Survey Programme ISSP, we are responsible for the German part of the survey. Moreover, since 2015, we have provided the ISSP secretariat, the central steering body. The ISSP is a cross-national collaborative program that conducts an annual joint survey on social science topics in almost 50 member countries.

In the European Values Study EVS, which surveys the attitudes of Europeans toward family, work, religion, politics, and society, we are also responsible as primary researchers for the German part of the study. Moreover, we participate in the management of the study and in collating and providing the data.

In the Eurobarometer, which the European Commission uses as an instrument for monitoring public opinion in the EU, we are engaged in preparing, archiving, and providing the data for research purposes.

In the European Social Survey European Research Infrastructure Consortium ESS ERIC, we are part of the Core Scientific Team and are also involved in the design of the survey.

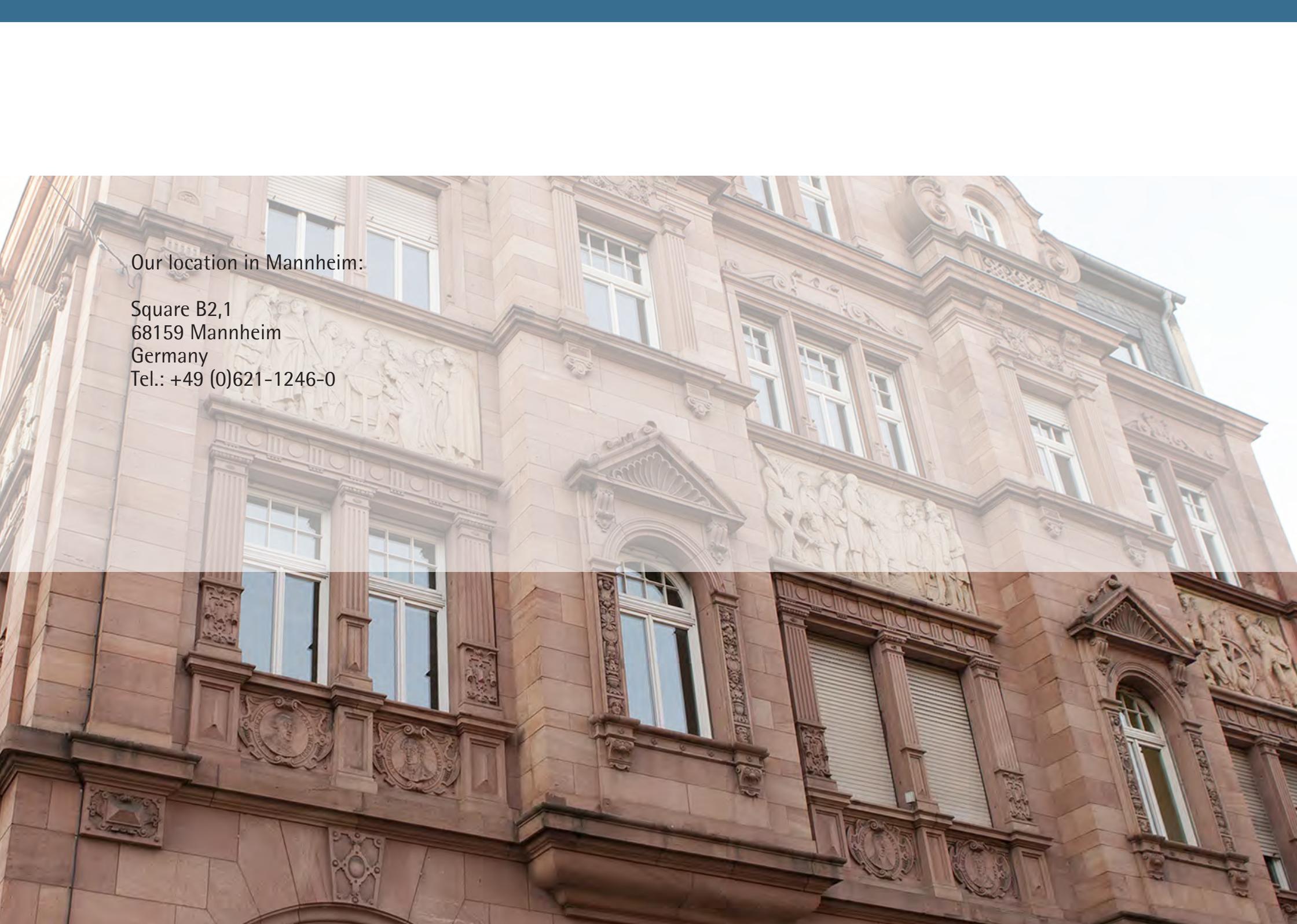
As part of the secretariat of the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems CSES, we play a key role in the collation, preparation, documentation, and long-term preservation of the CSES data. Conducted at five-year intervals, the study integrates for instances data from post-election surveys of political attitudes and voting behavior.

International archiving landscape

In the Council of European Social Science Data Archives CESSDA, we provide the national data service for Germany and are organizationally involved in many ways – in particular, we provide the service "CESSDA Training".

We support the International Federation of Data Organizations for the Social Sciences IFDO in its task of coordinating new demands and developments in the area of data archiving and provision.

Through our collaboration with the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research ICPSR, we offer you access to a wide range of international survey data and professional development opportunities.

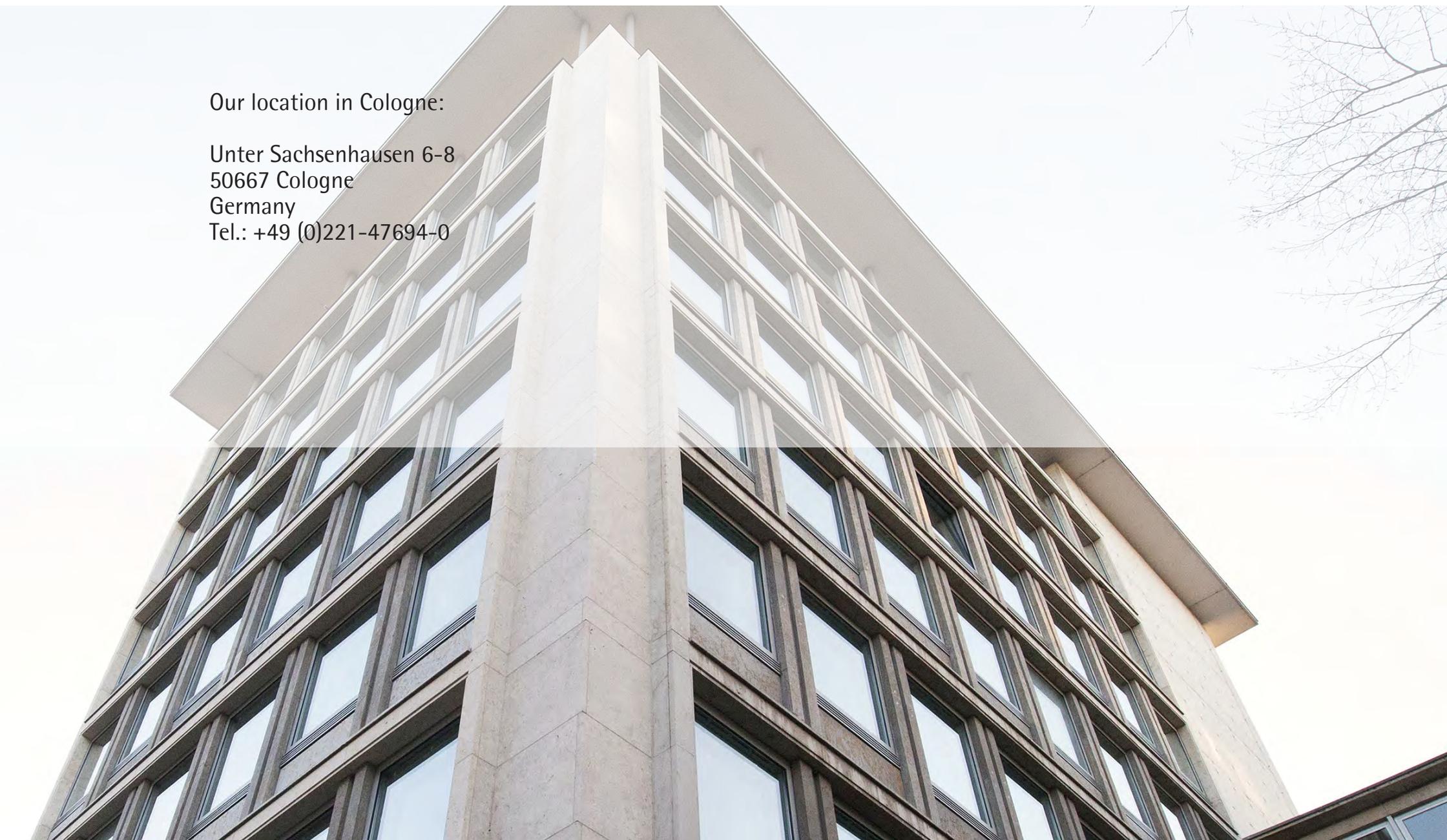


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