

15th July 2025

Vlasta Zucha

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# Integration During the Entire Survey Process: The Usage of Survey and Administrative Data in the Austrian Student Social Survey.

ESRA 2025 Conference, Utrecht

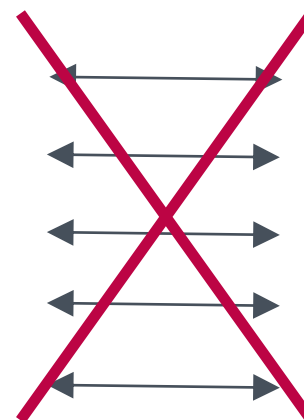


Dreaming...



## Survey

| Key-ID | V1 | V2 | V3 | V4 | V5 | V6 |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1      |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 2      |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 3      |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 4      |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 5      |    |    |    |    |    |    |



## Register

| Key-ID | V100 | V101 |
|--------|------|------|
| 1      |      |      |
| 2      |      |      |
| 3      |      |      |
| 4      |      |      |
| 5      |      |      |

# The Austrian Student Social Survey

- Online-survey among students
  - > 43.000 students in 2023
  - Anonymous & individualized
  - Conducted by IHS
  - > 70 higher education institutions: invitations & reminders to students
- On behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF)

## **Student Social Survey**

Online survey  
> 43.000 students

## **Register data**

Administrative data  
of different sources

The register data is used in all phases of the survey project....



... to improve and complete the survey.

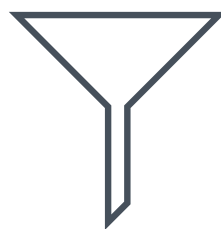


## Register data...

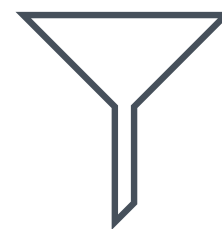
...supports  
construction of  
questionnaire



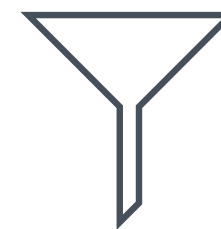
...helps  
to prepare  
fieldwork



...supports  
cleaning &  
weighting



...provides  
supplementary  
content



At which university are you studying?

- 1 Medizinische Universität Graz
- 2 Medizinische Universität Innsbruck
- 3 Medizinische Universität Wien
- 4 Montanuniversität Leoben
- 5 Technische Universität Graz
- 6 Technische Universität Wien

Information from  
register data

Please select your current (main) study programme for  
your [degree programme] at the [HEI].

[dropdown menu: study programmes for the selected higher education institution]

Comprehensive survey – no sampling!

Register data is used for:

- Number of individual survey links for higher education institutions
- Check the response rates



→ Register data supports cleaning & weighting

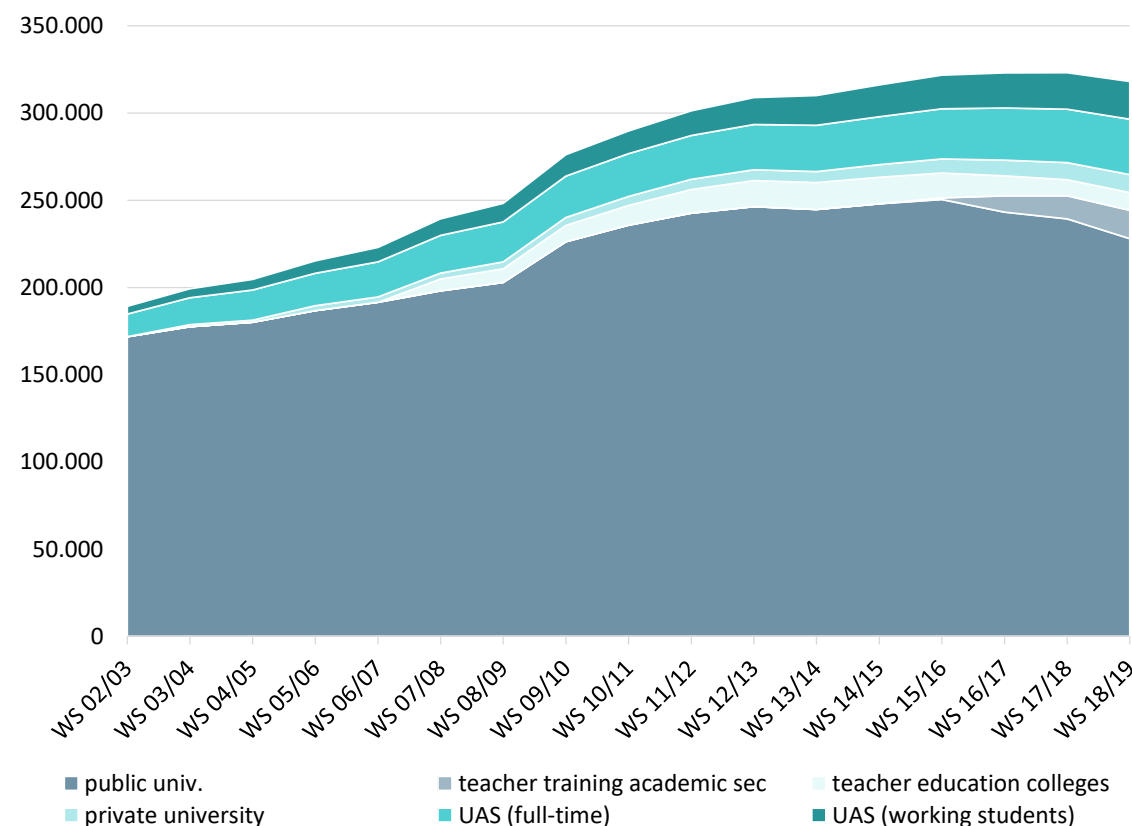
Challenges:

- Differences in data structures
- Different variable definitions between survey and register data



- Register data provides **supplementary content** about:
  - Longterm information on number of students and first-year-students
  - Study progression, success rates
- Register data provides **validation** for:
  - Number of students at higher education institutions and in sectors
  - Gender, age, social background...

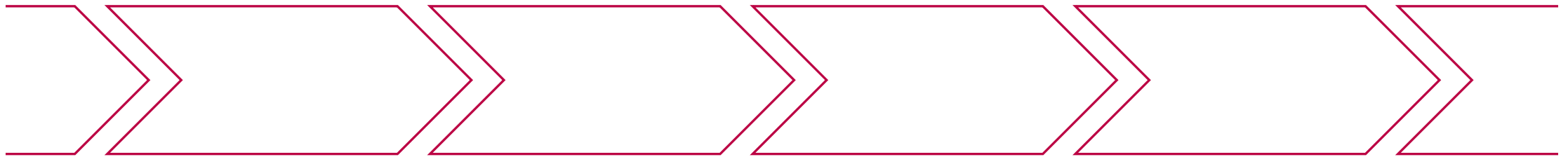
Figure 1: Number of students by sector of higher education



Data: Higher educations statistics (BMFWF, Statistik Austria). Analysis: IHS.

# Implications

- Check availability and quality of register data
  - Early consideration → implementation in survey design
  - Deal with different data structure and definitions
  - Teams & skills
- Using register data will assure the quality of your survey



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[www.ihs.ac.at/ru/competence-center-survey-research](http://www.ihs.ac.at/ru/competence-center-survey-research)  
[www.sozialerhebung.at](http://www.sozialerhebung.at)