

Social security (lead: FSIO)

Priority research topics

A detailed [evaluation](#) (in German with summary in English) drew positive conclusions about the National Platform against Poverty (NAPA), which ran from 2019 to 2024. It found that the platform had performed well and had accomplished much with the few resources at its disposal. The evaluation also identified two areas with a high development potential: the platform's reach and ability to provide a lasting impetus in the poverty prevention and eradication space. In autumn 2024, Parliament decided to keep the platform in place until 2030, at the earliest, and formulate a national poverty eradication strategy.

Contribution of Department-led research to social security

The Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation (ERI Dispatch) gave the FSIO responsibility for policy research on 'social security'. This field also includes research activities of other federal offices (FOPH, SECO, FSO, FOAG, FOH and SEM). Policy research at the FSIO and at all contributing offices covers a broad range of topics.

Success Story

Education and marital status influence life expectancy

The research report [Differential Mortality in Switzerland 2011–2022](#) (in French with summary in English) draws on multiple data sources to map the life expectancy and mortality risks of different sociodemographic groups in Switzerland. From 1970 to 2022, overall life expectancy at birth rose from 76.1 years to 85.4 years for women, and from 70.1 years to 81.6 years for men.

One would expect that this development would have had an especially positive effect among disadvantaged groups, thereby evening out mortality risks. However, the statistics do not confirm this assumption. Rather, they show that mortality risks continue to differ considerably depending on the individuals' marital status, level of education, earnings and occupation.

What this means is that people who do not have a post-compulsory education qualification (lower secondary level only) tend to spend more years in employment and fewer years in retirement than individuals with tertiary education. A simulation was used to quantify the adjustment needed to the reference age (normal retirement age) of both men and women such that the ratio of working years to retirement years would be the same across all education levels. It was found that women with a higher education qualification would have to work three years longer before taking retirement than their peers with only compulsory schooling. For men, the required adjustment is estimated at four years.

Statistical data (in thousands Swiss francs)

2024	Research mandates	Contributions to research institutions	Intramuros – FSIO in-house research	Total	Budget 2025	Budget estimate 2026
FSIO expenditure (F+E budget)	444	0	0	444	614	400

Tendering procedure

Mandates are usually published on the FSIO website and awarded in accordance with public procurement provisions (VöB/BöB).

Further information

The statistics above cover only the Research + Evaluation (F+E) budget. In addition, FSIO sector-specific research in 2024 was financed on the basis of special statutory regulations (e.g. Invalidity Insurance Act, Art. 68 [SR 831.20]) or Federal Council decisions (e.g. National Platform against Poverty).

[Overview of FSIO policy research](#) and [Research and Evaluation Annual Report 2024](#) (in French and German).