

Switzerland, like many high-income countries, is facing rapid population ageing, creating urgent demands on its health system and social policies. Traditional indicators such as mortality and morbidity provide only a partial picture of population health, overlooking how well people function in their daily lives. Functioning, conceptualized within the framework of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), provides a comprehensive measure of health that reflects the interaction between health conditions and contextual factors. Yet, functioning has not been systematically implemented as a population-level indicator in Switzerland.

This project provides an overview of functioning information collected in Switzerland for the ageing population, which is used to develop and model of a functioning indicator. The functioning of older people living in Switzerland is described using longitudinal data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Through mixed-effects modelling, it investigates changes in functioning over time and examines associations with multimorbidity and polypharmacy. Finally, it will explore how a functioning indicator can be analyzed and reported in ways that are meaningful on the population level. Together, these studies provide the foundation for implementing functioning as a core health indicator in Switzerland, complementing mortality and morbidity to better guide policy responses to population ageing.