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"Enriching an Ongoing Panel Survey with Mobile Phone Measures: The IAB-SMART Study"

The panel study "Labour market and social security" (PASS) is a major data source for labor market and poverty research in Germany with annual interviews since 2007. In January 2018, the supplemental IAB-SMART study has been started, in which selected PASS participants were asked to install a research app on their smartphones. The IAB-SMART app combines short questionnaires that can be triggered by geographic location with passive data collection on a variety of measures (e.g. geographic location, app use). The triggering of questions allows us to enrich annual retrospective information with data collected immediately after a certain event (e.g. a visit to the local job center). Passive data collection allows innovative measures, e.g. for the integration into social networks that complement traditional survey measures. Furthermore, the additional smartphone measures create the potential to address new research questions related to the labor market and technology use (digital stress, home office performance). Finally, the study provides new insights into the day structure and coping behavior of unemployed persons and thus replicates aspects of the classic Marienthal case study from the 1930s with modern means. In this presentation, we will provide an overview of the study and share our experiences in conducting an app project. We will focus on data protection issues, implementation of the fieldwork, participation in the study and participation in short surveys.