

CrisesData – Establishing Infrastructures for Rapid Responses in Societal Crises

Andrés Saravia
Freie Universität Berlin | WZB Social Science Center

Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Digitalisation of Research | June 11, 2026

KonsortSWD 
NFDI4Society

RatSWD 
German Data Forum

 FREIE
UNIVERSITÄT
BERLIN

WZB 
Berlin Social Science Center

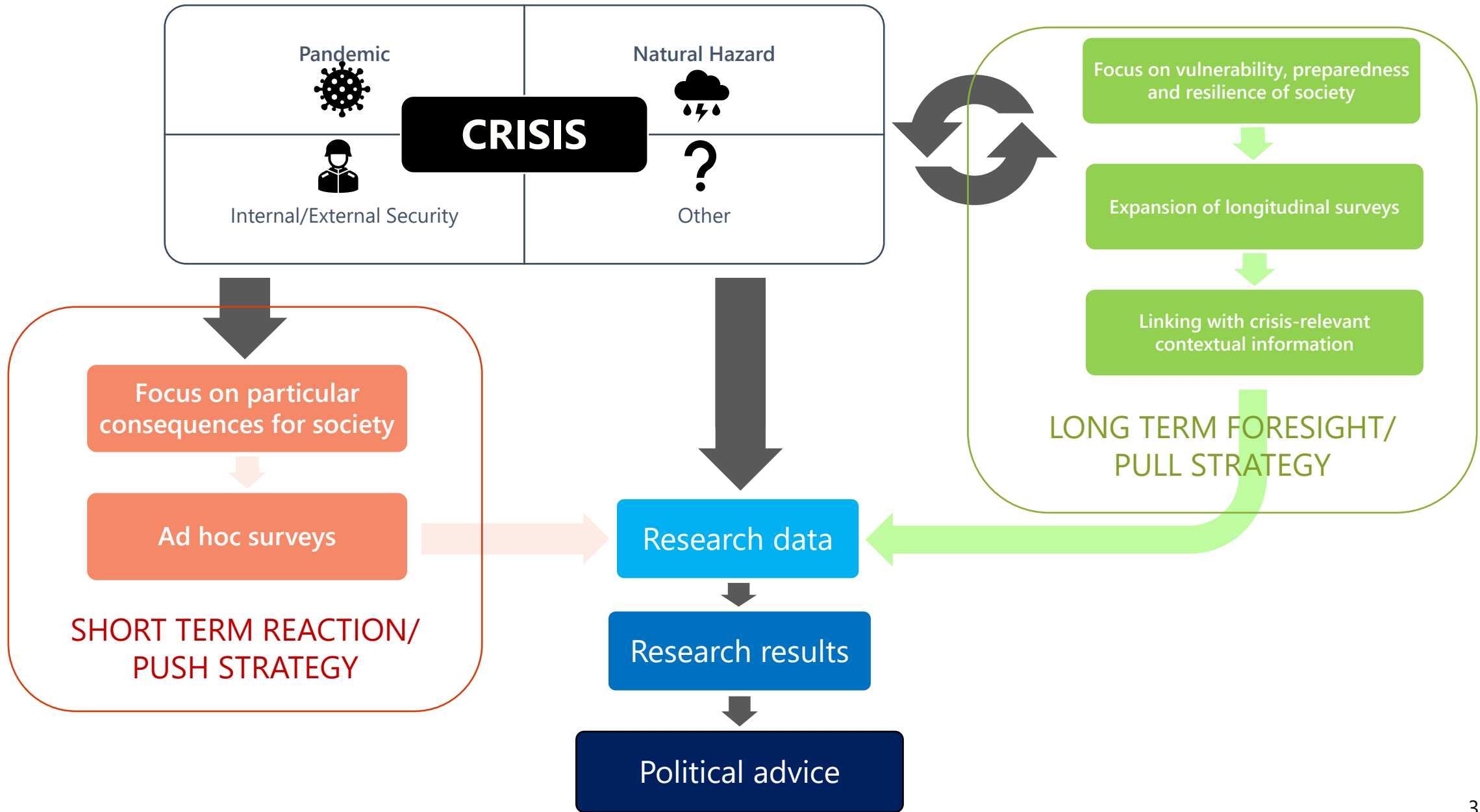


nfdi

Times of Crises



- Multiple overlapping crises affect society
- Need for information on society for evidence-based policy decisions
- Requires empirical data from social sciences and additional sources



Project 'CrisesData – Establishing Infrastructures for Rapid Responses in Societal Crises'

- Funding period: December 2023 – December 2027
- Institutions involved: Freie Universität Berlin, WZB Berlin Social Science Center
- Accompanied by a working group of the German Data Forum (RatSWD) and a multidisciplinary group of external experts
 - Disaster Research Centre (KFS) of the FU Berlin
 - Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK)
 - Bundeswehr Centre of Military History and Social Sciences (ZMSBw)
 - Researchers from various disciplines
 - Representatives of data infrastructures and panel surveys



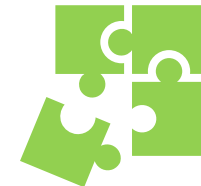
Objectives

The project aims to

- (1) facilitate the **access to crisis-related data** from different scientific disciplines and non-academic contexts
- (2) include **crisis- and disaster-related content** in **long-term surveys**
- (3) establish a structure to **coordinate researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers** in immediate crisis and disaster situations.

Work packages

- (1) Online information platform** on data relevant to crises and disasters
- (2) Analysis of long-term surveys** regarding crisis- and disaster-related content and **development of a question module** on disaster preparedness to be included in a major survey
- (3) Network meetings** to bring stakeholders together and exchange experiences and best practices and establishment of a **coordination centre** for rapid responses in societal crises



Online information platform

Information on

- **survey data** relevant to crises and disasters
- **contextual data** that can be used to enrich georeferenced survey data, e.g.:
 - spatial environmental and climate data
 - data on social and economic infrastructure
 - health and epidemiological data
 - data on civil protection and emergency services
 - administrative and register data
 - crime statistics and accident and insurance data
- **survey instruments** relevant to crises and disasters

Informationsplattform
**Krisen- und
Katastrophen***DATEN* 



www.krisendaten.de

Online information platform

- **Online** since March 2025
- **Target Group:**
 1. **Researchers** who deal with the individual and societal implications of societal crises, disasters and threats from a social, behavioural and economic science perspective
 2. **Practitioners** in the fields of civil protection, disaster relief and crisis management
- **Collection of resources:** information pages, data records and survey instruments
- **Guidance:** handouts and literature on related topics
- **Monitoring** of new developments regarding crisis data

Informationsplattform
**Krisen- und
Katastrophen***DATEN*



www.krisendaten.de

Collection of resources

- **Information pages:** websites with data repositories, information portals, collections and overviews, institutions and actors, dashboards, digital maps and research projects → example
- **Data records:** data from survey studies or other individual social science data that contain findings about the population, companies and society that are relevant to crises and disasters → example
- **Survey instruments:** established instruments relevant to crises and disasters that have been or can be used in population surveys → example
- Each entry is labelled with various **filters** and **information**
- <https://krisendaten.de/en/resources/>



Collection of resources

- References to existing **data**, but neither a separate data repository nor a literature database
- Relation to **German-speaking countries**
- **Channels for adding a resource:**
 - Input from expert discussions, exchanges etc. conducted in the project
 - References from other websites/ snowball principle
 - Targeted search for projects of individual institutions or funding programmes
 - Contribution of resources by external parties



Online information platform



- Focus on **quality, user perspective** and **usability**
- Will be continuously **expanded** and relies on the **participation of the community**
- Will be **evaluated** based on expert interviews with different user groups and then **modified** and **improved**
- **Pilot project** that could be consolidated and automatised in the future

Inclusion of crisis and disaster-related content in long-term surveys



- **Identification of topics** relevant for crises and disasters from a social science and practitioners' perspective
- **Analysis of the status quo:** crisis and disasters-related content in long-term surveys
- **Detection of gaps and needs** for information on the population and companies in the context of crises and disasters
- **Development of additional modules** and **placement in selected surveys**
- **Publication of a paper:**
 - Saravia, A., Liebig, S. & Nussbeck, F. W. (2026). Krisen- und katastrophenbezogene Inhalte in sozialwissenschaftlichen Bevölkerungsumfragen. (RatSWD Working Paper 290/2026). Berlin. Rat für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsdaten (RatSWD). <https://doi.org/10.17620/02671.100>

Crisis and disaster-related content for social science surveys: identified topics



- Risk perception (in relation to crises/disasters)
- Previous experience with crises/disasters
- Acceptance of crisis management measures
- Housing situation
- Trust in institutions
- Voluntary/social commitment
- Information behaviour and needs/ media use
- Vulnerability/ vulnerable groups
- Individual Resilience
- Community Resilience
- Personal emergency preparedness

Analysis of long-term surveys

Criteria for surveys:

1. Micro Data
2. Probability samples
3. Longitudinal Data
4. Georeferenced data
 - Different **levels** of actors: individuals, households, companies/businesses
 - Focus on different **subpopulations** (e.g. younger and older, migrants, transfer payment recipients) and **topics** (e.g. education, family life, employment, climate and environment, health and wellbeing)



Analysed surveys


- Microcensus
- German General Social Survey (Allgemeine Bevölkerungsumfrage der Sozialwissenschaften, ALLBUS)
- DeZIM.panel
- FReDA – The German Family Demography Panel Study
- GESIS Panel
- German Longitudinal Environmental Study (GLEN)
- German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES)
- IAB Establishment Panel (IAB Betriebspanel)
- National Education Panel Study (NEPS)
- Panel Labour Market and Social Security (Panel Arbeitsmarkt und soziale Sicherheit, PASS)
- Social Cohesion Panel (SCP)
- Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) and SOEP-LEE 2 (Survey on the resilience of companies)
- Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

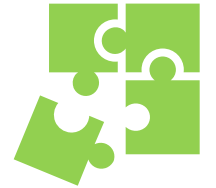
Findings



- Almost all identified topics are **somehow covered**, albeit to **very different degrees**
- **More information** on **prolonged crises** (e.g. Corona pandemic), **less information** relating to **event-based disasters** (e.g. floods)
- In some areas (e.g. information behaviour) **only general questions** without relation to crises and disasters
- Trust in institutions and voluntary engagement: covered by many surveys, but missing items on **organisations relevant to crisis management** (such as fire department, armed forces, THW, Red Cross etc.)
- Various information on larger **vulnerable groups**, less information on more marginal subgroups
- Some (indirect) indicators for **individual and collective resilience**
- **No longitudinal information** on **personal emergency preparedness**

Development and placement of additional modules

- **Personal preparedness for crises and disasters** and **crisis resilience of companies** as one of the most important needs 
- **Facilitation of an exchange** between BBK and survey programmes
- Orientation on **existing single surveys**
- **Joint development of a module**, taking into account particular requirements of the surveys
- **Placement of new modules** in surveys



Placement of new modules in surveys

IAB Establishment Panel:

- New module on the preparedness of companies and organisations and the maintenance of business operations in the event of a power cut (2026 survey)

K1. Für welche der folgenden Ausfälle der Infrastruktur gibt es Notfallpläne oder andere Vorbereitungen zum Schutz von Produktionsanlagen, betrieblicher Infrastruktur oder Betriebsabläufen in Ihrem Betrieb?

Bitte jeweils das Zutreffende ankreuzen!

Es gibt Notfallpläne oder andere Vorbereitungen für den Ausfall ...

	Ja	Nein	Nein, aber geplant	Trifft nicht zu
A. der öffentlichen Stromversorgung	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
B. der Wasserversorgung oder -entsorgung	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
C. der Gasversorgung	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. der Fernwärme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. der internen IT-Infrastruktur, z. B. Betriebsnetzwerk, Soft- oder Hardware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. der Internetverbindung, des Mobilfunk- oder Festnetzes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
G. Pläne für sonstige Ausfälle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

K2.

a) Ist Ihr Betrieb in der Lage, bei einem Ausfall der öffentlichen Stromversorgung die Geschäftstätigkeit für den gesamten Betrieb oder für wesentliche Bereiche aufrechtzuerhalten?

Ja, für gesamten Betrieb

Nein → weiter mit Frage K3

Ja, für wesentliche Bereiche des Betriebs

Wenn ja:

b) Wie lange können Sie bei einem Ausfall der öffentlichen Stromversorgung die Geschäftstätigkeit aufrechterhalten?

A. Weniger als 24 Stunden

B. 24 bis 48 Stunden

C. Länger als 48 Stunden

Placement of new modules in surveys

German Longitudinal Environmental Study (GLEN):



- New module on personal preparedness

Haben Sie folgende Dinge zu Hause?

Bitte geben Sie alles Zutreffende an.

ewe14i1	Lebensmittel für mindestens 10 Tage
ewe14i2	Trinkwasser für mindestens 10 Tage
ewe14i3	Batterie-, Solar oder Kurbel-Radio
ewe14i4	Dokumentenmappe mit wichtigen Dokumenten
ewe14i5	Bargeld für den Notfall
ewe14i6	Nichts davon

Networking and coordination structures



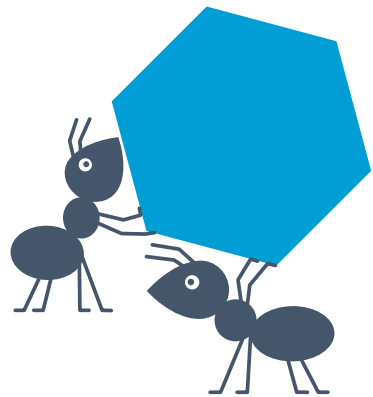
- Regular meetings of a **RatSWD working group**
- **Expert interviews** with researchers and practitioners
- **Joint exchange meetings** with representatives of research, civil protection institutions, panel studies and data infrastructures, to exchange experiences and best practices
- Formation of a **'standby group'** of relevant actors
- Establishment of a **coordination centre** for rapid responses in societal crises

Outlook

- **More and unprecedented crises** are likely to come
- **Information on society and social science data are important** for evidence-based policy decisions
- **Access to the data** and possibilities of **linking with other data types** must be improved
- **Exchange and coordination** between different stakeholders must be enhanced

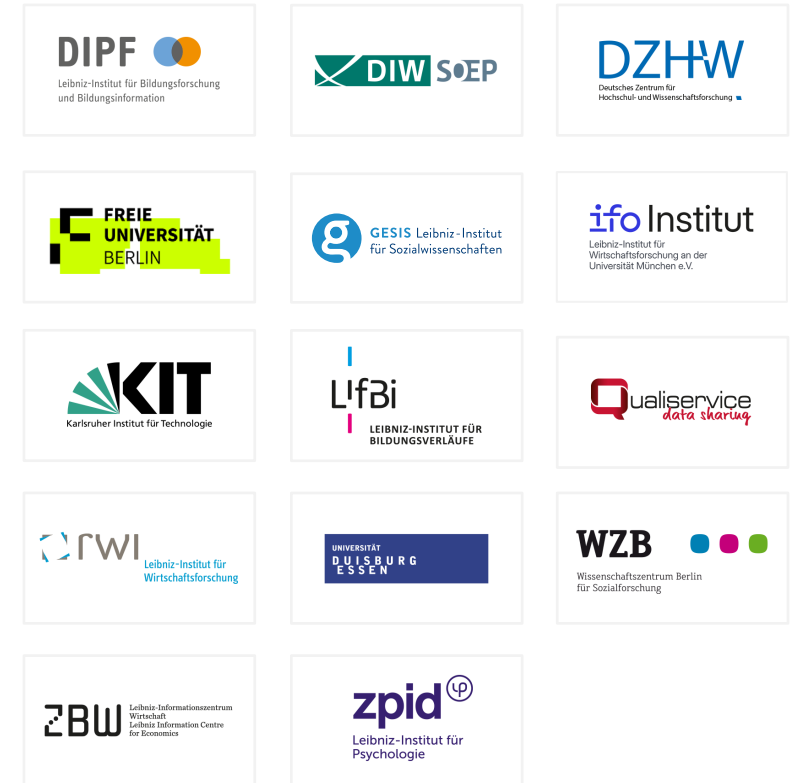
- Continuous **monitoring of developments** in politics and research infrastructures
- Expansion and improvement of the **information platform**
- Possible **automation of the collection of resources** and further **integration into the NFDI**
- Consolidation of the **network between research, data infrastructures and practice**
- Establishment of a **coordination centre** for rapid responses in societal crises

Thank you!



**Good
Cooperation
starts small**

KonsortSWD – NFDI4Society is funded by the GermanResearch Foundation (DFG) within the framework of the NFDI – project number: **442494171**



Contact

Andrés Saravia

Freie Universität Berlin /

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (Gst. RatSWD)

andres.saravia@ratswd.de

+49 30 25491-822

Publication:

Saravia, A., Liebig, S. & Nussbeck, F. W. (2026). Krisen- und katastrophenbezogene Inhalte in sozialwissenschaftlichen Bevölkerungsumfragen. (RatSWD Working Paper 290/2026). Berlin. Rat für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsdaten (RatSWD). <https://doi.org/10.17620/02671.100>

Website:

<https://krisendaten.de/>