

2020-2024

SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche sur les parcours de vie et les vulnérabilités (CIR-LIVES)



| le savoir vivant |

01

Foreword

The Interdisciplinary Research Centre LIVES on the Life Course and Vulnerabilities (CIR LIVES) is the successor of the National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES «Overcoming vulnerability: a life-course perspective» (NCCR LIVES). The NCCR LIVES was jointly hosted by the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva and funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for twelve years between 2011 and 2022. The NCCR LIVES was assessed for the last time in November 2022. In the final evaluation report, the SNSF review panel concluded that “[we] are impressed by the excellent accomplishments the NCCR LIVES realized during its 12 years of operation” (see Appendix 1).

It is now the turn of the CIR LIVES to carry out a self-evaluation. The CIR LIVES was created during the last funding period of the NCCR in 2019, when the University of Lausanne decided to put interdisciplinary life course and vulnerability research on a permanent footing, as did the University of Geneva. Together with LIVES-CIGEV, the CIR LIVES constitutes the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Life Course Research (LIVES Centre). Most of the research activities of

the CIR LIVES are carried out together with colleagues from Geneva under the umbrella of the Swiss Centre. However, this evaluation focuses on the Lausanne component of LIVES.

This report presents a comprehensive self-evaluation based on a participatory approach. First, 24 senior members of the LIVES Centre were interviewed individually about the strengths, weaknesses, and perspectives for the future developments of LIVES. Second, the 50 or so members present at the CIR LIVES General Assembly in August 2023 were invited to take on the roles of the dreamer, realist, and critic and to brainstorm in groups about the future of LIVES. Third, all members of CIR LIVES were asked to evaluate LIVES in an online survey (55 answers). Fourth, drafts of this report were discussed with the LIVES science & administrative team, the two LIVES Boards at the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva, the Dean’s Office of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (SSP) and the professors and lecturers whose terms of reference link them to the CIR LIVES.

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Portrait of the CIR LIVES

Governance

The CIR LIVES is based in the Faculty of Social & Political Sciences (SSP) since 2019. It is one of the two poles of the Swiss Centre LIVES, hosted by the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva, which structuralizes the NCCR LIVES. As shown in Figure 1, the CIR LIVES is governed by the following organs:

- **A director:** Prof. Daniel Oesch (2023-2026), who succeeded Prof. Dario Spini (2011-2022).
- **A general assembly** that meets once a year and is composed of all LIVES members at the University of Lausanne.
- **A board** that meets three times a year and supports the director in strategic decisions. It is composed of 11 professors, who represent each of the five constituent

faculties of the CIR LIVES: SSP with psychology, political, social and sports sciences (Laura Bernardi, Felix Bühlmann, Peter Gelius, Daniela Jopp, Koorosh Massoudi, Dario Spini, Leen Vandecasteele); FBM with biology and medicine (Patrick Bodenmann); FDCA with law, criminal sciences and public administration (Giuliano Bonoli); HEC with business and economics (Rafael Lalive); FTSR with theology and religious sciences (Jörg Stolz).

A similar structure exists at the University of Geneva, directed by Prof. Clémentine Rossier. Although the two poles in Lausanne and Geneva function independently in terms of finances and administration, the two co-directors jointly plan the research activities of the LIVES Centre. They receive guidance from an International Advisory Board composed of six experts in life course research, and they are overseen by a Strategic Council, which includes the rectorate and one dean each from the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva.

Members

The CIR LIVES includes **163 members** (about two thirds of all members of the [Swiss LIVES Centre](#)). These members are mainly based at the SSP Faculty but also come from others faculties at UNIL, as well as from institutions such as the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences FORS, the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland (HES-SO) and other universities in Switzerland and abroad (see Appendix 2). Researchers employed at the Life Course and Inequality Research Centre (LIVES-ISS) – a research unit of the SSP Faculty – are automatically members of the CIR LIVES. Any researcher working on the life course and vulnerability at the University of Lausanne may become a member, subject to the approval of the director.

Resources

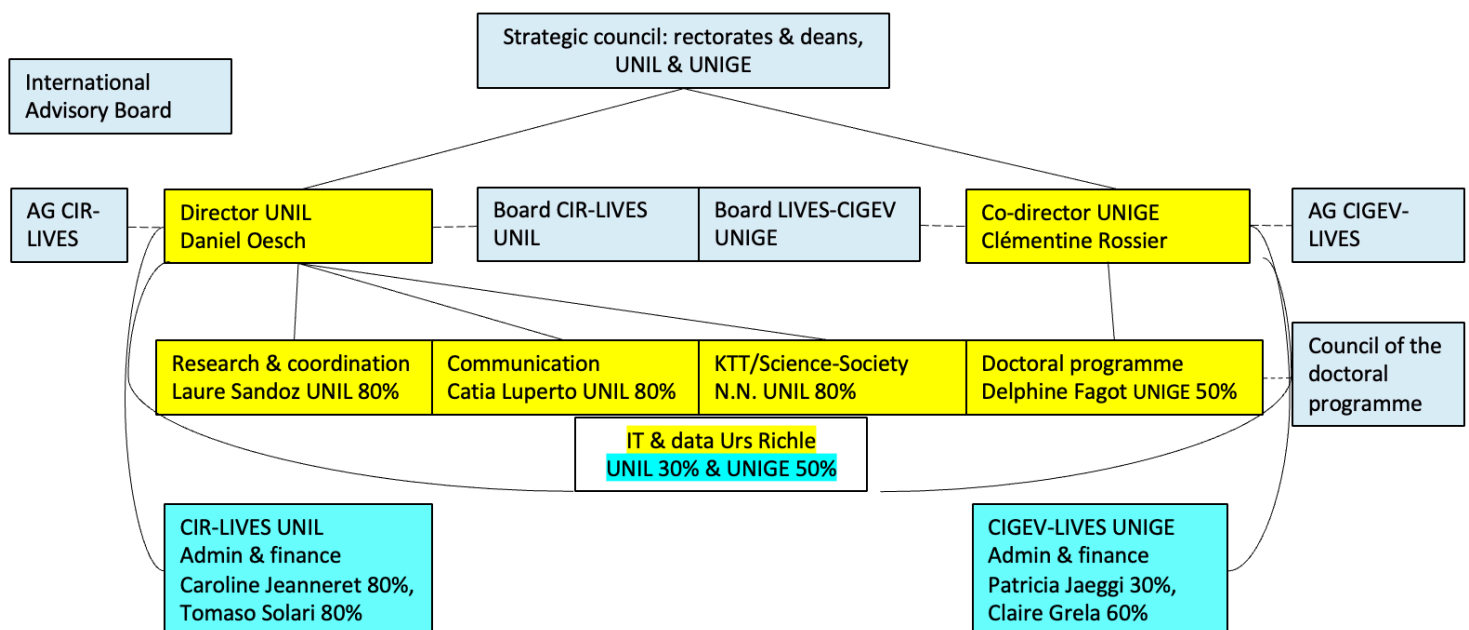
The resources of the CIR LIVES include staff, infrastructure, research funding from external sources, reserves from the NCCR LIVES and, as of 2025, an annual operating budget of 110,000 CHF, provided by the University. The Centre's director benefits from a reduced teaching load (two hours a week) and receives a financial incentive of 6,000 CHF per year.

Staff: The administrative and technical staff of CIR LIVES includes a scientific officer and coordinator (80%), a communications officer (80%), an IT and data manager (30%), a financial officer (80%) and a secretary (80%) (see Figure 1). Moreover, the University of Lausanne has financed (or re-defined) in-kind positions for nine professors and two lecturers (MER) as part of its NCCR commitments (see Appendix 3).

Research funds: The CIR LIVES has 20 associated projects that are based at the University of Lausanne, with external funds of more than 18.5 million CHF. Two projects of the HES-SO are also associated to the CIR LIVES (1,030,000 CHF) (see Appendix 4).

Operating budget: For 2023 and 2024, the CIR LIVES has managed to finance its activities with the reserves from NCCR LIVES. The UNIL Rectorat has made a commitment to the SNSF that the CIR LIVES would eventually benefit from an operating budget of 110,000 CHF per year, subject to the outcome of the 1st self-evaluation procedure (see Appendix 5).

All the joint activities organized by the LIVES Centre are co-funded by the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva.



Mission and objectives

The mission of the LIVES Centre – which, in turn, is further specified for the CIR LIVES – has been defined in the agreement signed in 2018 by the rectorates of the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva.

The three main missions are summarized below and will be discussed in detail in Section 7 with our development plan.

The missions are the following.

1. To position the LIVES Centre as a national and international reference in interdisciplinary life course and vulnerability research (notably by promoting research projects);
2. To promote the next generation of life course and vulnerability researchers (notably through the doctoral programme);
3. To promote knowledge transfer on the life course and vulnerability towards professionals and the wider public (notably through policy briefs and events).

Activities and services

Together with the LIVES Centre, the CIR LIVES organizes a series of activities to foster interdisciplinary research, training and communication on the life course and vulnerability.

Research activities

Working groups: LIVES members can set up working groups on specific topics related to interdisciplinary research on the life course and vulnerability, with the aim of developing new research projects and funding applications. They are funded by the LIVES Centre with up to 5,000 CHF per year. Members of the CIR LIVES are currently active in [eight working groups](#) (see Appendix 6).

Seed money: The LIVES Centre supports senior researchers who wish to prepare a proposal for new life-course and vulnerability research projects. In 2023, the CIR LIVES supported one project with this grant and launched a new call for 2024.

Young scholar grants: The LIVES Centre supports

doctoral students and post-docs at the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva who plan to carry out innovative life-course research. One yearly call provides competitive funding for a specific study or project. In 2023, [eight researchers](#) obtained such a grant from CIR LIVES, and a new call has been launched for 2024.

Writing retreat: Between 2019 and 2022, the LIVES Centre organized several Winter Schools for PhD candidates and post-docs at the Venice International University (VIU). This initiative has been replaced by a 4-day [writing retreat](#). The first edition will take place in February 2024 at the Schwarzsee Hotel in Fribourg, with 24 LIVES members.

Visitor grants: The LIVES Centre wishes to attract foreign researchers working on the life course and vulnerability for visits of at least two months. Through a [competitive call](#), they can apply for support of up to CHF 4,000 (covering travel and accommodation costs). In 2023, the CIR LIVES hosted nine visitors: three professors (Anna Manzoni from North Carolina State University,

Paulina Pankowska from Utrecht University, Marc Scott from New York University), one post-doc (Roujman Shahbazian from the University of Munich) and five PhD students (Olga Gorodetskaya from the University of Trento, Christoph Henking from Oxford University, Miika Kekki from the University of Eastern Finland, Nathalie Sisson from the University of Toronto, Antonina Zhelenkova from the University of Milan). A new call has been launched for 2024.

Data management and IT: The LIVES Centre and its IT officer support members in research questions on the life course and vulnerability that involve the design, creation and hosting of online surveys, data management (e.g. planning, visualization, storage, sharing, formatting, archiving), and other technical issues (e.g. help for project websites, creation and maintenance of dedicated servers).

Publications: The LIVES Centre showcases the publications of its members on its website. Moreover, the LIVES Centre publishes the [LIVES Working Papers](#) and collaborates with Springer on an [open access book series](#) on life course research and social policies.

Scientific events

LIVES International Conference: In 2022 and 2023, the LIVES Centre organized an [international conference](#) with a focus on theoretically-based empirical research on the life course and vulnerability from disciplines including sociology, demography, psychology, economics, political science, epidemiology, and statistics. The 2023 edition took place at the University of Lausanne on 9-10 November, featuring 84 paper presentations, 19 posters and over 150 participants from across Europe (see Appendix 7).

LIVES Day: This annual event brings together LIVES members from the Universities of Lausanne, Geneva and beyond during an afternoon of scientific exchange. In 2023, the programme included two keynote lectures and 35 short presentations, with over 70 participants (see Appendix 8).

LIVES colloquia at UNIL: The CIR LIVES organises the monthly interdisciplinary seminar [LIVES comes alive](#) with presentations by researchers from the University of Lausanne as well as the [research colloquium](#) on the life course and inequality with presentations by European scholars.

LIVES Science, Sports and Drinks: At the end of summer, the CIR LIVES organises its General

Assembly, followed by scientific presentations by members on the life course and vulnerability, and a festive event including sports and drinks at the lakeside.

Partnerships: In addition to the above events, the CIR LIVES regularly supports the scientific events of its members with matching funds, expertise and logistics.

Training in life course and vulnerability research

Doctoral programme: The LIVES doctoral programme has been running since 2012 as part of the NCCR. It was revised after the end of the NCCR in 2023. The new [two-year programme](#) includes four theoretical and three methodological modules as well as yearly presentations of the participants' research projects. Students must participate in at least 5 out of 7 modules (see Appendix 9). The 2023 entry cohort is composed of 20 doctoral students from the Universities of Lausanne (11), Geneva (5) and beyond (4) whose research project includes a life course perspective in sociology, demography, psychology, health sciences or related disciplines.

Communication with the wider public, practitioners and policy makers

Newsletters: The LIVES Centre publishes two newsletters every three months. The [external newsletter](#) showcases new research projects, publications and other scientific activities. It is sent in French, German or English to a database of 3500 contacts (network of researchers, practitioners and policy makers in Switzerland and abroad). The internal newsletter (in English) informs LIVES members about ongoing research projects and activities.

Workshops for non-academic audiences: Until 2023, the LIVES Centre collaborated with the HES-SO to organize LIVES Social Innovation workshops and generate a dialogue on societal issues between researchers, policy makers and practitioners. The LIVES Centre also regularly facilitates the [Kalendario workshops](#) in schools (3rd cycle and beginning of post-compulsory schooling) to discuss the potential of a life course approach with members of the younger generation.

Publications for non-academic audiences: The LIVES Centre publishes policy briefs ([LIVES Impact](#)) translated into French, English and German and distributed through our network. It also publishes

with FORS [Social Change in Switzerland](#), a series that documents the evolution of Switzerland's social structure for the general public. The LIVES Centre was a main partner for the publication in 2020 of the [Dictionary of Swiss Social Policy](#), collaborated in 2022 with the "Collection de l'Art Brut" in Lausanne on an exhibition on [Art Brut and life courses](#) and produced in 2022-23 the [LIVES Human Library](#) with 16 podcasts on life course research.

Partnerships: The CIR LIVES supports the knowledge transfer activities of its members with matching funds, expertise and logistics. For example, in 2023, the CIR LIVES was a partner in the organization of public events in Lausanne on sexism and homophobia in schools ([8 Nov.](#)), volunteering by older adults ([25 May](#)), and divorces and separations ([8 May](#) and [25 Apr.](#)). The CIR LIVES also regularly takes part in UNIL public events and

organizes workshops during the "Mystères de l'UNIL" (May 2022) or "Futur en tous genres" (Nov. 2023).

Online communication: The LIVES Centre's [website](#) presents our activities, projects, events, publications and results in a way that is accessible not only to researchers, but also to the general public. Information about activities and research results is also shared on [social media](#) (LinkedIn, X and Facebook).

Media communication: The LIVES communication officer regularly writes press releases and supports members through media workshops and personalized advice. Our researchers regularly intervene in the media, as shown in our [press review](#).

05

Performance indicators

Qualitative indicators

Consolidation of a pole of expertise in interdisciplinary life course and vulnerability research at UNIL: With its numerous initiatives and events, the LIVES Centre actively contributes to the development of an interdisciplinary culture at the University of Lausanne. Interdisciplinarity further materializes through innovative collaborations between CIR LIVES researchers from different fields, such as the Sinergia project [FamyCH](#) (Joëlle Darwiche and Laura Bernardi) and the EU-Horizon project [EqualStrength](#) (Stephanie Steinmetz and Flavia Fossati) – two projects that started in 2023.

Consolidation of an interdisciplinary, interinstitutional and international network in the field of life course and vulnerability research: Research and activities at the CIR LIVES build on collaborations with various institutions, such as CIGEV at the University of Geneva (where the other part of the LIVES Centre is based), FORS, the HES-SO, the Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (SLLS), the Leading House for Governance in Vocational and Professional

Education and Training (GOVPET), the National Centre of Competence in Research on Migration and Mobility (NCCR On the Move), and many others. Our Visiting Scholars Programme enables regular exchanges with international guests, and our alumni network, built up over the last 12 years and composed of 462 members, spans disciplines, countries, and professional fields.

Training and promotion of the next generation of life course and vulnerability researchers: With more than 100 PhD graduates so far, the LIVES doctoral programme has made a significant contribution to developing the theoretical and methodological skills of young life course and vulnerability researchers at the University of Lausanne and beyond. Our commitment to the career development of talented scholars is also reflected in the eight grants we awarded to doctoral and postdoctoral candidates in 2023, as well as in our efforts to develop a supportive research environment.

Engagement in knowledge transfer and civil society partnerships, in line with UNIL's commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion:

Following the legacy of the NCCR LIVES, the LIVES Centre sees itself as a laboratory for generating exchanges with civil society, developing partnerships with professionals, and building bridges between arts and science. The CIR LIVES focus on the emergence of vulnerability over the life course is closely linked to UNIL objectives of contributing to a fairer, more equal and inclusive society. The expertise of LIVES researchers is particularly relevant to issues related to gender equality, social policies, labour market integration, ageing and social cohesion.

Quantitative indicators

As the organization of the CIR LIVES changed after the end of the NCCR in December 2022, some indicators such as the number of members and working groups are only available for 2023. The

number of scientific publications is estimated from the publications deposited with a LIVES tag in the online repository of the University of Lausanne (SERVAL, see Appendix 10). The events include all the activities that we organized or sponsored and advertised in our [online agenda](#). The media interventions were counted from our [press review](#). The lower number for 2023 can be explained by the fact that researchers inform us less systematically about their media interventions since the end of the NCCR. In addition, there are many new projects starting in 2023 that do not yet have results to communicate. All the articles of [LIVES Impact](#) and [Social change in Switzerland](#) are available on our website. No LIVES Impact was published in 2023 due to the end of the collaboration with the HES-SO (see next section). However, we plan to revive the series in 2024.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Members (CIR LIVES)	-	-	-	163
Associated projects (CIR LIVES)	23	26	15	23
Associated projects' financial volume (CIR LIVES)	5 mio	5,6 mio	4 mio	4,4 mio
Working groups (LIVES Centre)	-	-	-	8
Visiting scholars (CIR LIVES)	3	2	0	9
Scientific publications (CIR LIVES)	132	124	109	87
Working papers (LIVES Centre)	4	6	6	4
Events (LIVES Centre)	15	26	46	36
Participants in the LIVES International Conference (LIVES Centre)	-	-	141	165
Participants in the doctoral programme (LIVES Centre)	16	16 + 9	9	20
Media interventions (LIVES Centre)	67	79	84	34
LIVES Impact (LIVES Centre & HES-SO)	5	0	5	0
Social change in Switzerland (CIR LIVES & FORS)	4	4	4	4

Overall assessment

We first analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the CIR LIVES and identify potential opportunities and threats. We then summarise the main results of the online survey, face-to-face interviews and evaluation organized during the General Assembly. This assessment guides our strategy in section 7.

SWOT

Strengths: After 12 years as a NCCR, the LIVES Centre has established itself as an international leader in the interdisciplinary field of life course research, particularly in the areas of family, work and ageing. The research base is strong, with many externally funded projects and a critical mass of researchers interested in life course perspectives and methods. In addition, several cohorts of talented young researchers and alumni identify with LIVES and contribute to the Centre's influence and dynamism. The CIR LIVES benefits from strong institutional support, in particular from its host faculty SSP, has a dynamic core at the University of Lausanne and excellent collaboration with LIVES-CIGEV at the University of Geneva. The LIVES Centre is also a leading institution within the Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies (SLLS), which contributes to its international visibility. The topics studied by LIVES researchers are of wider social interest (e.g. child well-being, discrimination, labour market inclusion) and the Centre has strong expertise in knowledge transfer and collaborative research.

Weaknesses: Although the NCCR LIVES has contributed to a clearer interdisciplinary conceptualisation of the life course approach (notably through influential articles, an [online glossary](#) and a [collective book](#)), the LIVES Centre brings together people from a wide range of research fields, and it remains a challenge to find a common language and common interests. The CIR LIVES has been successful in fostering interdisciplinary collaborations between sociology, demography, psychology (especially social psychology) and political science, but less so with economics and health sciences. In addition, the CIR LIVES focuses more on particular parts of the life course and lacks expertise in early childhood development and youth. The organisational structure of the LIVES Centre, with its two poles (in Lausanne

and Geneva) and different levels of integration (LIVES-ISS included in CIR LIVES in Lausanne, LIVES hosted by CIGEV in Geneva) is complex to understand and manage. Finally, the LIVES Centre was not able to maintain an institutional collaboration with the HES-SO after the end of the NCCR. Without SNSF-funding, the HES-SO was no longer in a position to provide the LIVES Centre with in-kind resources for knowledge transfer. However, the close collaboration with researchers from HES-SO will continue, as will the publication of the LIVES Impact series.

Opportunities: Thanks to researchers from very different backgrounds, LIVES has the ability to develop ambitious projects and experiment with innovative ideas. There is the potential for strong synergies between LIVES and FORS, which conducts national and international surveys and is located in the same building as the CIR LIVES at UNIL. Collaboration between life course researchers and survey specialists could be further strengthened; planning in this direction is underway (e.g. development of a Time Use Survey, see goals below). Furthermore, the LIVES Centre could play an important role in supporting the *Maison du Savoir Vivant* project at UNIL, given the strong public interest in life course research, and the expertise of its members in innovative knowledge transfer practises.

Threats: Despite the commitment of many members, the CIR LIVES runs the risk of atomization and loss of identity, as most academics have multiple affiliations, and there is often competition between academic structures and programmes. This threat also concerns the LIVES in-kind professors and lecturers, as well as the LIVES doctoral programme, because doctoral students can choose between several offers and may prefer more disciplinary training. Similarly, we need to make sure that our senior members continue to see an added value in interdisciplinary life course research, that they want to stay involved and provide input. Finally, a decrease in funding and staffing at the University of Geneva would weaken the LIVES Centre's capacity to organize major events, train sufficiently large cohorts of doctoral students and engage in inter-institutional projects.

Member review

The face-to-face interviews with 24 senior LIVES members, workshop at the 2023 CIR LIVES general assembly, and online survey of 55 CIR LIVES members show that, overall, researchers are satisfied with the strategic direction that the LIVES Centre has taken since the end of the NCCR. They value interdisciplinarity and appreciate the many opportunities for collaboration and networking that the Centre offers. In the survey, they rated the international conference, the doctoral programme and the promotion of members' research as the

Centre's three most important achievements. However, some researchers noted that they found it difficult to participate in all the activities organized, due to their multiple commitments and busy schedules. Among the suggestions for improvement, we highlight in particular the wish for more support for researchers who have recently completed their PhD but have not yet found a stable position. Several members also encourage the Centre's management to proactively work towards a new major long-term collaborative project on the life course. Finally, researchers value LIVES as a space for dialogue and exchange and encourage us to continue to reach out to people from different backgrounds, disciplines and professional fields.

07

Development plan

Goals

We have formulated four goals that are based on our mission and that we define with concrete objectives, instruments and indicators. The foundations for this development plan were laid in the post-NCCR transition at the beginning of 2023, together with our colleagues from the University of Geneva (see section 4. "Activities and services"). Table 1 below summarizes the main goals.

Mission 1, goal 1.1: foster cutting-edge interdisciplinary research on the life course and vulnerability



Two objectives contribute to this goal. The first objective is to facilitate the acquisition of external funding for 10 medium-sized research projects (>100,000 CHF) over the next 4 years. The second objective is to facilitate the initiation of one major research project (>1,000,000 CHF) every four years, allowing a larger group of LIVES researchers to work together across disciplines and institutions on a common theme.

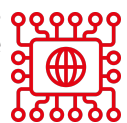
For the next 2-4 years, we have tentatively identified two projects that could bring researchers together: the Gender and Generations Programme GGP (a joint initiative with FORS and the University of Geneva) and the development of a nationally

representative Time Use Survey (with FORS). For the next 4-8 years, promising avenues for a large interdisciplinary LIVES project could be an integrated study on sociogenomics and the life course.

To support the development of innovative research projects on the life course and vulnerability, we foster bottom-up collaborations between researchers from different backgrounds and disciplines through instruments such as working groups and seed money grants. We also develop concrete measures to maintain LIVES as a vibrant hub for life course and vulnerability research (see goal 1.2).

Two main indicators allow us to monitor this goal. As an input variable, the focus is on the number and funding of newly associated projects to the CIR LIVES. As an output variable, the focus is on high-quality publications on the life course and vulnerability (at least ten high-quality articles per year).

Mission 1, goal 1.2: maintain LIVES as a vibrant hub of interdisciplinary life course research



This goal consists of further developing the interdisciplinary, interinstitutional and international network of researchers interested in

the life course and vulnerability and positioning the University of Lausanne (and Geneva) as a national and international hub for life course and vulnerability research. The aim is to create a working environment in which research, teaching and dialogue with civil society and professionals can flourish by creating forums for exchange, peer support, community building and learning.

The means to this end are events such as the International Conference, the LIVES days, the writing retreat, our monthly seminars and colloquia and, crucially, the visiting grants for researchers from outside Switzerland. Moreover, to complete the instruments already in place in 2023, we plan in the coming years to further reinforce the international network of LIVES alumni that the NCCR has built over the last 12 years.

Four indicators allow us to monitor this goal: (a) the participation of national and international life course researchers at LIVES conferences, our objective being at least 120 participants; (b) the number of active CIR LIVES members (at least 60), i.e. members who show interest and participate regularly in our activities ; (c) the number of life course scholars from outside Switzerland who visit CIR LIVES for at least two months, our objective being 4-5 per year ; (d) the creation of a strong alumni identity, by systematically including alumni in our activities and organizing a specific alumni event every two years.

Mission 2, goal 2: invest in the training and education of young scholars working on the life course and vulnerability



The objective is to continue to promote and develop postgraduate training to ensure that young researchers remain internationally competitive in life course and vulnerability research. The main instrument for this goal is our joint LIVES doctoral programme with the University of Geneva. In addition, we specifically support research proposed by young scholars who often have innovative ideas, but find it difficult to obtain funding.

The main indicator allowing us to monitor this goal is the number of doctoral students trained in the LIVES 2-year doctoral programme, our target being 12 doctoral students each year.

Mission 3, goal 3: Contribute to the exchange between science & society



This goal implies the strengthening of the science-

society interface and follows the current plan of intentions of the University of Lausanne which “considers knowledge to be a public good, and intends to make it available to society so that it can address the major issues of our time” (p. 78). Our goal is also inspired by the objective of our host SSP Faculty to “encourage the development of interdisciplinary work and the broad dissemination of knowledge to the community, enabling lifelong citizenship education”.

To reach this goal, we will further develop existing tools such as our two publications destined to the general public ([LIVES Impact](#) and [Social change in Switzerland](#)). CIR LIVES also wishes to play an active role in supporting the future *Maison du Savoir Vivant* and promoting innovative forms of participatory research at UNIL and beyond. Finally, we intend to organize regular events that bring together LIVES researchers, professionals and policymakers on a social-policy issue related to the life course and vulnerability.

The indicators used to measure these objectives are: (a) the number of publications for the general public; our objective is to publish at least two LIVES Impacts and four articles of Social Change in Switzerland per year; (b) regular LIVES events on social policy with researchers, professionals and policymakers; our aim is to attract at least 50 external participants (non-researchers) to these events each year.

Resources

In 2023 and 2024, we can operate with a budget of 200,000 CHF per year thanks to the reserves from the NCCR. With remaining reserves, and if we receive the operating budget of 110,000 CHF per year from 2025 onwards – as per UNIL’s official commitment to the SNSF, see Appendix 5 –, we will be able to maintain a budget of 200,000 CHF per year and thus continue all our activities in 2025, 2026 and 2027. These budgets are shown in detail in Appendix 11. From 2028 onwards, two scenarios are possible. The first scenario, Development, is more ambitious and sets higher targets. In terms of resources, this scenario would require an annual budget of 150,000 CHF (i.e. 40,000 more from the University of Lausanne). A second scenario, Stability, is more conservative, sets the targets lower and would only require an annual budget of 110,000 CHF. The difference resides in the activities we decide to reduce (and depends on obtaining additional funding). In the first scenario, we can continue to provide seed money for new projects, young scholar grants for innovative research and visitor grants, although with lower amounts than

currently. In the second scenario, we eliminate the seed money and the young scholar grants and reduce our event and communication budget to

reach the target of 110,000 CHF. It seems too early to take a decision on these two scenarios today.

Instruments	Indicators	Target
Goal 1.1 - Foster interdisciplinary life course and vulnerability research		
Foster bottom-up cooperation (e.g. through working groups)	Number and funding volume of projects per year	10 medium-sized projects (>100,000 CHF) per 4 years
Initiate one major interdisciplinary project (e.g. through seed money)		One major project (>1,000,000 CHF) per 4 years
	Number of high-quality publications	At least 10 high-quality articles per year
Goal 1.2 - Maintain LIVES as a vibrant hub of life course and vulnerability research		
Organize international conferences	One international LIVES conference every 2 years	>120 participants
Organize events for members (e.g. LIVES day, colloquia)	Active members participating in LIVES activities	>60 active members
Visiting grants	International scholars visiting the CIR LIVES for at least 2 months	4-5 visiting fellows per year
Strengthen the alumni network	Creation of a strong alumni identity	Include alumni and organize an alumni event every 2 years
Goal 2 - Invest in young scholars		
Promote the doctoral programme	Number of graduates of the doctoral programme	12 doctoral students per year
Goal 3 - Contribute to the exchange between science & society		
Communicate findings to a wider public	Publish articles in LIVES Impact & Social Change in Switzerland	2 LIVES Impact & 4 Social Change in Switzerland per year
Organize regular event on social policy	Number of participants in the event	At least 50 external participants per year

08

Concluding remarks

In the 12 years of the NCCR, the LIVES Centre has been able to establish itself as one of the leading international centres of research on the life course and vulnerability. This track record has been made possible by the generous funding from the SNSF, strong support from the University of Lausanne and close collaboration with the University of

Geneva. We will continue to build on this legacy by promoting cutting-edge research, supporting large interdisciplinary projects, training young researchers, fostering knowledge exchange with the general public and, last but not least, creating a supportive working environment in which colleagues enjoy working together.



Impressum

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