

Fourth Invalidation Insurance Research Programme (FoP4-IV)

STATUS REPORT

March 2024

1 Completed and published FoP-IV research projects and evaluations

Updated evaluation of IV reintegration measures: statistical analyses of 2008–2017 cohort of new IV applicants

Description: The study investigates the impact of the fifth InvIA revision on the award of IV reintegration support measures and IV pensions since the changes came into effect in 2008. The research also gauges how effective IV support has been in enabling claimants to remain in work in the short to medium term.

Results: *The report was published on 1st of March 2024 ([Report no. 05/23](#)).*

Project lead/info: [Frédéric Widmer \(R&E\)](#) and [Fernanda Benz \(IV\)](#)

Third IV Research Programme (2016–2022)

Description: The findings and recommendations of the 24 studies conducted as part of the Third IV Research Programme (FoP3-IV), which ran from 2016 to 2022, have influenced the further development of the Swiss Invalidation Insurance scheme. Many recommendations have already been implemented, while others continue to inform ongoing development work. The synthesis report presents the key findings and recommendations of the 24 studies and sets out the FSIO position in relation to them.

Results: *The report was published on 25 April 2023 ([Report no. 12/22](#)).*

Project lead/info: [Frédéric Widmer \(R&E\)](#) and [Christina Eggenberger \(IV\)](#)

At-home independent living support: international models

Description: The aim of this study was to create a knowledge base that will enable the Invalidation Insurance (IV) scheme and the cantons to optimise their measures to support at-home independent living. More precisely, it generated an overview of at-home independent living support measures and services for people with disabilities available in a selection of countries comparable to Switzerland, and identified which of these measures and services that the IV scheme and the cantons could potentially adopt.

Results: *Contractor:* HETSL (Lausanne School of Social Work). The report was published in February 2023 ([Report no. 10/22](#)).

Project lead/info: [Frédéric Widmer \(R&E\)](#) and [Maryka Lâamir \(IV\)](#)

At-home independent living support: needs assessment instruments

Description: The aim of this study was to document the different instruments used in Switzerland to assess an individual's at-home independent living support needs, and identify the main differences between them, as well as document their respective strengths and weaknesses. The results of this comparative analysis will inform efforts to optimise the instruments used by the Invalidity Insurance (IV) scheme, particularly those used to assess the needs of helplessness allowance and intensive care supplement claimants, and the personal assistance allowance survey instrument (FAKT questionnaire). They will also make it possible to determine the appropriateness of making these instruments more resource-based.

Results: *Contractor:* HSLU and HES VS. The report was published in February 2023 ([Report no. 11/22](#)).

Project lead/info: [Frédéric Widmer \(R&E\)](#) and [Maryka Lâamir \(IV\)](#)

Direct payments and financial assistance pursuant to Art. 74 InvIA

Description: The Federal Council's disability policy and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities raises the question of what steps can be taken, also in relation to the financial assistance provided for under Art. 74 of the Invalidity Insurance Act (InvIA), to strengthen the self-determination of people with disabilities. A thorough evaluation of current financial support measures is needed. The evaluation should take account of incentive effects as well as future expenditure allocations in the event of a shift towards direct payments. Such an analysis is particularly warranted after a modest reallocation of benefits towards currently underserved recipients was rejected in the consultation process regarding the proposed further development of the IV scheme. The project explored different direct payment types that could be used to provide the financial assistance stipulated in Art. 71 InvIA.

Results: *Contractor:* FHNW and HES VS. The report was published in March 2023 ([Report no. 4/23](#)).

Project lead/info: [Frédéric Widmer \(R&E\)](#) and [Christina Eggenberger \(IV\)](#)

2 Current status of ongoing research projects

Quota and voluntary schemes: the role of social partners in the labour market integration of health-impaired workers

Description: This review aims to catalogue existing quota and voluntary schemes adopted by social partners in industrialised countries, describe how they operate and the (legal) bases underpinning them, and provide a summary of the findings on their implementation and effects.

Results: Results are expected in spring 2024.

Status: The project started in spring 2022. The final report is scheduled for publication in spring 2024.

Project lead/info: [Malte.Flachmeyer@bsv.admin.ch \(R&E\)](mailto:Malte.Flachmeyer@bsv.admin.ch) and [Christina Eggenberger \(IV\)](#)

New pension claims (2018–2021) following legislative amendments affecting the mixed-method evaluation and pension entitlement for drug addictions and mental disorders

Description: The central element of this research project is the detailed analysis of the impact on invalidity assessment and new pension claims as the result of legislative amendments regarding the mixed-method approach to calculating pension applicants' degree of invalidity, and pension entitlement for drug addictions and mental disorders. The project includes a differentiated assessment of the quantitative significance of these changes for new pension claim trends and collects qualitative evidence on how the IV offices have applied them in practice and adapted the relevant assessment and decision-making processes.

Results: Results are expected in spring 2024.

Status: The project started in August 2022. The final report is scheduled for publication in spring 2024.

Project lead/info: [Malte Flachmeyer \(R&E\)](#), [Christina Eggenberger \(IV\)](#) and [Frédéric Widmer \(R&E\)](#)

Case management: implementation of new Invalidity Insurance Act provisions

Description: Case management is a process in which a professional from the relevant Invalidity Insurance office acts as the permanent and central point of contact for the client (the insured person). The case manager works closely with the client to provide tailored advice and support so that the latter receives measures that are best suited to their circumstances. The most recent revision of the Invalidity Insurance Act (InvIA), the 'Further Development of the IV scheme', which came into effect on 1 January, strengthened various aspects of the case management process and gave IV offices additional resources to deliver these upgrades. Art. 41a fleshes out case management details, while the invalidity insurance case management circular (KSFF), which also came into effect on 1 January 2022, sets down the guiding principles and fundamentals. This evaluation aims to identify if IV case management has improved since this new round of measures have been implemented.

Results: Results are expected in spring 2025.

Status: The project started in December 2023. The final report is scheduled for publication in spring 2025.

Project lead/info: [Malte Flachmeyer \(R&E\)](#) and [Andrea Lüthi \(IV\)](#)

Transitions I and II: implementation of changes to the Invalidity Insurance scheme

Description: The transitions from compulsory schooling to basic vocational education and training (Transition I) and from basic vocational education and training to employment (Transition II) are key to the successful integration of adolescents and young adults in the workforce. The most recent revision of the Invalidity Insurance Act (InvIA), which came into effect on 1 January 2022, included provisions to remedy the shortcomings of IV efforts to support the integration of young people with a health impairment at these key junctures in their lives. The aim of this evaluation of Transitions I and II is to gauge the effectiveness of the introduction and implementation (activities and output) of these changes.

Results: Results are expected in spring 2025.

Status: The project started in November 2023. The final report is scheduled for publication in spring 2025.

Project lead/info: [Maria Ritter \(R&E\)](#) and [Fernanda Benz \(IV\)](#)

Evaluation of changes to IV medical assessments

Description: The study focuses on the changes that were introduced as part of the 'Further Development of IV scheme' to improve the medical assessment process. They include the requirements that assessors must meet; measures to make the procurement process more transparent (public lists of assessors; audio recordings of interviews); other procurement-specific measures (random assessor selection for bi-disciplinary reports, agreement with the insured person on the choice of assessor, new convention for multi-disciplinary reports). This evaluation does not deal with the content (quality) of the medical assessments but focuses on analysing the implementation of these changes, the effects on the 'assessor market', on appeals and their outcomes, and on the acceptance and legitimacy of the medical assessment process.

Results: Results are expected in spring 2025.

Status: The project started in February 2024. The final report is scheduled for publication in spring 2025.

Project lead/info: [Frédéric Widmer \(F&E\)](#) and [Christina Eggenberger \(IV\)](#)

3 Future projects

There are currently no open project tenders.

4 Further information/links

General information on the FoP-IV research programme

FoP-IV: [Invalidity insurance research programmes \(FoP-IV\) \(admin.ch\)](#)

General information on invalidity insurance

IV: [Invalidity insurance \(admin.ch\)](#)

General information on the Research and Evaluation Section

R&E: [Research and Evaluation \(admin.ch\)](#)

[ARAMIS – The research database of the Federal Administration \(admin.ch\)](#)

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Publication details

Publisher: Research and Evaluation Section (R&E),
Federal Social Insurance Office

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