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time presents recent survey methodological and statistical research from different European countries. The research reported on draws on invited presentations at the first two international conferences of the Priority Programme on Survey Methodology (PPSM) of the German Research Foundation (DFG). Additional contributions come from the wider network of PPSM researchers.

The Priority Programme on Survey Methodology commenced in January 2008. Sixteen projects were undertaken over the course of the following six years. While most project sites were located within Germany, two projects included were based in Switzerland and the Netherlands. The establishment of this Program came at a time when comparable survey research networks already existed in neighboring European countries. In the United Kingdom, the UK Survey Design and Measurement Initiative was established in 2007. In the Netherlands, too, a key survey methodology/statistics research environment already existed at that time, with outstanding researchers at Utrecht University, Statistics Netherlands, the Netherlands Institute for Social Research, and Tilburg University. Additionally, a number of data collection facilities and research panels arose from networks of survey methodologists and statisticians. In the Netherlands, for instance, the Measurement and Experimentation in the Social Sciences (MESS) facility and its Longitudinal Internet Studies for the Social Sciences (LISS) panel was established in 2007. The following year in the United Kingdom, the Understanding Society Innovation Panel began collecting data. It was therefore extremely helpful for the six years of development of the Priority Programme and its own research panel to be able to benefit so strongly from the cooperation with leading social scientists from within these research networks. From a PPSM point of view, this international cooperation and collaboration has been greatly appreciated.

The Priority Programme on Survey Methodology organized three international conferences which focused on the objective of improving survey methodological practice. They took place biennially in Bremen, with the first one, in November 2009, simply titled "Improving Survey Methods".