



## UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Population Unit  
[www.unece.org/pau](http://www.unece.org/pau)

### Proposal for Analysis of Intergenerational Relationships

UNECE Working Group on Ageing, first meeting  
Palais des Nations, 1-2 December 2008



## Rationale

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- A proposal for analysis on intergenerational relationships:
  - Advances in knowledge in this area would provide practical support to policymaking
  - UNECE has a comparative advantage as it coordinates a leading-edge data-collection and research programme in the field:  
Generations and Gender Programme



## León Ministerial Declaration

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17. We are committed to promoting intergenerational solidarity as one of the important pillars of social cohesion and of civil society. We encourage initiatives that raise public awareness of the potential of young people and of older persons and that **promote the understanding of ageing and intergenerational solidarity.**

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## León Ministerial Declaration

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20. We are aware that **research** is vital to the development of effective policies and programmes. Sustainable research infrastructures and cross-sectoral cooperation should be further strengthened and developed.

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## Intergenerational Solidarity and Collaboration

- Under strain due to changes in family patterns and adjustments in social protection systems triggered by population ageing
- Increase in the number of older persons with care needs
- Family structures are changing:
  - fewer children
  - families formed later in life
  - non-marital and non-residential partnerships
  - more frequent dissolution of partnerships

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## Intergenerational Collaboration

- Supports adjustments in social protection systems
- Fosters social cohesion
- Helps to make the best use of the potentials of persons of all ages
- Evidence of much interaction between generations both in countries with cultural traditions of strong family ties as well as in others.

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## Pertinent Questions

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- Will societies be able to maintain the generational contract on which social protection systems are based?
- Will families be able to balance between the needs of older and younger generations?
- How can all generations benefit from the new societal constellation between age groups?
- To progress in answering such questions, intergenerational relationships and the ways how public policy influences them need to be well understood.

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## Public Policy, Family and Personal Networks

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- To what extent public policy needs to intervene?
- To what extent self-regulating mechanisms in families and personal networks will or can sustain our quality of life?
- Improved understanding of those family-level mechanisms and other informal networks is required.

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## Dimensions and Levels

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<i>Level of the family and the individual</i>	<i>Societal level</i>
Living arrangements	Housing
Child care	Public child care, labour market, parental leave
Household work	Services for household help; labour market, care leave
Personal care in daily activities	Care services, labour market, care leave
Emotional support	Social integration, participation
Monetary transfers	Social protection system, labour market

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## Novel Data Source:

### [Generations and Gender Programme](#)

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- Innovative approach, long-term outlook
- A system of panel surveys and contextual databases
- Integrating micro and macro levels
- Aim at understanding causal mechanisms behind people's choices
- 16 countries collecting the data so far
- Supported by the EU Commission

More at [ggp.unece.org](http://ggp.unece.org)



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## Recent Activities

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- Conference How Generations and Gender Shape Demographic Change, May 2008, including a session and a keynote paper on
  - Solidarity between and within generations
- 15 international research projects on intergenerational relationships, using GGP data

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## Output

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- A comparative analysis of intergenerational relationships in different cultural and policy contexts will be performed
- Report that synthesizes research findings
- End of second year:  
Edited volume with contributions from research projects, including a summary

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## Resources

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- Extra-budgetary staff member at the secretariat (partly)
- Consultancies
- Pledged by the EU Commission

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## Working Group's Contribution

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- Propose aspects of intergenerational relationships, the analysis of which would be particularly beneficial for their country
- Provide expertise in discussing the draft reports that will be presented for its consideration
- Promote GGP in their countries

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