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Generations & Gender Programme

Concepts and Guidelines



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NOTE

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PREFACE

Current demographic developments in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) have important and far-reaching implications across all spheres of society, affecting economic development, social cohesion, sustainability and equity, and posing key challenges to public policies. It is therefore indispensable to improve the ability to understand and explain the causes and consequences of demographic developments in a manner that would allow working out sustainable responses to the policy challenges. The vital role of research in developing effective policies and programmes on population has been brought forward in the Programme of Action of the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) and was again emphasized in the Declaration, “A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities”, adopted by UNECE member States at the recent León Ministerial Conference on Ageing (2007).

At the International Meeting on Generations & Gender (Geneva, 2000), member States invited the UNECE secretariat to organize another round of region-wide data collection and research on population issues, building on the successful experience with such cooperation programmes in the 1980s and the 1990s. The meeting discussed four conceptual papers on research and data collection pertaining to children and adolescents, working-age adults, older persons, and intergenerational relationships, respectively (United Nations, 2000). Together, these conceptual papers mapped the field for developing the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), which is now becoming a compelling source for policy-relevant research on population issues in the UNECE region. The Programme comprises: (a) a survey covering a broad range of influences on demographic behaviour; (b) a related contextual database of national and regional trends and policies on these issues; and (c) analyses of these data.

The articles in this volume present the conceptual framework and content of the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) and the Contextual Database of the GGP, and provide guidelines for the survey fieldwork and maintaining the panel sample. This volume follows the footsteps of two earlier UNECE publications on the GGP: one including the four initiating papers (United Nations, 2000), and the other including the survey instruments (United Nations, 2005).

Over the years, the coordination of the GGP has been supported by several institutions and funding agencies. UNECE wishes to acknowledge the support from the United Nations Population Fund from 2000 to 2004, and that from the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission in 2007 and 2008.

UNECE is grateful to the authors of the three contributions to this volume. Written primarily for those who are implementing the GGP and for its data users, it is expected that these contributions will also be of interest to a wider audience interested in population matters and international comparative surveys.



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CONTENTS

Part One: Generations and Gender Survey: Concept and Design

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Generations and Gender Programme	3
2. Organization and key features	4
2.1 Organization of survey development	4
2.2 Key features of survey design	4
3. Survey content	8
3.1 Parent-child relationships	9
3.2 Relationship between partners.....	10
3.3 Complex partnership and fertility histories	11
3.4 Contraception and infertility treatment	12
3.5 Household	12
3.6 Housing	13
3.7 Economic activity, income and wealth	14
3.8 Education	15
3.9 Health	16
3.10 Personal networks.....	17
3.11 Welfare state	18
3.12 Subjective well-being	18
3.13 Values.....	19
3.14 The prospective view: Intentions in competing domains	20
4. Organization of the questionnaire.....	22
4.1 Flow by topic.....	22
4.2 Prospective questions.....	26
4.3 Private transfers and social network.....	27
Acknowledgements.....	28
References.....	28

Part Two: The Contextual Database of the Generations and Gender Programme

1. Introduction	35
2. Organization	35
2.1 Development of the Contextual Database	35
2.2 Data collection	36
2.3 Web implementation	36
3. Conceptual framework and content	36
3.1 A database to support comparative and multilevel analysis	36
3.2 Context types and measurement dimensions	37
3.3 A database to complement the Generations and Gender Survey: topics and variables	39
Acknowledgements	43
References	43
Appendix	44

Part Three: Guidelines for Survey Fieldwork and Panel Maintenance

1. Fieldwork guidelines	47
1.1 Interviewer training	47
1.2 Contacting procedures	48
2. Panel maintenance guidelines	51
2.1 Collecting the contact information	52
2.2 Keeping in contact with respondents	53
2.3 Tracing	54
Resources on the Web	57
Acknowledgements	57
References	58