



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Population Activities Unit

Generations and Gender Survey

**Towards a Better Understanding of
Relationships and Processes in the Life
Course**

GGP IWG meeting, Istanbul, 6-8 Oct 2005



Overview of Talk

- Background
- Objectives of the GGS
- Objectives of the conceptual paper
- Main points of the paper



Background

- Meeting in Geneva in 2000 → the “green book”
GGP: Exploring future research and data collection options (UN, 2000)
- Consortium → QDG1 → various justification texts 2001-2003
- 1st wave questionnaire 2001-2003
- Needed: a text to explain the questionnaire



Objectives of the paper

- Describe how the GGS questionnaire is related to the overall objective of the GGP:
to improve our understanding of demographic and social development, with a particular attention towards relationships between children and parents (*generations*) and relationships between partners (*gender*).



Objectives of the paper

- Describe how the GGS questionnaire is related to the main objectives of the GGP
- Provide an explanation and reference material for data users
- Provide a background document for promoting and raising funds for the GGP
- Document the work of QDG1



Audience

- People working with and promoting the GGP
- Scientists analysing and planning to analyse GGS data



Structure of the Paper

- Introduction:
GGS as one of the two pillars in the GGP, level of analysis
- Organization and key features [of the GGS]
- Survey content
- Organization of the questionnaire



Organization and Key Features of the GGS

- Account of developing the survey tools
- Key features
 - Panel design: crucial novelty compared to FFS
 - Multidisciplinarity: broader basis than demography
 - Comparability: aiming at more rigorous adherence to common tools and content
 - Context-sensitivity: contextual database
 - Addressing the second half of the life course: generations aspect
 - Gender aspect: access to education and employment, autonomy, division of roles; sample of both sexes, couple perspective, response items



Focus of the GGS

- Transitions in generations and gender relationships, marked by demographic events such as
 - birth of a child,
 - formation and dissolution of a partnership,
 - leaving parental home,as well as by
 - retirement,
 - ageing, and
 - changes in the health status.



Focus of the GGS

- Target processes
 - Childbearing
 - Partnership dynamics
 - Home leaving
 - Retiring



Main criterion for including explanatory topics

- Theoretically grounded relevance to explaining one or more of the target processes



Content of the GGS

- Two main explanatory domains (to explain the target processes):
 - Economic aspects, including subjective assessments
 - Activity
 - Income
 - Wealth
 - Theories of New Home Economics, relative income
 - Values and attitudes
 - Second Demographic Transition



Content of the GGS

- Other topics
 - Parent-child relationships
 - Gender relationships
 - Household composition and housing
 - Stepfamilies
 - Contraception and infertility treatment
 - Education
 - Health
 - Subjective well-being
 - Social networks and private transfers
 - Welfare state and public transfers



Organisation of the Questionnaire

- Core + 4 optional sub-modules
 - Nationality & ethnicity
 - Previous partners
 - Intentions of breaking up
 - Housing
- Flow by topic:
 - 13 sections, self-explanatory headings



Organisation of the Questionnaire: Issues cutting across the sections

- Relationship to close kin outside the household (child, non-resident partner, parents):
 - Proximity
 - Contact frequency
 - Satisfaction with relationship



Organisation of the Questionnaire: Issues cutting across the sections

- Personal networks
 - Childcare
 - Personal care
 - Emotional support
 - Monetary transfers and inheritance



Organisation of the Questionnaire: Issues cutting across the sections

- Intentions, expected consequences, important circumstances, perceived attitudes of relevant others:
 - starting to live with a partner; if in a non-residential partnership, starting to live with the current non-resident partner;
 - starting to live separately from parents;
 - having a/another child;
 - retiring;
 - breaking up (in the corresponding optional sub-module)



Organisation of the Questionnaire: Issues cutting across the sections

- Intention of:
 - moving
 - resuming education
 - marrying
 - starting to live together with parents
 - resuming work after maternity leave, parental leave, or childcare leave;
 - taking a job or starting a business
 - finishing education
 - changing company or starting a business (employees); starting a new business or taking a job (self-employed)
 - give up paid work (those who are working)

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