



Report

**13th Meeting of the
Generations and Gender Programme
Council of Partners
UNECE International Working Group**

Mainz, Germany

31 August 2016



UNECE

Participation

Team representatives from 23 GGP countries (Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, Spain, United Kingdom) attended the meeting. Together with representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), the meeting had a total of 35 participants (see list of participants: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42033#/>).

1. Opening

The Council of Partners (CoP) meeting took place on 31 August 2016 (afternoon), before the European Population Conference. The meeting was chaired by Irena Kotowska (Warsaw School of Economics, Poland), the chair of the Council of Partners. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, UNECE helped to moderate the discussion.

Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich welcomed participants and introduced the agenda, asking if there were any additional requests regarding the agenda. The agenda was approved as circulated ahead of the meeting without further amendments. GGP Scientific Coordinator, Anne Gauthier sent apologies for being unable to attend.

The report of the 12th meeting of the Council of Partners (2 December 2015 in Vienna) was adopted.

It is available online: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41311#/>.

2. Activities of the GGP Coordination Team

GGP Project Manager, Tom Emery (NIDI), provided updates on the work of the coordination team and on related developments since the last meeting.

- The GGP website was upgraded by the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research and now contains harmonized GGP data from 189,212 individuals, a number of other datasets such as the Harmonized Histories and the Family and Fertility Surveys, and contextual databases.
- New harmonized wave 2 data for Italy, the Russian Federation and Poland is forthcoming. Wave 3 data for France, Hungary, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation is pending.
- The NESSTAR system enables the user to search, browse and visualize GGS data and metadata without having to apply for the micro-data. Three types of data files can be accessed: Consolidated wave 1 and wave 2 data, wave 1 and

wave 2 country files (32) and a file on variable availability. NESSTAR features extensive documentation which is in compliance with the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and tools for basic online data analyses.

- Since the last CoP meeting in December 2015, two new wave 2 data files and wave 1 v.4.3 were published.
- The contextual database features detailed metadata and 74 indicators for up to 60 countries, allowing for cross-country comparisons. The contextual data collections comprise around 250 indicators and are collected for 12 GGP countries, mainly using national sources. Dropping unused indicators or identifying alternative sources could reduce the burden on GGP national data collectors. It is also planned to liaise with other projects to increase the number of comparable and useful indicators, sign formal agreements with international data producers, extend dissemination activities and set up a CDB working group.
- The number of users of the GGP continues to grow and amounts to more than 3,000 now. The number of publications based on GGP data is also increasing and the interactive bibliography currently holds well over 1,100 entries.
- Two more GGP User Conferences are planned for 2017 and 2019 in Rostock and Paris (tbc).
- The Central Coordination Team continues to support the work of national teams by providing technical support, assistance with fundraising, and collaborating on dissemination activities and national roadmaps for research infrastructures.
- The Central Coordination Team reported that it was highly likely to secure important funding for the GGP, including support in the scope of the EU Horizon 2020 programme's early support to ESFRI Emerging Projects (INFRA-DEV-02).

3. New and forthcoming developments regarding the GGP as ESFRI Emerging Project

In spring 2016, GGP was awarded the status of emerging project by ESFRI, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures. Tom Emery informs the Council of Partners on what this important step means for the future of the programme.

In its 2016 roadmap, ESFRI identified new research infrastructures of European interest and classified them as emerging projects, active projects and landmark

projects. GGP was recognized as an emerging project because of its scientific merit, pan-European relevance and socio-economic impact while being on a medium level of maturity. As a next step, this opens up the possibility of EU funding aimed at ESFRI emerging projects. In order to bring the GGP to the level of maturity required for an active project on the ESFRI roadmap, certain developments need to be initiated: the governance and legal structure of the GGP needs to be re-assessed with the aim of clearly defined roles and responsibilities of Consortium Board and Council of Partners and a strengthened central hub. Technological upgrades could help increase quality and reduce cost and attrition of the survey. The Council of Partners is encouraged to provide support to the GGP in several ways including networking and dissemination activities to increase the visibility of the GGP. Stakeholder engagement could be fostered through events such as the user conferences, regional conferences or trainings on data usage. A stakeholder engagement event is planned for 2017. National teams should make efforts to be included in national roadmaps for research infrastructures. In its last application to the ESFRI roadmap, GGP was supported by six countries. For the 2020 ESFRI roadmap application, the support of more countries should be secured and all national teams are encouraged to get their country's support for the application.

4. Plans for a new round of data collection

Tom Emery presented the plans for a new round of data collection. The demographic developments over the last years such as recession, recovery and migration call for updated data as a strong empirical base for public debate and policy making. The problems of the previous round of data collection in 2004 – a low compliance rate, high attrition and slow processing of the data – could be mitigated in a new round of data collection through increased coordination capacity and easier linking of administrative data. The second round of data collection is envisaged to be carried out in 2019. It is planned as a centralized process with computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI) or computer-aided web interviewing (CAWI).

The suggested timetable for the new round of data collection was presented. It foresees a methodological evaluation of the questionnaire in 2017, including a consultation with national teams on specific requirements of the questionnaire. In 2018, pre-testing will be conducted in multiple countries. The Central Coordination Team will provide national teams with full specifications for tendering, field work and a costing assessment. It is planned to cluster countries which face similar demographic problems in regional workshops. In summer 2019, national pre-testing is planned to start and the data collection could follow in late 2019 or early 2020.

5. Country progress reports

All countries represented in the Council of Partners were asked to answer a few questions about the latest developments and plans related to GGP implementation in their country, including recent GGP data collection and/or plans for future data collection. Tom Emery (NIDI) provided short updates on a total of 24 countries, both GGP countries and countries interested in GGP.

Australia

The Australian GGP programme is managed by the Australian National University. Wave 1 and 2 are available on the GGP website. Wave 3 was collected in 2011 and is expected to be available in the second half of 2017. The Australian HILDA survey includes the GGS module in its data collection in 2015, making it a wave 4 which will be available at the end of 2017.

Austria

The Austrian national team consists of the Austrian Institute for Family Studies at the University of Vienna and the Wittgenstein Center / Vienna Institute of Demography. The national team has established contact with the Austrian Ministry of Science, Research and Economy. Funding remains the main obstacle to a new round of data collection and efforts to be included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures were without success.

Belarus

The National Statistical Office and the United Nations Population Fund form the national team in Belarus. A questionnaire based on GGS questions was developed and it is planned to conduct fieldwork for a first wave in 2017. Funding for the data collection is secured but additional expertise is still needed.

Canada

Statistics Canada runs the Canadian General Social Survey (GSS) on families which provides sufficient overlap with the GGP to be integrated into the Harmonized Histories. Funding is available for the GSS and its next wave which is planned for 2017 has been further harmonized with the GGS.

China

China is in the process of establishing a national team and potential members are currently identified. There are several surveys covering topics and issues similar to the GGP, specifically the Chinese Family Development Panel Survey (CFDS), the Family Dynamics Survey, and the Chinese General Social Survey. The CFDS is funded by the

government and it is planned to include some core questions of the GGS into the questionnaires in the next rounds. However, the integration of GGS into CFDS poses some difficulties as some questions on life events were not part of the baseline survey and can only be introduced in the next or following round in 2016 or 2018, respectively.

Croatia

Members of the national team come from the University of Zagreb and contacts are established with the Ministry of Science and the National Science Foundation. There are a number of existing surveys in Croatia which cover similar topics as GGS, namely SHARE, EU-SILC, ESS, EVS and International Social Survey Programme (ISSP). The main problem is to secure funding for the fieldwork of a new round of data collection. Several sources have been identified but the process is ongoing with uncertain outcome.

Czech Republic

The national team of Masaryk University is exploring funding opportunities for the next round of data collection. They have identified several bi-lateral funding schemes from the Czech science foundation and the Ministry of Education and Research (with Germany, Austria, Korea, Taiwan, the US, Denmark, Switzerland) and invite colleagues in these countries to cooperate in preparing joint projects that could contribute to cover the cost of data collection.

France

The French national team is based at INED. They are included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures but also struggle to secure funding for the new round of data collection.

Germany

The German national team at BiB has made contact with the relevant ministry. The German Family Panel Pairfam is a survey that covers similar topics as the GGP. Currently the German national team is working to secure funding for the new round of data collection.

Hungary

In Hungary, the national team is from the Hungarian Demographic Research Institute and they have established contact with the relevant ministry.

Italy

The Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT) provided support to the application of the GGP for the ESFRI Roadmap 2016. The Family and Social Subjects (FSS) survey (2003) and the follow-up survey on critical points in job histories in a gender perspective (2007) cover similar topics and correspond partially to GGS wave 1 and 2. In June 2016, a new survey on family, social subjects and life-cycle has been fielded with a sample size of about 33,000 individuals aged 18+. The survey aims to ensure comparability with the GGS questionnaire to the extent possible. First results will be available in mid-2017. An obstacle for the new round of data collection in 2019 are shifted priorities with the prominent aim to strengthen the collection and usage of administrative sources which will limit the fielding of new surveys.

Japan

A national team has been established in Japan. The Japanese General Social Survey covers similar topics and issues as the GGP.

Kazakhstan

The national team in Kazakhstan consists of national ministries and the United Nations Population Fund. There are no existing surveys similar to the GGP in the country.

Netherlands

The national team based at CBS and NIDI is included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures. A fourth wave of the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (NKPS) was collected in 2014 and had greater compliance with GGP than earlier waves. The data is currently harmonized and will become available in the course of 2017. The next round of data collection depends on funding at the national level which has yet to be identified and secured.

Norway

Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Science (HiOA) and Statistics Norway form the national team in Norway. An emphasis on administrative data poses an obstacle for a new round of data collection for the GGP.

Poland

The national team from Warsaw School of Economics is in contact with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and obtained the Ministry's support for the GGP application to the ESFRI roadmap. A new round of data collection for the GGP could be financed by applying for grant money but funding cannot be guaranteed.

Portugal

No national team has been established in Portugal which is the biggest hindrance to the country participating in a new round of data collection for the GGP.

Romania

Representatives of several universities and the Ministry of Health form the national team in Romania. There is a first wave of GGS and some other surveys which cover some of the topics included in the GGP but don't allow for cross-analysis. There is no public funding available for data collection and it is uncertain whether private funding could be secured. The fieldwork could be conducted in the form of telephone interviews by the Romanian Institute for Evaluation and Strategy free of charge.

Spain

There is no national team established in Spain and the country is not convinced by the panel design of the GGP, making its participation in a new round of data collection unlikely.

Sweden

The Swedish national team made contact with relevant ministries and is working to secure funding for a new round of data collection. Problematic is that the previous round was very recent so the new fieldwork is a low priority. The GGP is included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures.

Switzerland

There is no national team in Switzerland. The Families and Generations Survey covers similar issues as the GGP and a new wave is planned for 2018. This pre-existing survey poses an obstacle to Switzerland participating in the data collection for the GGP in 2019.

Taiwan

A national team has been established at National Taiwan University. There are a number of small-scale grant surveys which cover similar topics to the GGS. The national team has made contact with relevant ministries and has secured funding.

Turkey

The national team is in contact with the Ministry of Family and Social Policy and has identified funding for the GGP data collection in 2019.

United Kingdom

There are many surveys similar to the GGP in the UK. The high number of existing surveys combined with the fact that there is no national team established in the UK make a British participation in the new round of data collection for the GGP unlikely.

United States of America

Many surveys already exist in the US which cover similar issues as the GGP and there is no national team.

Tom Emery encouraged countries to identify stakeholders and invite them to the Stakeholder Engagement Event planned for 2018. He invited the Council of Partners to liaise with the Central Coordination Team about opportunities and support in creating a national team. With regard to identifying funding sources and applying for national roadmaps, he referred to the costing assessments and socio-economic impact report which will be published in December 2017.

6. Summary and conclusions

The Chair, together with colleagues from NIDI and UNECE, thanked participants and summarized the discussion of the meeting. They also thanked the German colleagues, organizers of the 2016 European Population Conference, for the possibility to host the meeting on the side of the Conference.

The next meeting will take place for half a day on 5 July in Berlin. Information on the exact time and location will be sent in due course.