



Generations &  
Gender Programme



## *Report*

---

# **10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Generations and Gender Programme Council of Partners UNECE International Working Group**

---

*UNECE*

*Bocconi University  
Milan, Italy*

26 October 2013



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

## **Participation**

Focal points representing 13 GGP countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland) attended the meeting. Together with representatives of UNECE, NIDI and the Max Planck Institute, the meeting had a total of 21 participants (see [list of participants](#)).

### **1. Welcome and introductory remarks**

The new Coordinator of the GGP, Anne Gauthier, welcomed participants. She introduced herself and Thomas Emery, the new GGP manager, taking over from Aart Liefbroer and Andrej Kveder who had both taken up new responsibilities and therefore left the GGP. She informed that Nicole Hiekel, previously in charge of data harmonization for the GGP, had left the project to take up a new project at NIDI. She congratulated Aart, Andrej and Nicole to her new roles and thanked them for their important contributions to the GGP in the past years. Nicole Hiekel's functions will be absorbed by Thomas Emery with the help of interns.

Participants were informed about the last Consortium Board (CB) Meeting where the Stockholm University, the University of Oxford and the German Federal Institute for Population Research were elected as additional members to the Board. Given confusion about the name of the International Working Group or the Network of National Focal Points the CB was in favour of using Council of Partners (the formulation chosen in the GGP Blueprint) as the only name in future. To strengthen the connection between the CB and the Council of Partners (CoP) it was suggested to elect a chair of the CoP who would represent it in the CB meetings.

### **2. Election of chair**

Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich (UNECE) and Anne Gauthier (NIDI) were elected the co-chairs for the meeting of the International Working Group (Network of National Focal Points).

### **3. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved without further comments.

### **4. Adoption of the Report from the 9<sup>th</sup> NNFP meeting**

The report of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GGP network of national focal points (Stockholm, June 2012) was adopted without any further comments. It is available [online](#).

## **5. Overview of GGP progress and current situation**

Thomas Emery presented an overview of the current status of the GGP: 17 first wave and 6 second wave datasets are available online for researchers. Harmonization of second wave data from Hungary and Lithuania is currently on-going. Japan has recently submitted pre-harmonized wave 1 data. Up to 17 GGS data sets have been collected but not submitted. The ideal stated in the GGP blueprint is to cover all 28 EU member States.

Information presented by Viviane Brunne, UNECE, included an overview of the application processes, the implementation of the facilitated data application procedure, the number of applications received and approved and the update of the online bibliographic data base now containing 904 items. Participants of the meeting were invited to provide details of their GGP-based publications on an on-going basis.

## **6. Election of the Chair of the Council of Partners**

Irena Kotowska, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland, was elected as the chair of the CoP, in her absence. It was said that she had stepped down from the advisory board as it was the end of her term in March 2013.

## **7. The GGP data archive/NESSTAR on-line access**

Arianna Caporali of INED gave an update of the data archiving through the NESSTAR interface. This tool allows searching, browsing and visualizing GGS data and metadata, without the user having to formally apply for access the micro-data. Among the outlined main developments since the preceding meeting were:

- Cross-tabulation possible with waves 1 and 2
- Improvements of the meta-data (documentation of variables)
- Availability of additional GGS variables
- Questionnaires in national language and English (with some exceptions, will be completed)

To ensure better comparability of data sets Elizabeth Thomson of Stockholm University suggested that the English translations provided by each country be checked against the GGS template and if they are different, the country experts should be asked if the template is also an appropriate translation. This might be done with the use of software. Anne Gauthier took note of the suggestion for further follow-up.

A Google analytics installed for GGP/NESSTAR in August 2012 showed more than 1,600 visits of the site, of which 847 were unique visits, with an average time of 10 minutes spent on the site.

INED will continue to update the NESSTAR software and contents. It was agreed that visibility of GGP/NESSTAR should be enhanced, using all possible means, including newsletter articles, website entries and presentations to different audiences.

## **8. Contextual database**

Sebastian Klüsener of MPIDR gave a presentation about the contextual data base (CDB). Currently the CDB contains 95 indicators, covering up to 60 countries, with detailed data for 12 countries. Of 220 indicators 95 have been harmonized. The Czech Republic and Estonia were the only ones where the contextual data base had not been started; another five countries are expected to be finalized in 2014. Ultimately it is envisaged to publish the CDB as a collection. Next steps will be to include additional data sets for Australia, Italy, Netherlands and Poland and to carry out wave 2 and 3 updates of data sets. It was agreed that the visibility of the DB should be enhanced and Google analytics should be installed for the starting page of the CB to monitor use.

## **9. Country progress reports**

### *Austria*

Isabella Buber-Ennser of the Vienna Institute of Demography announced the successful collection of wave 2 data in Austria. A brochure summarizing the main results is currently being prepared and in the near future the focus will be on analytical work. Submission of pre-harmonized data to NIDI will take at least a year.

### *Belgium*

Tom de Winter of Vrije Universiteit Brussel reported that no further waves could be financed. In Belgium, the regions and the federal level authorities have to agree on such financing. Since one of the regions opted out the federal level did not agree to continue the survey in one region only. It was considered implementing a light version of wave 2, but at this stage it is unlikely to materialize.

### *France*

Arianna Carporali of INED reported that 3 waves had been conducted, with a total sample attrition rate between wave 1 and wave 3 of 43%. She raised the issue of underreporting on number of children in some waves (cf. presentation during the 2nd GGP User Conference). With waves 1 and 2 available, INED is currently waiting for the guidelines for harmonization of wave 3 which would become available in 2015. If there was to be another wave it would have to be with a fresh sample, because the addresses of previous waves had to be destroyed.

### *Germany*

Robert Naderi of the Federal Institute for Population Research reported about efforts to raise the funds for a new German GGS wave with a fresh sample. Given the logic of the funding cycles this is not likely to start before 2017 or 2018.

#### *Hungary*

Zsolt Spéder of the Demographic Research Institute reported about 4 Hungarian GGS waves having been implemented of which 3 are internationally comparable. The last wave was recently completed, changing the mode of data collection from paper & pencil to mixed mode. Respondents could fill in the questionnaire online, followed by a reduced CAPI, alternatively they could participate in the complete CAPI. The sample was refreshed (realizing 48.6% of those approached), maintaining a longitudinal sample of 80.2%. Of the longitudinal sample 15.3% did the web survey, compared to 14.3% of the fresh sample. A data report is currently being prepared. It is planned to continue implementing waves in a 3-4 year interval for as long as possible.

#### *Italy*

The Italian GGS is the main source of data regarding demographic aspects, which is why it is used widely. As Romina Fraboni of ISTAT informed, additional staff has become available for harmonizing the second wave (expected to be ready not before March 2014), thanks to a recent restructuring. Funding for the third wave will most likely not be available, but a new survey is planned for 2015 which might be designed a bit closer to the GGP questionnaire than the previous one.

#### *Japan*

Nobutaka Fukuda of the School of Social Informatics presented about the 4 waves implemented in Japan as the International Survey on Marriage and Family (in part comparable to GGS). Wave 4 was completed in June 2013. The method used was self-administered questionnaires which were handed to respondents by field workers and picked up again by them. Self-administered questionnaires could be mailed when respondents had moved. Response rate of the last wave was 82.4% while in wave 3 it was 72.6%. Pre-harmonized wave 1 data were recently submitted to NIDI, data for the Contextual Data Base have also been submitted to MPIDR. The recently completed wave 4 has to be checked and cleaned, previously collected data for wave 2 and 3 have to be further analysed. There will be efforts to find funding for wave 5.

#### *Norway*

Trude Lappégard of Statistics Norway confirmed that funding for new waves had not been obtained, so currently there are no concrete prospects for waves to follow up on the survey conducted in 2007. A currently on-going Access project aims to provide easier access to the database, as Norwegian researchers have found the big data set very complicated. Some considerations have been given to the idea of having a quasi-second wave as a follow up,

focusing on demographic histories. The CB should discuss if they would like to encourage countries to pursue such a path.

#### *Poland*

Monika Mynarska of the Warsaw School of Economics informed that the 1st GGS wave was harmonized and available online. A number of publications have already come out, a clean list will be sent to UNECE for updating the bibliographic data base. There had been some media coverage of the results of the GGS which had also been shared with policymakers, presenting for example results to the Commission of Social Policy in parliament. Funding has been obtained for wave 2, the field work is planned for 2014.

#### *Sweden*

Elizabeth Thomson of Stockholm University reported that the Swedish GGS (the original title in Swedish: Swedish families in time) was based on a stratified random sample (telephone interviews) and 2011 population register data. There was a 54% response rate, 18% could not be reached (normally typically around 12% in Sweden). Submission of pre-harmonized data to NIDI is expected by June 2014. Given legal requirements, there will probably be a GGP version for international dissemination where some data are excluded (e.g., respondent reports of partner's attitudes and health) and some data are aggregated (e.g., country of birth). The GGP version of the data file can probably be made available with the "light" application procedure. Swedish researchers may have access to a more complete file.

There are currently no plans to do a wave 2 or 3, but some longitudinal data from registers will be added, e.g. regarding educational history (from 1985), income employment history (from 1981), migration history (from 1968), follow up on educational enrollment and attainment, income, family events, such as separation, divorce, marriage, births (with the same or a different partner). Data from the past will be distributed with the wave 1 data, while data in the future will be added at three-year intervals.

#### *Russian Federation*

Oxana Sinyavkaya reported that 3 GGS waves had been completed, based on a multi-stage probability sample. The Russian panel is not a true panel, but a quasi panel of the same respondents living in the same dwelling units. The panel part comprised 70% in wave 2 and 50.4% in wave 3. Some 5,640 respondents from the first wave were left in the third wave. Wave 1 data are available only through the Max Planck Institute. Waves 2 and 3 will be opened for a Russian-speaking audience from early 2014, they will be part of the Higher School of Economics Sociological archive. Given the current climate it is unlikely that the funds can be raised for pre-harmonization and translation.

#### *Switzerland*

Andrea Mosimann, Office federal de la statistique, informed that no GGS will be carried out in Switzerland. Instead, the Families and Generations Survey

2013 is in the field. The survey consists of two parts: A Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) of approximately 30 minutes and a self-administered questionnaire (online or Paper and Pencil) of approximately 20 minutes. The size of the resulting (net) sample is approximately 16'000 persons for the first part (CATI) and approximately 13'000 for the second part (~80% of the persons who have completed the first part). The questionnaire is partly inspired by the GGS, with additional questions included. It will not be designed as a panel. However, some international comparison will be possible. The initial results will be published at the end of 2014. Afterwards the data will be available for further scientific research.

#### *Other updates*

A number of countries had provided updates ahead of the meeting because they could not attend: *Australia* had reported that second wave data (2008) were almost ready for dispatch to NIDI. The third wave was expected to be ready for submission by early 2014. *Estonia, Spain* and *Turkey* reported that they did not have the financial resources to start or continue any waves. Turkey however expressed willingness to continue fundraising efforts.

## **10. Summary and conclusions**

Anne Gauthier and Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich thanked participants and summarized the discussions and decisions of the meeting. They thanked Bocconi University and the organizers of the preceding 2<sup>nd</sup> GGP User Conference for making this meeting possible.

## **11. Date and venue of the next meeting**

The proposal to have the next meeting of the group as a half-day side-meeting or workshop ahead of the EAPS Conference in Budapest (25-28 June 2014) was greeted favourably. Anne Gauthier will discuss the proposal with the Consortium Board and members of the group will be contacted as soon as possible so that they can take the date into consideration for their travel arrangements. Participants suggested having a GGP booth at the Budapest meeting, Anne Gauthier will explore if this is possible.

## Abbreviations

CoP	Council of Partners
CDB	Contextual database
GGP	Generations and Gender Programme
GGS	Generations and Gender Survey
INED	
IWG	International Working Group
MPIDR	Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
NIDI	Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
NNFP	Network of National Focal Points
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe