



Generations &  
Gender Programme



## Report

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

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Berlin, Germany

*5 July 2017*



**UNECE**

## Participation

There were GGP team representatives from 23 countries (Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom). 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 43 participants (see [list of participants](#))

### 1. Opening

The Council of Partners (CoP) meeting took place on 5 July 2017 (afternoon), on the day preceding the fourth GGP User Conference (6-7 July, 2017). The outgoing chair of the Council of Partners, Irena Kotowska (Warsaw School of Economics, Poland), chaired the first part of the meeting. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, UNECE, helped to moderate the discussion and procedural matters. The meeting participants adopted the proposed agenda and the minutes of the last meeting.<sup>1</sup>

In her welcome speech, Irena Kotowska informed the CoP that she is stepping out from the Chair's position and invited the meeting participants to elect a new Chair during this meeting. The GGP Consortium Board, having been informed about her decision earlier, had decided to suggest a candidate for the CoP Chair's position. The meeting unanimously accepted the nomination of Zsolt Speder (Director of the Hungarian Demographic Research Institute) who was elected as the new Chair of the CoP. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, on behalf of the meeting participants, thanked Irena Kotowska for her leadership of the CoP during the last four years and invited Zsolt Speder to assume chairing of the meeting.

### 2. Activities of the GGP Coordination team

The central Coordination Team (CCT) is composed of the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR).

Anne Gauthier (NIDI) introduced new CCT members at NIDI: Deirdre C. Casella, in charge of communication and dissemination and Susana Cabaco working on technical data matters (harmonization, documentation, etc.). The introduction was followed by the update on the work of the Coordination Team and on related developments since the last CoP meeting in Mainz.

- *Work related to the new GGP-EPI funding*: in 2016, GGP was awarded the status of emerging project by ESFRI (the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) for its scientific merit, pan-European relevance and socio-economic impact while not reaching the full maturity phase. The EPI financing

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<sup>1</sup> The report of the 2016 meeting (in Mainz) may be found at :  
[https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/ggp/iwg/Mainz\\_2016/Report\\_CoP\\_2016-08\\_Mainz\\_v02.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/ggp/iwg/Mainz_2016/Report_CoP_2016-08_Mainz_v02.pdf)

for 2017-2019 allows to work towards the application for the ESFRI 2020 Roadmap. The CCT is engaged in a number of activities in this regard.

- Improving the quantity and quality of data: increasing number of participating countries from Central Europe – Belarus and Kazakhstan- Eastern Europe- Croatia, Latvia- and from other regions- Canada, Uruguay and China. Belarus is currently fielding the GGS.
- The progress in NESSTAR system involved updating the new data files and metadata, as well as improving data documentation procedure (within GGP-EPI). The ongoing developments also include procedures to ensure the update of the interface as soon as new data files and documentation are ready. Within the pilot of GGP – EPI (WP2), work is undertaken to improve data documentation procedure and make it in compliance with DDI since the start of the fieldwork.
- The contextual database features detailed metadata and 74 indicators for up to 60 countries, allowing for cross-country comparisons. The contextual data collections comprise approximately 253 indicators collected for 12 GGP countries, mainly using national sources. The publication of Swedish contextual data collection is expected by the end of 2017. The transfer of the CDB governance from the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research to the INED is forthcoming, which may imply reaching out for updating agreements with data producers along with the search for a new tool to disseminate the data online.
- Since the last CoP meeting in August 2016, the mean number of sessions in the NESSTAR system per month has increased from 238 to 250 session. The sessions came from Europe, but also from 118 different countries all over the continent.
- Increasing the GGP impact: the CCT reported the undertaken steps concerning the key performance indicators including the steadily growing number of GGP data users, increasing numbers of various publications and GGP citations, twitter activities and outreach for stakeholders. The CCT also continues to look for different solutions for a new data dissemination tool. Among the current dissemination activities, the 4<sup>th</sup> GGP User Conference, participation in ESRA conference, IPC 2017, University workshops, etc. were highlighted.

### 3. Plans for a new round of data collection

Susana Cabaco (NIDI) briefly recaptured the issues in the GGS first round of data collection (GGG 2004). The first GGS round in 2004 had relatively low compliance, high attrition and slow data processing. Another relevant element is that the collected GGS data is out-dated and cannot be used in analysing the impact of the recent economic downturn, recovery and increasing migration, for example. The call for a solid empirical base for public debate and policymaking is more necessary than ever.

The issues of the previous round could presently be resolved to a certain degree in a new round of data collection through better coordination, the use of multimode and administrative data linking which are both more feasible. The second round of data collection will start in 2019. The changes from the last round include a centralized process with computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI) or computer-aided web interviewing (CAWI) and multimode use possibility. It is worth mentioning that the translation management tool was recently introduced by CCT.

The suggested timetable for the new round of data collection was presented. It includes three phases, the first phase - Evaluation- is being conducted in 2017. This phase includes a methodological evaluation of the questionnaire with the support of the University of

Utrecht, and a consultation with national teams on the specific requirements of the questionnaire. So far, technical infrastructure has been established for the fieldwork in Belarus along with the design of the Multimode Experiment. The second phase - Planning- will be conducted in 2018 and will consist of GGS pre-testing in multiple countries. The criteria for selecting pilot countries: diversity of sampling process, different internet penetration rates, etc.. During this phase, the GGP will also publish a Socio-Economic case for a new round. The formalisation of the CoP and its relationship with the GGP Consortium Board will be clarified. The third phase - Initiation- is planned for 2019; the CCT will provide the final questionnaire for translation. The national pre-testing will start and a first data collection is targeted for early 2020.

Comments from the floor:

- (a) regarding the terminology - use the GGP.2 instead of the GGP 2<sup>nd</sup> round which might be confused with the wave 2 of the GGS; also tailor language when presenting challenges and opportunities that GGP.2 may bring in comparison with the original GGP;
- (b) shall we consider some substantive additions to the GGS to better reflect the migration impact;
- (c) there is a need for sounder reasoning of starting and carrying out the GGP.2, it should not be based on the “outdated data” and not time-coordinated across countries arguments only;
- (d) centralization and country-level funding dilemma;
- (e) how to address the issue of using the ongoing national surveys – shall we identify some “priority” GGS blocks to be integrated in such surveys (i.e. Understanding Societies in UK);
- (f) speeding up the translation of GGS questionnaire in order to raise funding and start fielding in 2020.

#### 4. Country progress reports

All countries represented in the Council of Partners were asked in advance 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. The notes below summarize their responses.

##### **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. Funding for the data collection was secured but additional expertise is still needed. The GGS fieldwork is currently under way and there are a few issues related to the sampling and timing of the actual survey process.

##### **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 but not for the GGS. The obstacle identified is no interest in the longitudinal panel.

### **Croatia**

Members of the national team come from the University of Zagreb and contacts are established with Croatia's Ministry of Science and the National Science Foundation. There are a number of existing surveys in Croatia that cover similar topics as GGS, namely SHARE, EU-SILC, ESS, EVS and International Social Survey Programme (ISSP). The application for funding was submitted in May 2017 but funding remains an obstacle along with integrating the national roadmap for research infrastructures. Croatia will participate in the GGS pilot in 2018.

### **Czech Republic**

The national team of Masaryk University is exploring funding opportunities for the next round of data collection. They have identified several bilateral funding schemes from the Czech Science Foundation and the Ministry of Education and Research. The application for funding was submitted in March 2017, however funding remains an obstacle. The application for joining the national roadmap for research infrastructures was also submitted.

### **Estonia**

The Estonian team shows a renewed interest in GGS – the wave 1 of the previous round was conducted in Estonia. Currently Estonia is involved in SHARE. The funding for GGS and other similar surveys is the major obstacle.

### **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 but funding is not identified as an obstacle. Germany will be participating in the GGP pilot.

### **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. The funding resources have been identified for FSS in 2016. An obstacle for the new round of data collection in 2019 is linked mainly to the focus on administrative data use in Italy.

### **Kazakhstan**

The national team in Kazakhstan consists of national ministries and the United Nations Population Fund. There are no surveys similar to the GGP in the country, but other surveys exist like DHS and MICS. Ministry of contact and funding have been identified. The fieldwork will hopefully start in 2018.

### **Latvia**

Latvian team is represented by the Cross Sectorial Coordination Centre (CSCC). There are no existing surveys similar to the GGP in the country, but other surveys are carried out (ESS, EVS, SHARE). Ministry of contact and funding have been identified. The GGP has signed a cooperation agreement with Latvia in July 2017 with the intent to carry out the fieldwork in 2018.

### **Netherlands**

The national team consists of the Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI). The country is included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures. The application to join ODISSEI- the national data platform for humanities and social sciences – was submitted in June and if successful GGP could apply for funding internally within ODISSEI.

### **Norway**

The national team consist of Statistics Norway and HAID. The country is included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures. Currently, the plan for data collection will sample only 50+.

### **Poland**

The national team is based at Warsaw School of Economics. The existing surveys cover GGS Round 1 (two waves), PGSS, SHARE, ESS, UDE, and Social Diagnosis. The data of the wave 2 was submitted to NIDI for harmonization. Application for funding for Wave 3 will be submitted in due time. The application to be included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures is being pursued.

### **Portugal**

The country doesn't have a designated national team. There are a number of existing surveys in Portugal, which cover similar topics as GGS: the Portuguese Fertility Survey, ESS, EVS. An application for partial funding was submitted in May. Portugal will take part in the GGP pilot.

### **Russian Federation**

The national team is based in the High School of Economics. Three waves of the GGP round 1 were completed. Funding for a new round will be submitted in due time. However, funding remains an obstacle.

### **Switzerland**

The country doesn't have a designated national team. There are a number of existing surveys, which cover similar topics as GGS. One of them is Families and Generations Survey (fielded in 2013 and planned for 2018), however it does not have a longitudinal panel.

The GGP team representatives from Hungary, Sweden and China briefed the CoP from the floor about the developments in their countries. Hungary concluded the 5<sup>th</sup> GGP wave with a response rate of 82%; Sweden stressed the funding issues and the main current interest being in the history of biographies data for which might be taken from registries (as for ex. Data on union histories in Norway). China is very pleased to collaborate with GGP. China's sample of the ongoing Family Development Panel Survey- a longitudinal study - in the wave 1 was 32,449 households, for the wave 2 – 31,140. China uses 7 types of questionnaires and



supports/tracks investigators through a special platform. The 1<sup>st</sup> wave did not include fertility questions which will now be considered.

Researchers from Romania, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom and National Taiwan University informed about their continued interest in GGP-related activities and initiatives to persuade authorities about the value of GGS.

## 5. Dissemination and engagement strategies

Deirdre C. Casella (NIDI) introduced and opened an interactive discussion on possible strategies to document, demonstrate and expand GGP's socio-economic impact. As the next step for GGP is to transition from a network of institutes to a research infrastructure, the active involvement of the Council of Partners in providing support to dissemination and engagement activities becomes inevitable. The CCT coordination work on the 2020 ESFRI roadmap application will support national roadmap applications, integrating stakeholders, securing national institutional and operational support to the national teams. A stakeholder event is planned for early 2018, the next GGP Users conference in 2019 (Paris), some regional conferences and data use training workshops for stakeholders are also planned.

The Council of Partners was presented with the GGP Socio-Economic Impact study, which aims 'to assess the existing and potential socio-economic impact of the GGP to understand the degree to which the GGP contributes to society directly and indirectly through its research.' (GGP EPI, 2016, p47).

Isabella Buber-Ennser (Austria) shared insights and experiences from Austria related to documenting and disseminating GGP findings via printed brochures. The success of the Austrian brochures was ensured by specifically targeting the audience: ministries & other stakeholders, public, journalists, and the respondents of the GGS wave 1 & 2. The brochures included short and easy to read articles, clear main messages, figures to reproduce by media, e-mail addresses of the researchers for direct contact, etc. all resonated well with the readership. Mixed dissemination modes and availability of the brochures in German and English languages propagated the interest outside the country.

Monika Mynarska (Poland) in her presentation on 'Impact of the GGS on the Polish debate on future of families: Can our data help to shape policies?' stressed the importance of dissemination of the GGP findings to public & policymakers. It can be done through contacts of and various formal functions performed by team members. Many team members serve as experts for scientific bodies, public institutions, NGO's and regional administration and have a first-hand access to various stakeholders. For instance, based on the analyses of the Polish GGS the national GGP team promotes work and family reconciliation policies and the dual earner - dual carer family model. It is done through interviews and publications in mass-media, in dialogue with NGOs and policymakers, for instance presenting GGP results to the Polish Parliament (Sejm) Commission for Social Policy and Family. The impact of the GGP evidence-base was perceptible when the new regulations on parental leave were introduced (2013) and amended to be more flexible (2015).

The discussion that followed the presentation of these two successful practices highlighted dissemination possibilities using social media more actively, engaging in blogs and open discussion groups. There were suggestions to introduce a sample template for the national GGS result reporting and requests for communication support from CCT in preparing press releases or printed materials.

## **6. Summary and conclusions**

The Chair, together with colleagues from NIDI and UNECE, thanked participants and briefly summarized the discussion of the meeting. The CoP agreed to hold the next meeting back-to-back with the European Population Conference in Brussels on 6-7 June 2018. The CoP members who plan to attend the IUSSP meeting in October 2017 were invited to visit the GGP stand and a special GGP side event organized by CCT (NIDI).