



*Meeting Report*

## Fourth Meeting of the GGP Informal Working Group

Istanbul, Turkey  
6-8 October 2005

Chair: John Hobcraft, (University of York), Chair of the CB

*Participants:* IWG members

*Venue:* THE GREEN PARK HOTEL Taksim

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The present report reflects the floor discussions of all the agenda items. The presentations and prepared background documents are not summarized in this report, however, they are available on the [GGP website](#).

The progress report presentations given by the country representatives are summarized in full detail and thus reflect the presented material as well as floor discussion if any.

Representatives from 19 countries attended the meeting. Six were from national statistical offices, 33 from research institutes and four from governmental institutions. Members of the Consortium Board (CB) and the coordinators of the GGP expert working groups also attended (see the [List of participants](#)).

1. The Chair of the CB, John Hobcraft, welcomed the participants to Istanbul.
2. The agenda was approved without any comments.
3. Ms. Banu Ergöçmen (Institute of Population Studies, Hacettepe University) and Mr. Andres Vikat (UNECE PAU) welcomed the participants. Mr. Turgay Ünalán (Institute of Population Studies, Hacettepe University) and Ms. Charlotte Höhn (Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung) were elected as Vice-chairs for the meeting.

## **Conceptual paper on the GGS Wave 1 Questionnaire**

4. Mr Andres Vikat presented the Conceptual paper on the GGS Wave 1 Questionnaire which was perceived as an excellent background paper for any fund-raising or presentation activities.
5. The issue of the household definition was raised. Some fieldwork experience from Germany has been shared where the definition of the household created ambiguities. Due to possible alternative living arrangements some members of the same household can theoretically be included in the sample in more than one location. The basic definition is derived from the joint UNECE/EUROSTAT recommendations. At the time of the interview respondent's own perception of who the household members are would play an important role.

## Preparation of the GGS Wave 2 Questionnaire

6. Mr. Zsolt Spéder presented the GGS Wave 2 Questionnaire development progress.
7. One of the issues discussed was the possibility and the amount of Wave 1 information to be included in the Wave 2 questionnaire. The inclusion of information about children presents the biggest problem, since the plotting of all possible transitions of the children (e.g. from residential to non-residential, new biological or adopted children, children of spouses, etc.) from one wave to the other can be more time consuming than just repeating the questions. The experiences from previous Australian panel surveys, identify a similar problem, where the whole children section was repeated in all the waves. Due to the presented difficulties, the Wave 2 will be more or less a fresh survey. In the CAPI environment many other possible solutions exist. Currently only PAPI version is being developed. It is not the mandate of QDG2 to develop the CAPI version unless the majority decides to use CAPI version.
8. The Wave 2 questionnaire will not deviate much from the Wave 1 version. In place of shorter histories in the partnership and other sections collected in Wave 1, the activity history will be included. It will not employ any new measurement techniques, although the Event History Calendar option was thoroughly discussed in the QDG2.
9. Before the finalization of the Wave 2 questionnaire some analysis should be performed with the existing Wave 1 data. The analyses should cover data quality issues as well as an investigation of performance of included scales. These quality checks could be used as the basis for questionnaire reduction and thus omitting questions with low quality from Wave 2 questionnaire. Moreover, due to the cultural specificity of the data quality issues, caution is needed when using such assessments as grounds for questionnaire reduction.
10. Activity history is the most important addition in the Wave 2 questionnaire.
11. The question about cross-sectional representativity and the questionnaire adaptation related to that was discussed. The primary target of the GGS is the longitudinal perspective and thus no special questionnaire or guidelines for cross-sectional measures are being developed. Wave 1 questionnaire should be used if introducing fresh respondents in the sample.

12. The inter-wave period was set at 3 years when designing the Wave 1 questionnaire. Organization of the Wave 2 should take this into consideration and not deviate from the set time line. The 3 year period was chosen as an appropriate time gap in order to be short enough not to cause too much sample attrition, but long enough to capture enough demographic events. The evidence from Hungary showed that over 800 births were recorded in the inter-wave period as well as 500 deaths and around 200 divorces. The experience from Australian panels shows that the recollection of the events 3 years prior to the interview can present a problem for the respondents, so the referencing to the previous interview did not have the effects desired. Some respondents did not even remember being interviewed. The vast majority did not remember what they have reported, when they were presented with the situation reported on Wave 1.

## Fieldwork guidelines

13. Mr Andrej Kveder presented a draft version of the Fieldwork guidelines.
14. The discussion regarding the contacting procedures touched on two important aspects. One - the importance of the first contact was re-affirmed. The successful attempt with the first contact can greatly reduce costs and improve the quality of the data. Two - the question regarding the suggested minimum number of contact attempts was raised. Contact attempts beyond the third one do not contribute much to the overall response rate, however, they can substantially influence the estimates of certain rare characteristics. The main aim for continuing beyond the third attempt is to capture certain hard to reach respondents with certain characteristics and traits unlike the easily reached respondents. Raising the minimum required contact attempts beyond the third one may bring only marginal gain in the proportion of the net sample, however, it can considerably improve certain estimates.
15. The need to collect additional information from the interviewers prior and after the survey was also expressed. The additional information on the interviewers could be used for more effective interviewer management as well as for securing higher response rates and higher quality of the collected data. In some situations and some environments the matching of the interviewer and the respondent according to their main socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, age, race, language(dialect) can improve the response propensities. Older interview-

wers on a more secure contract with the fieldwork organization or even regularly employed interviewers perform better than those performing an occasional job or student work.

16. The question regarding the usefulness of pursuing reluctant respondents and converting refusals was raised. Although pursuing the reluctant respondents may raise the response rate it may also add more noise to the collected data as well as provide the data of lower quality. It has been considered as a trade-off assessment situation.
17. The importance to record any presence of other persons beside the interviewer and the respondent was pointed out. The basic information is already recorded under the interviewer's observations in the core questionnaire. The interviewers should be additionally warned not to allow anyone present except the respondent if at all possible. A section on the presence of others during the interview and on the proxy reporting should be added to the Fieldwork guidelines.

## Panel maintenance

18. Mr. Zsolt Spéder discussed the issues relating to the panel maintenance on the basis of the Hungarian experience. Guidelines on panel maintenance have been deemed an important addition to the Fieldwork guidelines. Statistics Canada is currently engaged in 8 mature panels, so Canadian experience can prove useful to the group. A suggested additional chapter to the fieldwork guidelines should feature a short 2 to 3 page general introduction about panel maintenance and then include some best practices showing both positive and negative experience with some panel maintenance tasks. The experiences of the Education and Employment History Survey (EEHS) were also suggested as a possible good practice of panel maintenance.
19. Allowing access to the panel members for other research purposes than the GGS is discouraged. Although the extra activity might prove useful for keeping the panel alive it can prove to be more damaging if the additional research is not carried out according to the GGS standards and if the topics are not appropriate. In the case of the Hungarian GGS a request for a qualitative study on the panel members was rejected.
20. Collecting additional contact information is very important for panel maintenance. The details can include mailing address, e-mail address

and telephone number. Australia has a very positive experience with an on-line form for reporting any changes in the address. In the Hungarian GGS at least two contact anchors are recorded: one from within the family and one outside the family. Recording parents' address is not necessarily the best solution since the parents may often refuse to disclose the address of their children. Hungary also reported relatively disappointing experience with the housing register since it is not updated frequently enough. The original address should also be kept as the reference, since some Hungarian interviewers were able to find the panel members at the addresses reported originally and not at the changed ones.

21. Providing information to the respondents regarding the development of the programme is convenient and important way of panel maintenance. The information can be provided in the form of newsletters describing any recent developments as well as presenting some interesting results based on the collected data. The positive experience regarding the provision of information was documented in the Russian Federation. Furthermore, the Russian respondents openly expressed the need to be informed about the results and the facts about the programme.

## **Use of administrative records to supplement the GGS questionnaire**

22. Mr. Helge Brunborg presented the progress regarding the use of administrative records to supplement the GGS questionnaire.
23. The main idea for the use of administrative records to supplement the the GGS is still in place and closer to realization since Norway almost secured the funding for the Wave 1 activities. First the information available in the registers will be evaluated, after which the GGS questionnaire will be prepared to collect the information not available in registers. In the last step the micro data from GGS will be linked to the register data to create a full standardized GGS Wave 1 data file.
24. Some questions were raised regarding a broader use of register data than just supplementing the GGS. It is possible and advisable to use register data wherever possible to identify nonrespondents. Any unique identification (e.g. personal identification number-PIN) of the respondents is encouraged to be used for immediate or later use in connection

with administrative data. Self reporting of the identification numbers should be avoided.

## **Preparation of standard tables and analyses**

25. Work on the preparation of standard tables and analyses was presented by Mr. Francesco Billari who succeeded Ms. Jenny Gierveld in the function of the coordinator of the Analysis Working Group (AWG). He and the participants thanked Ms. Gierveld for her valuable contribution to the GGP. She will continue to contribute as the member of the AWG.
26. It was agreed the goal of the AWG is to develop the standard tables as well as develop innovative analytical approaches tailored to the specific nature of the GGP design.
27. It was suggested that the systems of survival tables produced at the MPIDR for the FFS could be used for developing the GGP standard tables.
28. The development of the basic descriptive tables is important especially for policy-makers, visibility of the results of the Programme and any future fund-raising. However, many tables have already been developed and used in other contexts, so the group should make use of the available methods. The publishing of the tables should be as prompt as possible.
29. The main emphasis of the AWG activities should be the development of analytical approaches that exploit the novel aspects of the GGP data, such as prospective measures and multilevel data structure and that bring forward the policy-relevance of the GGP.
30. The presentations of Mr. Zsolt Spéder and Mr. Sergei Zakharov were perceived as good examples of the use of the GGS data for policy relevant and scientific research.

## **Discussion on data accessibility and dissemination**

31. Mr. Andres Vikat was the initiator and moderator of the discussion on data accessibility and dissemination.



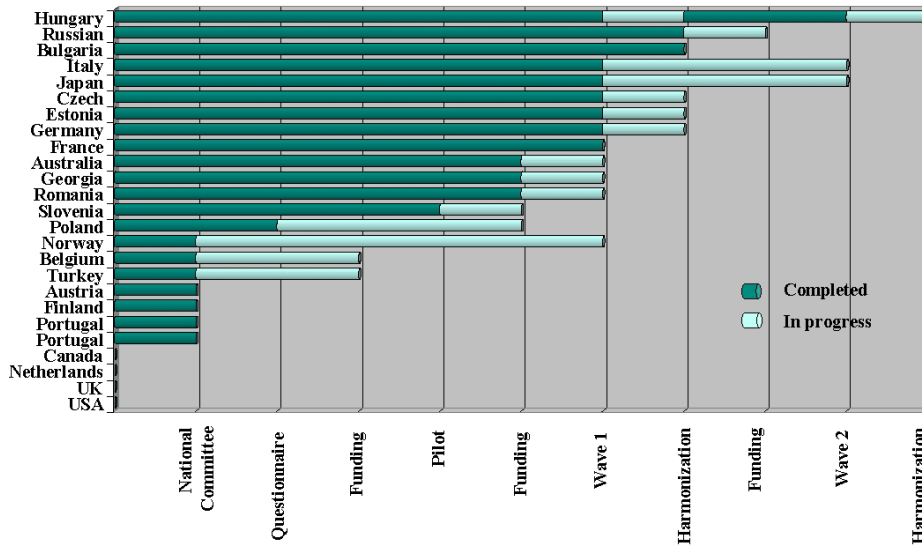
32. The main issues identified in the discussion pertain to the legal regulation of sharing and disseminating the micro level data. EU regulations should be taken as the main framework of preparing the relevant documents. The FFS experience and the documents prepared at the time can also be used to supplement the EU regulations. The main mechanism for compensation should be reciprocity - the benefit for a shared dataset is the access to the other datasets which in turn enables the comparative research. The aggregate data, however, are not bound by any legal restrictions and should therefore be made available or published without any delay.
33. The next discussion within the IWG regarding the contracts will at the next IWG meeting. In the meantime discussion regarding the preparation of the documents should be kept alive especially among the CB members as well as with all the interested persons from the IWG.

## **GGP Contextual Database and its national implementation**

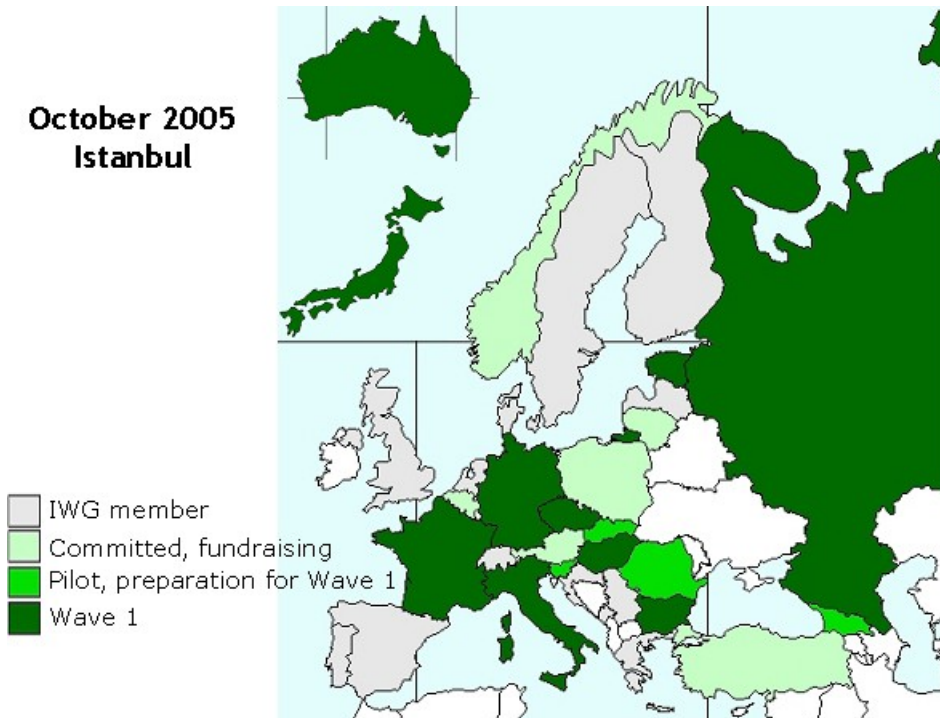
34. Mr. Martin Spielauer presented the current development of the GGP Contextual Database and the examples of its national implementation.
35. The efforts of the Contextual Database Working Group have been met with great appreciation. The demonstration of the Bulgarian example was very effective in showing the elaboration of the database and its user-friendliness and analytical potential.

# Country progress

## 36. Overview.



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### 37. Country presentations.

**Australia** Australia received the invitation letter from the PAU to join the GGP. Mounting a standalone project was not feasible, however, two existing candidate projects were considered, where GGS could be implemented. HILDA was chosen as the most appropriate one. HILDA currently has  $n = 13,000$  responding households. The responding base is very strong and only 7% attrition rate was reported from wave three to four. Incentives 25A\$ per respondent and 25A\$ for the household were used as the means to increase response rate. The survey is a combination of a face-to-face interview and a self-completed part of the questionnaire. The pilot was carried out in the first half of 2005. Some 60% of GGS questions were already present in the standard HILDA questionnaire. The majority of the missing questions were integrated in the additional part. Wave 1 of the Australian GGS is currently in the field. Data collection is expected to be completed in November 2005. A general agreement to have Wave 2 in 2008 exists.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Austria** No progress has been made since the Spetses meeting. An informal network of the leading Austrian research institutions interested in the GGP topic are involved in the negotiations with some government institutions and other potential donors to re-activate the GGP activities in Austria.

There has been no further activities on the contextual database.

**Belgium** In Belgium the discussions regarding the implementation of the GGP have been going on since 2002. Several key actors to organize and finance GGP at a national level had to be convinced about the usefulness of the GGP. One of the major effort was to introduce the GGP at the national level, since the FFS was only conducted in Flanders and Brussels. In 2004 the Belgian High Council of Statistics endorsed the initiative and created a working group. This working group can be considered as the Belgian national GGP committee bringing together federal and regional governmental institutes and the scientific community. The funding was organized from various national donors. Statistics Belgium is providing logistic support, Belgian Science Policy scientific support and Flemish and Walloon administrations are providing funds for the actual data collection. The target effective net sample size for Wave 1 in 2007 is  $n = 10,000$  respondents (i.e.  $n = 6,000$

Flemish and  $n = 4,000$  Walloon respondents). Administrative registers will be used for sampling design and tracking of addresses (CRP) and for some basic demographic events such as history of civil status, history of (administrative) household composition and history of migration and nationality. The use of administrative records also allows better possibilities for basic analysis of nonresponse. Belgian GGP initiative is in its final stage of preparation. The funding for the organization of GGP is almost guaranteed conditional on the signature of a Convention between the Federal State, the Flemish Government and Walloon Region.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Bulgaria** Bulgarian GGP National committee was formed in June 2004. The role of the coordinating organisation was assumed by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The main funding sources for the Bulgarian GGP are: MPIDR, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, National Statistical Institute, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and UNFPA. The whole GGS Wave 1 core questionnaire and all 4 modules have been selected, translated and re-translated. Questionnaire has been pre-tested. In addition to the core questionnaire 3 questions were added: registration of employment, expenditure to visit one's parents/children, and number of years in educational system.

The pilot study was conducted in June-August 2004 on 300 respondents with 150 in urban and 150 in rural areas. The sample represented Bulgarian, Turkish and Roma populations in equal proportions (i.e. one third). Based on the results from the pilot study some amendments were made to the questionnaire. The changes predominantly related to the adaptation of the core questionnaire to the Bulgarian specific conditions.

The target realized sample was estimated at  $n = 9,500$  respondents. The 2001 Census was designated as the sampling frame. Two stage sampling approach was designed to sample 836 PSUs and 11 individuals per PSU in the second stage. Prior to commencing the selection procedure the sampling frame was sorted according to region, urban and rural areas, municipalities and settlements. Probability proportional to size (PPS) was used to select the PSUs. Random sampling procedure was used for the selection of the individuals from the designated PSUs. The additional sample of  $n = 4,100$  individuals was selected to compensate for the nonresponse. The additional sampling was based on the

response rates by region and settlement type.

In October 2004 the sampling frame was updated. 863 primary statistical units selected for the sample were updated for any changes in dwellings, households and individuals in these units during the period between the census (March 2001) and the start of the present survey (November 2004). Updating revealed impediments, such as restricted access to the buildings, no answer or locked houses. Measures were developed to overcome those difficulties by seeking additional information from neighbours, the house managers or even mayors in more rural areas.

Wave 1 fieldwork started in November 2004 and was completed in January 2005.

Most of the respondents were favourably disposed towards the GGS and were very willing to participate in the Wave 1 as well as expressed the willingness to participate in the any future waves. Quite some respondents showed an interest in the study results and were thus looking forward to any media releases or other publications. Certain more reluctant and unsure respondents verified the integrity of the study by checking upon its research orientation, and anonymity. Some main reasons for refusing the participation were: unwillingness to discuss personal life or to be interviewed at all, distrust in surveys, not interested in the topic, and lack of time. Some language barriers were also reported, mainly among the Turkish and Roma populations. Some contacted individuals expressed insufficient confidence in the social studies and hence refused the participation in the study. Some individuals (mostly uneducated and from the Roma community) condition their participation in the study with obtaining of financial assistance, or expected improvement of their life conditions.

The contextual database has been fully implemented.

**Canada** There is no immediate plans for the implementation of the GGS in Canada. Some existing and ongoing household panels were investigated regarding the inclusion of the GGS questions. Only 23% of total overlap and 38% of at least partial overlap in questions was documented. The assessment study was prepared by Mr. Jacques Légaré. Canada can, however, provide comparable data at the aggregate level for the tables specified in the preliminary paper prepared by the AWG.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Czech Republic** Four organizations form the Czech GGP national

committee: Charles University in Prague, Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, Survey, Consulting & Care, and Czech Statistical Office. They have secured the funding for GGS Wave 1 and selected the core questionnaire and some additional sub-modules. Pilot study was conducted in November and December 2004 with the effective sample size of  $n = 394$ . The pilot fieldwork was carried out by  $i = 126$  interviewers with an average workload of 3 questionnaires. The target population for GGS was set to Czech nationals aged 18-79. The sample was based on 2001 Census, which reported 90% of the Czech residents to also hold Czech nationality. A stratified four-stage sampling procedure was used for the selection of individuals. The stratification was based on region, community size, sex, age, and education. The four stages of sampling incorporate district, census unit, house, dwelling unit and the individual within the household. The final sample was prepared by the Czech Statistical Office. For within household selection, Kish tables were used. The reported response rate was  $rr = 43\%$  (recalculated response rate based on the provided data according to 2001 AAPOR  $RR4 = 50\%$ ). The main reasons for refusals were: not answering surveys in principle (46%), length (16%), topic (14%), time constraint (14%) and health (7%). Preliminary data quality analysis showed that the item nonresponse increases with age and lower education. The income questions have the highest item nonresponse from all the questions asked  $i-rr=29\%$ .

The foreseen and planned publications based on the Czech GGS data are: publication based on simple cross-tabulations and descriptive statistics in Czech and English languages, publication based on more advanced analysis (event history etc.) in Czech and English languages and Research articles published in scientific journals.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Estonia** Estonian GGP National Committee has been formed in May 2001 with the Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre (IPRC) as the coordinating organisation. GGS questionnaire has been translated and re-translated. The questions in the Core module, Modules 1, 2 and 4 have been pre-tested. Adaptations of the GGS Wave 1 Core questionnaire focus on the national priority for the comparability with the Family and Fertility Survey (FFS). Some additional questions have been added to the final national

version of the questionnaire. The added questions deal with topics like abortion history, migration history as well as education and work histories. Pilot survey has been completed in June 2003 with funding from national sources. The pilot study confirmed the possibility to increase the number of event histories and to also expand the target population to include the population groups of foreign origin using a Russian language questionnaire. An additional module containing attitudinal questions was also developed. Census data were used as the sampling frame for Wave 1 GGS. The first wave of data collection process is almost completed. The funding for the GGP comes entirely from national sources. Currently there is no commitment for the Wave 2 of data collection.

Some progress has been made towards the development of the contextual database through regular activities of the IPRC.

**Finland** Institutional talks for the implementation of the GGP in Finland have been ongoing with the renewed initiative of the Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki. GGP is being presented to the potential partners. There is a general consent of participation in writing. The most feasible way of GGP implementation seems to be in combining the GGS with an existing panel.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**France** INED is the coordinating organisation and the survey is being carried out in collaboration with INSEE (French National statistical Office). The questionnaire has been translated to French in January 2004 and was tested in paper version in March 2004 in order to test the quality of translation and perception of the questions by the respondents and the interviewers and this in turn helped to judge the feasibility of the survey in France. Due to the length and time constraints, the optional modules were excluded from the French implementation. The questionnaire was transformed into a CAPI version and tested on n=180 individuals in November 2004 and again in March 2005. Some modifications of the Wave 1 core questionnaire have been made. Certain questions deemed vague or possibly embarrassing were excluded. Some additional filter questions were introduced and thus introducing new restrictions instead of deleting the questions entirely. Some of the questions were reshaped. The transition from PAPI to CAPI also meant some necessary adaptation in ordering or formulation of the questions. Some new questions were also added. According

to preliminary assessment almost 95% of the GGS Wave 1 core questionnaire has been retained. The working name for the GGS Wave 1 was specified as "Study of family and intergenerational relations" (ERFI).

The field work is in progress throughout the territory at the moment. It has started in September 2005 and is expected to be concluded on November 2005. The fieldwork organization consists of  $i = 560$  interviewers. The sample has been selected on the basis of the 1999 Census and includes  $n = 16,000$  addresses. The target effective sample size is  $n = 10,000$  individuals in the 18-79 years age group including men and women. Some measures were taken to improve the participation in the survey. The advanced letter was accompanied by a colour brochure presenting the survey. A special ERFI website in French was created providing access to all the individuals selected into the sample; an English version of the website will be available in 2006. Special assurance was given to the participants that the survey is an official national survey and that their anonymity was insured. A specialized document was disseminated among the interviewers as guidelines to persuade the participants to answer the questionnaire. At the conclusion of the interview each respondent was given a small token of appreciation in a form of a ERFI-GGS pen and a copy of the journal "Population et Société" published by INED. Each respondent will in turn receive a Thank-you letter and in due course first results of the survey. The contact between the waves will also be maintained by periodically sending the newsletter "Current Events of ERFI" to the respondents.

The GGS Wave 1 micro data is likely to be ready for use in Spring 2006. All the relevant project documentation will be translated to English in 2006. In December 2005 the first meeting of possible users of the data and the researchers from French and other National organizations/institutes will be organized. The meetings are planned to be organized on regular basis in order to present the ongoing research projects and their progress and to discuss any arising methodological issues.

There has been no progress made for the Contextual Database, however, the activities regarding the construction of the Contextual database are planned to start in 2006.

**Germany** The GGS Wave 1 has been fielded in Germany between 22 February and 12 May 2005. The fieldwork was carried out



by the subcontractor TNS Infratest Munich. The GGS Wave 1 resulted in the effective sample of  $n = 10,017$  interviews. The target population was defined as all German citizens (having the ability to understand and speak German) aged 18 to 79. The interviews have been performed face-to-face with the use of computer assistance. Tentative consent to be included in the panel and thus agreeing to be interviewed again in 3 years time was given by 63,9% of all the respondents. A basic exploratory assessment of the quality of the collected data showed relatively high compliance of the realized sample to the population parameters. There were minor deviations in the age structure in the western part of the country, namely males aged between 25 and 54 were underrepresented, while women of the same age group showed overrepresentation. Larger households were also overrepresented at the account of the single-occupied ones. The discrepancies were bigger in the west than in the east. The education structure in the Eastern Germany was very compliant to the population one, while the western sample showed some bigger deviation by underrepresenting the lower educated and overrepresenting the medium and higher educated population.

German GGP national focal point remains highly committed to the Programme and is interested in continuing the work by planning the GGS Wave 2 in three years time. In the meantime various research activities have already been scheduled to utilize the collected Wave 1 data. In addition to the nationally representative sample already collected, Germany plans to field an addition to the Wave 1 GGS data focusing on the minority of Turkish descent in Germany. The initial sample for the minority supplement survey is  $n = 4,000$  Turkish citizens living in Germany.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Georgia** Although there is no Georgian national committee, there is a national network of collaboration among institutions. This network is closely collaborating with INED. The current version of the Georgian GGS Wave 1 questionnaire has 99.9% correspondence with the proposed core questionnaire. Some minor adaptations were needed in order to adapt the questionnaire to some Georgian specifics. In this regard some questions on education had to be reformulated. The questionnaire is bilingual, prepared in Georgian and in Russian. The major problem Georgia is facing is an insufficiently up-to-date sampling frame. The fieldwork

workforce currently consists of over 100 interviewers. After the completion of the training the interviewers are assessed and the final decision for their inclusion in the interviewer core is made. The fieldwork is planned to start March 2006 and by the end of 2006 a finalized data set should be prepared. Assistance with some of the analytical tasks is expected from INED.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Hungary** Hungarian GGS Wave 2 fieldwork has been completed. The majority of the activities of the Hungarian GGP national committee since the IWG meeting in Spetses were on maintaining the panel and preparing the Wave 2 data collection. Panel maintenance efforts aimed towards increasing the willingness to answer in Wave 2 and keeping the address register alive by documenting moves or the panel members. Each respondent to the Wave 1 was duly thanked for his/her participation by receiving a thank-you note. A questionnaire assessing the performance of the interviewers and the respondents' general satisfaction about the survey was also distributed. When the first results from the Wave 1 micro data were available, a small brochure was disseminated among all the respondents. As a continuous reminder a letter containing small calendar was sent to each panel member every year. For tracking purposes report cards for recording any potential moves of the panel members were distributed to the interviewers. An on-line interactive web page was available for the respondents as well as the interviewers for any comments or questions. The refreshing of the existing addresses of all panel members was done before the actual Wave 2 fieldwork using national and communal registers as well as Hungarian Telecom lists.

The design of the Wave 2 fieldwork was innovative since it incorporated two separate rounds. Interviewing of the non-problematic initial sample was carried out in round 1. All the soft refusals, temporary absent respondents and respondents with new addresses were incorporated in the round 2 fieldwork.

The initial Wave 1 sample consists of  $n = 25,000$  respondents. Wave 1 data are already available through the application to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO).

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Italy** ISTAT as the focal point for the Italian GGP has high interest in participating in large-scale international surveys. The Italian GGP National committee has never been officially formed. Howe-

ver there was a team of researchers and professors from Universities of Milan, Padova, Bologna, Turin, Rome and Florence, who were informed about the GGP and who worked on the integration of the GGS in the Multi-purpose household survey.

Due to financial restrictions, ISTAT could not afford to implement a new panel survey. Therefore alternative options had to be explored. Among the already existing ISTAT projects the Family and Social Subjects (FSS) project was deemed as the most suitable survey to include further modules from the GGS. FSS is on the regular agenda of the Institute and is planned to be carried out every 5 years. It was started in 1998 with its second wave implemented in 2003. It is devoted to studying various socio-demographic aspects of the household and of all its members. The decision was made to implement and to improve the existing FSS to allow for the international comparability without losing continuity of the pre-existing national information, hence many GGS questions have been included in the 2003 survey implementation. The additionally included questions were concentrated around prospective questions on events which may happen in the next 3 years (e.g. leaving the parental home and to have children), opinions, value orientation and attitudes about the family, children, work, trust, locus of control, satisfaction with children and time distance with parents and children.

In November 2003 ISTAT carried out the Multi-purpose Households FSS Survey. This implementation represented the second wave of the FSS project. The FSS is a PAPI cross-sectional survey with retrospective information based on a sample of  $n = 24,000$  households and approximately  $n = 60,000$  individuals. As the new questionnaire was based on the FSS existing questionnaire there are some GGS topics, that are not covered by the existing instrument. The non-covered sections include child and partner alimony (section 3), sexual intercourse, current pregnancy and fecundity (section 6), emotional support transfer (section 7), additional job or business (section 8), income from other sources than employment (section 10) and monetary transfer and inheritance (section 108). However, there are some sections more extensively covered by the existing combined questionnaire like job histories (from 1<sup>st</sup> job, job after 10 years and current job, all job-interruptions, reasons of the interruptions, position, economic sector, etc.), maps of kinship (N<sup>o</sup> of brothers/sisters, parents, chil-

dren, grand-children, their age and sex, frequency of contacts, phone calls, geographical distance, time distance and satisfaction with the relations (only toward children), map of solidarity (kind of help given and received: monetary and non monetary - health benefits, support in caring and assisting adults/children, houseworks, company-hospitality, extra-domestic work, education support, food-clothes, other - frequency and N° of times in the past month/year, etc.) and intentions, satisfaction, opinions of all family members. The overall correspondence with the GGS Wave 1 core questionnaire has been estimated at 33%. This accounts for the total overlap of questions between the two questionnaires, however, additional 10% of FSS questions showed at least a partial overlap with those in the core GGS Wave 1 questionnaire.

FSS was previously conducted in 1998 following a pilot study. The 2003 FSS survey is the second implementation of the 1998 one and was thus not preceded by a pilot. FSS belongs to a system of standardized social surveys. A breath of fresh wind was given to the Italian GGP by the agreement and the financial support of the Italian Minister of Labour to study Critical points in the working histories in a gender perspective. This newly arisen support enabled ISTAT to enlarge the questionnaire to investigate additional information regarding the critical points in the employment histories and the implementation of the follow-up on a subset of individuals interviewed in 2003 to be re-interviewed in 2006. At the moment ISTAT is involved with the organization and implementation of Wave 2 in accordance with the commitment to the Ministry of Labour. Currently the work on the conclusion of the cleaning process of the 2003 survey is still going on as well as the organization of the 2006 follow-up. In this preparatory phase of the Wave 2 the interaction with the QDG2 is fundamental to guarantee the comparability between GGS and FSS, also due to the shortness of time.

The contextual database requires more human and financial resources that ISTAT can currently provide, however, ISTAT is willing to support other Italian institutions in building and implementing the contextual database.

**Japan** The Japanese GGS Wave 1 was conducted in February-March 2004. Survey design included a self-administered (drop-off, pick-up method) to men and women age 18-69 of all marital statuses. The sample was a two-stage stratified probability design with 530

PSUs and  $n = 15,000$  individuals. Basic Residence Registration (BRR) records were used as a sampling frame. On stage one  $n = 530$  PSUs were chosen, based on 47 strata of the 2000 population census tracts. After the stage one was completed the cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare enabled to issue an official letter to all the 530 municipal governments, asking for permission for use of the BRR records. Approximately  $n = 2530$  individuals were selected randomly from each PSU. Before the actual start of the fieldwork the Yomiuri Newspapers published an article about JGGS. Postcards were sent to all sampled individuals one week before the survey, asking for their cooperation. The response rate was  $rr = 60.5\%$ , resulting in the effective net sample size of  $n = 9,074$  respondents. The main reasons for nonresponse were refusals to either accept or return the questionnaire. Since the questionnaire was self-administered some necessary adaptations had to be made. The questionnaire was considerably shortened. The reported general level of correspondence is roughly 36%. Some topics were totally excluded from the questionnaire since they were assessed as inappropriate: section on step children, non-resident partner/spouse, child and partner alimony, current pregnancy and infertility. Excluding these exclusions, the level of correspondence is roughly 47%.

The activities following the completion of the GGS Wave 1 data collection involve the English re-translation of the questionnaire, publishing two short articles on the survey results in National Dailies. The respondents were followed up and received a newsletter, thanking them for their cooperation, informing them of interesting results and asking them to inform the organizers of address change, if any. The newsletter mailed in June 2005 contained four pages, and had enclosed a return postcard for notification of address change. Only 200 newsletters (2.2%) were returned undelivered, 7 refused future contact and 2 died. 55 respondents notified the center of the changes of address. All in all  $n = 8,865$  respondents were retained. An additional follow-up is planned by mailing New Year greeting cards.

A new proposal JGGS Wave 2 was submitted in November 2004. The project was approved and notification of funding was received in February 2005. However, the project was underfunded. The Japanese GGP National Committee is faced with a commitment to conduct a follow-up survey, but also to reduce cost by either

restricting the sample to age 18-49, or focusing only on women. The decision is yet to be made.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**The Netherlands** So far The Netherlands was not working towards the implementation of the GGP, since the Netherlands Kinship Panel Survey (NKPS) is considered as a parallel to GGS. Statistics Netherlands is not interested in any new ad-hoc survey and NIDI does not have the funds for the implementation of the whole GGP. However, there is a possibility to investigate the overlap between the NKPS and the GGS. The NKPS is designed as a mixed-mode survey with a face-to-face CAPI part and a self-completion questionnaire. Current effective net sample size is  $n = 9,660$  respondents. All the anchor respondents are asked additional questions to provide contact information for the alters of their personal network. The alters are interviewed by mail questionnaire. A shorter version of the questionnaire is also distributed to minorities such as Turks, Moroccans, Antilles and Surinamese. Reported response rate is  $rr = 45\%$ . The correspondence assessment between the NKPS and GGS questionnaires still has to be carried out, but a high level of overlap is expected. In 2006 the Wave 2 of NKPS is expected. The Wave 2 questionnaire is already finalized. The NKPS inter-Wave period is 3 years, which corresponds to the GGS design. No additional GGS questions can be included in the Wave 2 questionnaire. Also no administrative sources are used to complement the NKPS.

The Contextual database is almost ready and only requires some updating.

**Norway** One of the main activities of the Norwegian GGP national team was fund-raising. In meetings with various ministries and the Norwegian research council four major demographic phenomena were used as arguments: increasing life expectancy, low fertility, changing family structure and population ageing. The GGP efforts were joined with The Norwegian Life course, Ageing and Generation Survey (norLAG). The objectives of norLAG are to study conditions and contents of "vital ageing", responses of different social contexts to ageing populations and develop sustainable policies for an ageing population. The target population in norLAG are individuals of 40 years and over. It is designed as a longitudinal survey carried out in 30 municipalities and townships, which were selected via a non-random sampling approach.

The Wave 1 was carried out in 2002-2003 on a net sample size of  $n = 5,600$  individuals. In turn the Norwegian GGS design will include national and LAG areas and expanded sample. The new joined sample will be of size  $n = 22,500$  and will be constructed in the following manner:  $GGS(18,000) + LAG(9,000) - common(4,500) = 22,500$ . The expected average interview time will be at  $t = 45$  minutes. Current survey design of the combined surveys incorporates a mixed mode approach. Telephone interview with an average length of  $t = 30$  minutes will be followed by a mailed questionnaire consisting of 4 GGS pages and 12 LAG pages. Where a mixed mode approach will not be possible, a face-to-face interview will be used. The GGS will in turn be combined with the information available in administrative registers.

The costs for the GGS Wave 1 data collection were estimated at 3.4 mill €. The planning and data collection are therefore estimated at 1.7 mill €, while coordination and analysis are estimated to amount to 1.7 mill €. These funds are being raised for the needs of two institutions over 4 year period (2005-2008). So far the raised funds amount to 1.25 mill € from the Research Council of Norway's Welfare State Research Programme, 0.33 mill € from Statistics Norway and 0.33 mill € from Norwegian Social Research (NOVA). The additional funds are being sought with Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and Care, Ministry of Municipalities and Regional Affairs and Ministry of Finance.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Poland** The main activity of the Polish GGP national committee since the Spetses IWG meeting was fund-raising. Almost all funds needed for Wave 1 data collection have been secured. Wave 1 fieldwork is expected to be completed in the second half of 2006.

The work on the contextual database is proceeding.

**Portugal** No major progress was reported. Situation in Portugal is currently at stand-still. However, the interest to participate in the GGP is still high. Some new options and approaches have to be investigated.

Portugal will try to follow the example of Canada in initiating the preparation of the contextual database and some aggregate data for the standard tables.

**Romania** Romanian GGP National Committee was formed in Sep-

tember 2004 with UNFPA regional office as the coordinator and Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Solidarity, The National Institute of Statistics, The Centre for Demographic Research ' Vladimir Trebici' , CASPIS and 3 Universities from Bucharest, Cluj and Iasi as members. The National Institute of Statistics will perform the role of the national project manager and will oversee the implementation of the GGS due to its experience in social statistics. The GGP work plan was set in August 2004. It started with the analysis of the documentation (the translation of the questionnaire, manual and necessary materials) in September 2004. The translated questionnaire was adapted and completed and manual and all the necessary materials for the pre-testing survey were prepared. After the finalization of the questionnaire preparatory work for the pilot was started in November 2004. All the necessary materials for the pilot were printed, the interviewers and regional coordinators were selected and trained. The actual fieldwork was done in the second half of November 2004. The realized net sample was  $n = 423$  respondents with approximately  $n = 9$  respondents per county and the five districts in Bucharest. In December 2004-January 2005 the results of the pilot study were analysed and all the relevant GGS materials (questionnaire, manual) were amended.

In the fall of 2005 GGS Wave 1 will be carried out with the financial support from UNFPA Romania, and MPIDR. Currently the fieldwork preparations are in place. Survey materials are being presented and printed, the interviewers are being recruited and the training materials for survey staff (methodological guide, questionnaires, and other materials) are being prepared. In November 2005 the fieldwork will start with the preliminary visits to identify households within the research centres. The fieldwork would provisionally be concluded by mid December 2005.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Russian federation** Russian GGS National Committee was formed in October 2001 and has 3 member institutions: Independent Institute for Social Policy (IISP) as coordinator, Center for Demography and Human Ecology of the Institute of Economic Forecasting at the Russian Academy of Sciences and Institute of Sociology at the Russian Academy of Sciences. State Committee on Statistics of the Russian Federation (Rosstat) has a role of an observer. Demoscope private research company (RLMS group) was



a temporary partner carrying out all the fieldwork related activities. The funds needed for the pilot and the implementation of GGS Wave 1 were provided by the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation, the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Germany) and IISP in the total amount of 338,000 €. The fieldwork costs of the pilot and the Wave 1 amounted to the 80% of the total costs (268,000 €) with 23.80 € per completed interview. GGS Wave 1 core questionnaire was selected along with the optional sub-modules on Nationality and Ethnicity (mostly included), Previous Partners (partially - 8 questions) and Intentions of Breaking Up (partially - 3 questions). All the relevant questions were translated into Russian. Some further additions were made to the questionnaire in the form of 25 country specific questions and additional sub-module on Pension reform. The finalized questionnaire was re-translated into English.

The pilot survey was completed in November-December 2002. The target population was adult (18-79) population of Russia. The realized sample size was  $n = 150$  respondents in 4 Russian regions (Moscow, Nizhegorodskaya oblast, Vladimirskaya oblast, Voronezhskaya oblast). The pilot study reaffirmed the possibility of conducting large-scale survey in Russia, and provided important insights for corrections of the methodological instruments. GGS Wave 1 fieldwork was carried out in 2004. The effective net sample of Wave 1 fieldwork was  $n = 11,261$  respondents aged 18-79 from 32 regions of Russia. One respondent was interviewed per household. The GGS sample proved to be compatible with the Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey sample and was representative at the national level.

GGP related research activities have been started and will be discussed within the Ongoing workshops held by the IISP. The IISP is open for any kind of scientific collaboration. Some preparatory activities for fund-raising for Wave 2 have also been started. Some further assistance and support is being sought from the Consortium members in order to continue the GGP activities in Russian Federation. The required assistance is sought in the upgrading of the analytical knowledge pertaining to the Event History Analysis and applications of contextual datasets to the econometric analysis. Some help with fund-raising for analytical work and the second wave of GGS is also sought.

Currently the main GGP activities are revolving around the pre-

paration of the contextual database, which will be concluded in December 2005.

**Slovenia** Slovenian representatives were not present at the meeting, but a report was provided by Mr. Andrej Kveder upon the request from the floor.

Slovenian national GGP committee was formed in February 2005. It consists of the Institute of Medical Sciences at the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts as the coordinator and National Statistical Office, Faculty of Social Sciences and Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana, Institute of Public Health and Economic Research Center as the members. Funding for the pilot study was obtained in the beginning of 2005 from the Ministry of defence through the research proposal to study army families in light of recent professionalisation of the Slovenian army. The GGS Wave 1 core questionnaire and all the available optional modules were translated and included in the national questionnaire. Special addition regarding army life specifics were added to the final questionnaire. No modifications to the original questionnaire were made at this stage except nationally specific lists of education levels, religions and similar. The pilot study was concluded in September 2005 and the data are being prepared for analysis. Towards the end of 2005 fund-raising activities for Wave 1 data collection will be intensified. Slovenian national committee is still looking for any additional support regarding fund-raising from non-national sources. If the fund-raising activities are successful the Wave 1 data collection can be fielded in Spring 2006.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**Turkey** Turkish national GGP committee was formed in December 2004. It consists of the Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies as the coordinator and of General Directorate of Family and Social Research, General Directorate of Women's Status, State Planning Organization and State Institute of Statistics as members. There are no secured funds yet, but General Directorate of Family and Social Research and Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies requested funds from the government to spend for GGS activities in 2006. Other potential sources of funding are being investigated. UNFPAs contribution for the 4th IWG meeting is a reflection of their interest in GGS. UNFPA Ankara also included GGS among the activities to be

supported in Population and Development Strategies (PDS) sub-programme during the period 2006-2010. However, as the overall sub-programme budget for PDS is relatively small, UNFPA will be able to provide only limited support.

The questionnaire is being studied by members of the national committee. On the overview the content of the questionnaires (core and optional sub-modules) are accepted favourably, although some potentially culturally sensitive questions have been identified. No translation of the questionnaire has been made so far. If the requested funds are secured, it is expected that the translation of the questionnaires and the pilot study can be carried out during the summer 2006. If further funds become available, the earliest date the GGS Wave 1 could be conducted is late 2006. If the funds become available at a later point in time (i.e. 2007 budget) from the government or outside sources, Wave 1 could be implemented in spring 2007.

Administrative records can not be used for GGS purposes in Turkey. The recently introduced Personal Identification Number (PIN) only applies to citizens and different institutions use different numbers for their own purposes. It is expected that the PIN will be used widely in the near future and might be useful in the GGP activities. Some further assistance would be needed for continuing the fund-raising efforts. The technical capacity of the institutions in the national committee seems adequate for performing sampling, pilot and fieldwork activities but some additional technical support may be needed for analysis of longitudinal data. Sharing of experiences and collaboration with the German GGP team is deemed beneficial for both teams.

Contextual Database has not yet been discussed within the Turkish national committee, but will be among the topics for the forthcoming meetings.

**United Kingdom** UK is saturated with longitudinal surveys. There are some activities of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) towards a new panel in the UK, on which some progress could be anticipated.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

**USA** US Census Bureau (USCB) is currently experiencing a major budget cut. There are no prospects to implement the GGP through the USCB. Additionally USCB has very high confidentiality restrictions so the problem would be in sharing the data with the

scientific community. There are several longitudinal surveys in place in the USA, and the comparability assessment should be performed to identify the survey closest to the GGS.

No activities on the contextual database have been started.

## Summary and conclusions

38. GGS Wave 2 questionnaire should be prepared for circulation within the IWG by April 2006.
39. The first draft of the standard tables and analyses to be shared within the CB will be available early 2006. As some countries are in great need for the output provided by the AWG, the group will proceed as swiftly as possible. Cooperation is requested from the countries that already have the data in order to serve as testing grounds for feasibility studies of certain suggested approaches.
40. The fieldwork guidelines will be expanded by a chapter on the panel maintenance. Statistics Canada will take initiative for the preparation of this chapter in collaboration with the PAU. Countries already involved in the panel maintenance activities either for the GGP or other similar projects are invited to share best practices with group. A draft should be ready until the end of 2005. Country representatives will be contacted to share any of their best practices.
41. The initiative for the preparation of the legal aspects for data dissemination will be taken by the PAU. By the end of 2005 an investigation will be made for legal options regarding data dissemination. Suggestions from the discussion will be taken as orientation for preparing the necessary documents.
42. The data harmonization documents will shortly be available from either MPIDR or PAU. The standard file description is currently available at the GGP website.

## Next IWG meeting

43. In view of the current stage of the Programme implementation in many countries, it was suggested to hold the next IWG meeting in about a year's time, instead at the about 18-month interval in place so far. The invitation extended by the Slovenian national GGP committee



## Next IWG meeting

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was accepted. The next IWG meeting is provisionally scheduled for early October 2006.