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Report

**1st Meeting of the Network of National Focal Points of the
Generations and Gender Programme
(7th Meeting of the GGP International Working Group)**

Marrakech, Morocco
27 September 2009

Chair: John Hobcraft, (University of York)
Venue: Palais des Congrès, Marrakech

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The present report reflects the floor discussions of all the agenda items.

Representatives from 16 countries attended the meeting. Five were from national statistical offices, 22 from research institutes or universities and two from governmental institutions. Members of the Consortium Board (CB) and the coordinators of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) expert working groups also attended (see [final list of participants](#)).

1. The Chair of the CB, John Hobcraft, welcomed the participants to Geneva.
2. The agenda was approved without any comments.
3. The report from the IWG meeting in Geneva, in 2008 was approved without any comments. It is available [online](#).

GGP, progress and current situation

4. Romina Fraboni (UNECE) presented countries' progress with Programme implementation during the last year and a country comparison of the most relevant methodological aspects of the surveys. Progress in the implementation of GGP since the last meeting in May 2008 is significant: the 1st wave is fielded for three more countries and further two have applied for funding; eight countries have fielded the 2nd wave, and three more countries are involved into fundraising or wave 2. Furthermore, one country has secured funding for wave 3, 2 have secured it only partially and the remaining two are fundraising.

	WAVE 1		WAVE 2			WAVE 3		
	funding	survey	funding	pilot	survey	funding	panel maintenance	
Sweden	Applied for a grant							
Canada	Québec is working to secure financial means							
Austria		Oct. 2008-Feb. 2009	in progress					
Belgium		Mar.2008 - March 2010						
Norway		Sept. 2007-Sept. 2008	in progress					
Romania			in progress					
Australia						2008	yes	
Lithuania				Apr.-May 2009	Jun. 2009--			
Georgia					Apr.-Jul. 2009			
Czech Republic					Mar. 2008 - Mar. 2009		yes	
France					Oct.-Dec.2008	yes, partially	yes	
Germany				July 2008	Sep. 2008 - Mar. 2009			
Hungary					Nov.2008-Feb.2009			
Japan						yes, partially	yes	
Netherlands						in progress	yes	
Russian Fed.				Mar.2009	Apr.-Sep.2009	in progress		
Total		2	3	3	3	8	5	4

A country comparison of methodological aspects of the survey (data collection methods and techniques, sample sizes and attrition, panel maintenance) was presented.

As for the Contextual Data Base (CDB), data from nine countries are available on line, from two more are ready to be uploaded and from several others have been partially collected.

5. The discussion on the CDB touched upon the issues relating to a new database environment for the CDB, the first version of which should be available in December. The personnel changes at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) do not influence the Institute's commitment to the project. Sebastian Klüsener, who is in charge of the Population and Policy Database (PPL) at the MPIDR, will also oversee the programming of the new CDB and coordinates the comparability among the various databases that are of importance for the CDB. Countries that are approaching completion of their CDB are invited to contact the CDB group before collecting the data, in order to receive advice, in particular as regards the variables that should be comparable in the end.
6. Andres Vikat (UNECE) presented the role of UNECE in the Programme. UNECE aims at providing inputs to policy discussion, pushing the use of GGP data in policy-relevant research as well as making efforts towards the implementation of the programme in more countries. It coordinates the International Working Group, promotes the implementation of the Programme, provides an analytic contribution for the working group on ageing, disseminates micro-data, standard tables and key-indicators and maintains a website of the Programme.

Development of the GGP under the FP7 project

7. Pearl Dykstra (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute — NIDI) presented the project that has been selected for funding under the EU 7th Framework Programme for Research. The project aims at developing the GGP into a full fledged European Research Infrastructure.
The evolution of the GGP builds on enhancing the substantive and methodological dimensions of the Programme. The interdisciplinary approach, central to the GGP, should be expanded to include new areas, in particular psychological characteristics and expand some of the existing ones such as economic well-being, social support networks and life-course decision making. There is also a growing interest in collecting biomarkers and DNA in population surveys which should be taken into account. Further development of the GGP will consider methodological advances in order to improve the Generations and Gender Survey and its potential.
Despite of the movements involving human resources, NIDI will maintain the coordination of the Programme

Questionnaire Wave 3

8. Andrej Kveder (NIDI) presented the main changes adopted in the questionnaire for the third wave. Major changes include re-introduction of the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) battery for young adults living with parents, the deletion of the question regarding first sexual intercourse, changes in the section on non-resident children to limit the information to major changes occurred during the last three years (specifically newborn children, children currently living separately from

parents, death of children), reinsertion of the TPB battery also for people who do not intend to have children, introduction of a new optional submodule on step-children from previous partners, deletion of the question on adoption intention and extension of the question on health.

Data Archive

9. Leila Saboni (National Institute for Demographic Studies — INED, France) presented the preparatory work of the GGP Data Archive. Starting from the harmonized file received from NIDI there are some preliminary activities to prepare user friendly datasets. A complete documentation of metadata and variables will be provided for each survey data file. Currently, these metadata are only available for France but then they will be collected by means of a grid to fill out. Documentation concerning variables aims at recording any shift from the core questionnaire, including different placement of a question in a national questionnaire, the availability of this variable in other countries and the group of respondents to whom it pertains. The online demonstration is not yet available.

Key indicators

10. Romina Fraboni (UNECE) presented a selection of key indicators built on the basis of the available standard tables. Key indicators can provide a useful tool for the visibility of the Programme, future fundraising, increasing the interest of new countries, pushing research analysis based on the GGP as source.
The examples of indicators presented are descriptive statistics of the main topics covered by the survey. The aim is to make them simple and understandable to a broad audience, especially among policy makers, stakeholders and mass media communications.

Country presentations

11. National Focal Points described the status of the implementation of the Programme in their countries.

Australia The first wave of Generations and Gender Survey (which was the 5th wave for Household, Income and Labour dynamics in Australia - HILDA) interviewed a total of 12,759 respondents in 7,125 households. Households in the first wave of HILDA were initially sampled according to a multi-stage approach. The PAPI survey was conducted mainly throughout face-to-face interviews (93.5%), while 6.5% were telephone interviews. Respondents were also given a self-completion questionnaire to fill in. The concordance between the variables in their HILDA form into the Generations and Gender Survey form has been completed. The full harmonization is expected to be completed by the end of 2009. Once the database is complete, the legal discussions with the Australian Government regarding the legal arrangements of the release of the Survey database will be completed. Wave 2 fieldwork was already carried out in 2008.

Austria The first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey was conducted by the

between October 2008 and January 2009 with the Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) questionnaire on sample of 5,000 respondents. The fieldwork has been commissioned by three Ministers Ministry of Economic Affairs, Family and Youth, Federal Ministry for Science and Research and Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection. Statistics Austria issued 8,000 addresses. There has been also an additional sample of female scientists, whose addresses list was provided by the Austrian Academy of Science with the aim of investigating scientific and family careers that ended in about 250 interviews. The scientific work, done in collaboration with Vienna Institute of Demography, Austrian Academy of Science and Austrian Institute of Family Research, will produce the first scientific report by the end of 2009.

Belgium The initial sample size was 16,000 individuals and the fieldwork started in March 2006 until June 2009: Belgium has encountered problems with interviewers' recruitment. Additional regional supplements for Flanders, Walloon and Brussels, are expected to complete the fieldwork by March 2010 with an overall sample size for wave 1 of 7.500 individuals. However, 95% of individuals reported their acceptance to second wave. Belgium will proceed with cross-data validation of wave 1 against administrative data; the pre-harmonization will follow and the Report for wave 1 is scheduled for June 2010. In the meanwhile the CDB base is going to be finalized.

Canada In Québec the Minister of Families and Seniors is evaluating the possibility of financing the GGP, starting in 2010.

Czech Republic The second wave started in March 2008 and ended in March 2009, reaching a sample of 10,071 individuals, among which 3,195 belong to the panel component. The method used is Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CAPI) and Computer Assisted Self-Administered Interviewing (CASI). Second wave survey is affected by a distortion by age and sex and education with an under-representation of people below 45 years of age and over-representation of women aged 45 and over and over-representation of more educated people. Missing answers were observed especially for problems related to memory, low education and small sizes community. Data cleaning is in progress. Limited financial resources and general unfavourable survey climate represented the main problems in the wave 2 fieldwork. 72 % of all Wave-2-respondents accepted to repeat the survey.

Estonia Research funding schemes do not provide resources required for a Generations and Gender Survey-type large-scale and complex population surveys. Funding for Wave1 was secured on the ad hoc basis through the Statistical Office. Currently, the Statistical Office considers its priority the implementation of Eurostat surveys and the preparations for the new population census in 2011.

France Preliminary activities to second wave included testing the new module on occupational histories. Second wave was fielded in autumn 2008 on a starting sample of 8,350 individuals with a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CAPI) questionnaire. Attrition rate is 35% and the total number of respondents is 6,570. Attrition was particularly high in Paris and in the Mediterranean areas,

as well as among one-person household, foreigner people, people below 26 or over 70. Ongoing activities include the building of a post-adjustment coefficient and check of consistency among the two waves.

Georgia With 80% of the budget covered by UNFPA and 20% covered by INED, Georgia conducted the second wave fieldwork of the Generations and Gender Survey between April and June 2009. Georgia reached 8,303 completed interviews, with an 83% average response rate (its minimum - 79% - being observed in Tbilisi the capital town). Strong quality controls were introduced in order to ensure face-to-face completed interviews and to screen interviewers' performances. Military conflicts in August 2008 represented a problem for the second wave of the Survey fieldwork, as 75 respondents from wave 1 are not anymore under the jurisdiction of Georgian governments. Harmonized data file is planned to be submitted by the end of 2009 and CDB will be updated starting from January 2010.

Germany Wave 2 fieldwork started on September 2008 and ended on March 2009. From 6,400 respondents who agreed to be re-contacted for wave 2, finally 3,200 interviews have been realized. The pre-harmonized dataset will be presumably provided by February 2010.

Wave 2 for the additional sample of Turkish citizens living in Germany is in progress and it is expected to be completed in March 2010. From 3,200 Turkish respondents who agreed to be re-contacted for wave 2 it is expected to reach in the end between 1,200 and 1,600 interviews.

CDB is planned to be delivered by the end of the year 2010. In comparison to the German socio-economic panel the attrition rate is pretty high. Only one third of the respondents from wave 1 agreed to be re-interviewed in wave 2. TNS-Infratest, which is also exclusively responsible for the addresses and their privacy, conducted panel maintenance: an annual letter with a short brochure with some facts and figure about German Generations and Gender Survey results was sent out to respondents willingly to be interviewed again for the second wave. The brochure contains also sentences motivating the participation to follow-up. Moreover two letters were sent out to remind the participation to the second wave.

Hungary In Hungary, the GGP is coordinated by the Demographic Research Institute (HCSO). The third Hungarian wave, corresponding to wave 2 of the Generations and Gender Survey, was fielded between November 2008 and February 2009. The longitudinal sub-sample consists of 25-82 year-old respondents, and a new component was added: 20-25 years old children of the respondents (study transmission of demographic behaviour). Hungary started panel maintenance activity towards wave 3.

Italy ISTAT is collaborating with NIDI to complete the harmonization process for wave 1 that took a lot because of the differences in the structure of the questionnaire. Wave 2 was conducted between February and March 2007. Once completed data cleaning, an analytic report of the 2 waves has been produced, but the dissemination of the wave 2 data has been prevented by bureaucratic problems. At the moment it is possible to envisage positive developments.

Lithuania In 2006 5800 respondents agreed to be re-interviewed after 3 years. A letter, reminding about the second wave of the survey and requiring reviewing and correcting their personal contact information, was sent to them in 2007. The respondents who did not send back the card were contacted via telephone or face-to-face. Re-contact was repeated in 2008. The questionnaire for wave 2 was completed in spring 2009. Second wave fieldwork started in June 2009 and will be completed in December 2009.

As for the dissemination and publication, data from wave 1 have been used in scientific and policy oriented research in Lithuania. Also standard tabulations (in Lithuanian and English), monograph and several articles have been published.

Netherlands Between September 2006 and June 2007 the Netherlands carried out the second wave of the survey reaching 6,091 interviews out of 8,161 respondents to the first wave. The financial situation for the third wave is unfavourable since funding for the pilot and the fieldwork is not yet secured. Moreover, the sources to be used for the CDB have been identified and the collection of their data is in progress.

Norway As only half of the high cost in Norway was covered by funding from the Research Council, there has been an ongoing process of raising money for the survey. The total cost was around 3 million Euros.

Pre-harmonization of the data is almost completed and soon afterwards the files will be sent to NIDI for full harmonization. Consequently, a final file accessible for everyone is expected to be ready early 2010 as planned. International users that want to access to administrative data used in surveys are normally restricted to the approval of Statistics Norway. However, it has recently been clear that UN's approval procedure is legally acceptable in this matter. The main problem to go on with the second wave in 2012 or 2013 is funding.

Summary and conclusions

12. The Chair (John Hobcraft) summarized the meeting.

It has been proposed to organize the next meeting in Budapest in spring 2011.