



Generations &
Gender Programme



Report

9th Meeting of the Generations and Gender Programme Network of National Focal Points UNECE International Working Group

UNECE

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Focal points representing 18 GGP countries attended the meeting. Members of the Consortium Board (CB) and the coordinators of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) expert working groups also attended, for a total of 39 participants (see final [list of participants](#) for details).

Abbreviations

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

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

The Co-Chair of the Consortium Board, Aat Liefbroer, and the chair of the IWG, Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, welcomed participants to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted without modification.

2. Adoption of the Report from the 8th NNFP meeting

The report of the 8th meeting of the GGP network of national focal points (Budapest, May 2011) was approved without comment. It is available [online](#).

3. Overview of GGP progress and current situation

Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich of UNECE and Andrej Kveder of NIDI presented information on the current status of the programme implementation.

Information presented by UNECE included a summary of the status on GGS data access and implementation of new procedure for applicants; data collection, submission and harmonization in each country; developments in new or potential GGP countries; the bibliography of GGP-based research; and numbers of registered data users and projects.

Information presented by NIDI concentrated on the programme development since the preceding meeting. It included a brief reference to the pilot study, work undertaken to incorporate the pilot results and NNFP suggestions into GGS 2015, which was adopted by the GGP Consortium Board in May 2012. NIDI also reported on details of progress with data harmonization processes for wave 2 data sets; issues with weighting and activities relating to data quality and meta-data collection; the overhaul of the data archiving (IT) system. The attention was drawn to steps undertaken to increase GGP visibility: enhanced webpage, first issue of the monthly newsletter *GGP at a glance* and plans for a GGP research note.

In their comments many focal points appreciated the steps to improve visibility of the GGP potential and in particular the publishing of a monthly newsletter *GGP at a glance*. Focal points from Austria, Georgia and Italy raised concerns about purpose and quality of centrally calculated weights, potential issues of data quality. In response, NIDI clarified that centrally applied weights were calculated in cases when countries have not provided weights or sufficient information on sample design. As for data quality concerns, one of the working groups is dealing with issues of sample attrition and quality and the results of their work will be made available soon. In addition, German team pointed to their recent working paper dedicated to the quality of data from German GGS.

4. The GGP data archive/NESSTAR on-line access

Arianna Caporali of INED gave a presentation on behalf of the team working on data archiving and online access through the NESSTAR interface. This tool allows searching, browsing and visualizing GGS data and metadata, without the user having to access the micro-data. Among the outlined main developments since the preceding meeting were: newly published datasets (i.e., Australia, Belgium, Estonia, Italy, and Lithuania); the release of new metadata collections provided by survey producers (Austria, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Russia); and

the upgrade of the on-line data-analysis tool to the latest version of NESSTAR software. Preparation and documentation of Wave 2 datasets, documentation of variables' availability across countries and across different waves in an interactive and automated way were noted as future steps.

Comments from the floor supported the NESSTAR on-line access to the GGS data and strongly suggested to boost its visibility and publicize it by using a newsletter and other means.

5. Long-term sustainability of GGP

Aat Liefbroer of NIDI in his presentation briefly referred to the history of GGP and its current status, its proved usefulness for informed policy making, and outlined the work to be done by the end-2012 in order to finalise the Blue Print for GGP 2015. While referring to the future of the GGP, he focused on two issues: how to secure funding for programme coordination and development, and how to secure funding for national-level survey.

Several possibilities (discussed earlier by the Consortium Board) were presented for increasing political and financial support, such as – amongst others – inclusion in the ESFRI Road Map (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) or formation of an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium). However, the formation of ERIC was rather discounted due to the high initial cost to national governments and lacking initiative from them.

Aat Liefbroer pointed out that GGP is well-positioned to get entry into ESFRI when it will open for new calls. For instance, in 2012, GGP has been included in the Dutch National Roadmap. In addition to pushing for ESFRI membership, the Advisory and Consortium Board proposals to organize a conference with stakeholders (EU-DGs, national funding agencies) in late 2012 to raise interest (in collaboration with DG Research, Population Europe) and to try to get involved in Horizon 2020-tenders at DG-Research as soon as possible (end 2013, early 2014) as well as developing alternatives (Plan B), e.g. smaller, centrally organized survey were mentioned.

In the follow-up discussion, the focal points from Belgium, Austria and Poland reflected on the feasibility to engage with Eurostat or form a coalition with SHARE which should not be seen as competing survey but rather as complementing GGS. On the other hand, the attention was drawn to the budgetary constraints at Eurostat (i.e. some plans to cut special modules for LFS) as well as difficulties that SHARE is encountering recently in raising financing. Irina Badurashvili from Georgia marked on the national difficulties for countries outside EU to raise funding for GGP in general, and in Georgia's case for the 3rd wave of GGS in particular.

Some focal points (Germany, Norway) pointed out that the focus cannot solely be on new data collection but on the harmonization of existing data and ensuring data archiving and access in the future. Aat Liefbroer assured participants that process will continue, though with somewhat lesser commitment from co-ordinating institutions such as NIDI.

6. First results from longitudinal studies

Pearl Dykstra of Erasmus University presented on longitudinal research based on the Generations and Gender Survey in the Netherlands. She brought to the attention four recent publications and later concentrated on the last one “Continuity and change in intergenerational family relationships: An examination of shifts in relationship type over a three-year period” published in *Advances in Life Course Research*¹, co-authored by N. Schenk and her.

Arianna Caporali of INED on behalf of Arnaud Régnier-Loilier (INED-France) and Daniele Vignoli (University of Florence-Italy) presented a study on “Fertility dynamics in France and Italy: Who are the couples that do not give birth to the intended child?” exploring relationships between fertility intentions (positive and negative) and subsequent fertility behaviours in two different countries.²

7. Contextual database (CDB)

Sebastian Klüsener of MPIDR gave a presentation on behalf of the team working on the CDB. He pointed out that currently the CDB contains 95 indicators, covering up to 60 countries. Most CDB data is comparative, which is not the case with the contextual data collection (CDC) files for 11 GGP-countries.

The main developments since the last meeting were outlined, including addition of new data sets (Germany and Georgia Wave II update); improved data preparation and checking procedures; and increased support for the national teams collecting CDB data.

Planned future activities were explained. These include addition of new country data sets (Australia, Belgium, Netherlands, Poland); update of harmonized indicators; and second/third wave updates of country datasets.

Participants acknowledged the work being done on the CDB and discussed the need to ensure the CDB is more widely used.

8. GGP survey design: Outcomes of the GGP pilot

Aat Liefbroer of NIDI presented information about the pilot study in Slovenia. The field work was conducted in the second part of 2011 and the first analysis of the results was presented at the Consortium Board meeting in Ljubljana, May 2012.

¹ For more details please see:

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/ggp/iwg/Stockholm/GGP-Netherlands-Longitudinal-Research.pdf>

² For more details please see:

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/ggp/iwg/Stockholm/GGP-Fertility-dynamics-France-Italy.pdf>

The pilot study tested the new survey elements and was used to explore possibilities for cheaper alternatives to face-to-face interviewing (CAPI, CATI, WEB). 600 respondents randomly selected were approached – 200 by each mode – in order to distil the mode effect. The mixed mode system was also tested. Based on the results, the suggestions are: (1) make CAPI the preferred mode for new sample members; (2) make WEB the preferred mode for existing sample members; (3) use a sequential approach (CAPI → WEB → CATI for new sample members, WEB → CAPI → CATI for existing sample members); (4) assign a small number of respondents randomly to a specific mode to be able to separate mode and selection effects. Average length of the survey should preferably not exceed 50 minutes.

The recommendations were also presented regarding sampling, sample size, sample refreshment after attrition, and spacing of survey waves. It was suggested for GGP 2015 to stay with the existing guideline to sample the adult population between 18 and 79 years of age; have an average of 8,000 respondents per wave; stick to the 3 year interval between waves; for subsequent waves top up the existing sample if needed; maintain panel actively, use incentives to respondents.

Initiated by the Austrian focal point, the discussion took place regarding the length of new GGS and possibilities to include additional questions for national needs while shortening the core part. Aat Liefbroer pointed to the fact that in GGS 2015 all additional modules were dropped and the core has been downsized therefore any further shortening would be to a detriment of the GGS. A number of focal points (Georgia, Hungary, Italy) questioned the feasibility and reliability of the new survey modes and how to ensure that the answers are provided by an actual respondent and not somebody else in the WEB mode. Questions were raised also regarding the efficiency of filters in the WEB mode, to which Andrej Kveder of NIDI provided examples based on the pilot study experience.

9. The GGS 2015 questionnaire

Francesco C. Billary of Oxford University presented the final version of the GGS 2015 questionnaire which was adopted by the Consortium Board in May 2012. The focal points were reminded that the GGS 2015 questionnaire was developed based on the following premises: mode will be computer-aided; continuity with the GGS (and if possible the FFS) is important; improvements, consistent with pilot tests or use of items from other comparative surveys; filtering checks are important. The GGS 2015 questionnaire is seen as wave 1 questionnaire which may lead for some questions being dropped out in the subsequent waves.

While briefly discussing some general changes, Francesco C. Billary mentioned improvements to the intention measurement based on the “Theory of Planned Behaviour” in a section *Decision-making in life course events*; prompts for name generating and interpreting under the *Networks/support*; improvements in the sections on *Health and well-being* as well as for *Personality measures* part; streamlining *Activity and Income* section; reviewing Wealth questions in *Household possessions, income and transfer*; and adding new battery of questions on gender matters under the *Value orientations and attitudes*.

The discussion centred on consistency of the questions although majority of participants agreed that the current formulation of a number of questions is better. Some critical remarks regarding language/terms used were expressed (Australia). Some focal points remarked on the need to check the retrospective history (Belgium, Australia).

There were some suggestions to have two versions of the GGS questionnaire – for the new sample members or new countries entering the programme to use GGS 2015 while for continuing sample to stick with current version. The suggestion was not supported by other focal points.

10. Country presentations

1. Sweden

Gerda Neyer reported about the GGP work in the last year pointing out that GGS is currently in the field. She focused on the adopted practice of mixed mode surveys: telephone (30 min.) and self-administered. The information is supplemented with the register-based data (pre-filling of the questionnaire and re-checking after questionnaire is filled by the respondent). It was pointed out that using register-based data implies stricter confidentiality rules and the survey results will be available only for Swedish institutions or those within EU boundaries.

2. Romania

Cornelia Muresan informed that there were no new developments within the country's GGP since 2005. Financial constraints and changes in the national team were mentioned. Only one wave was conducted then with the financial support from MPIDR. But new team members remain interested and follow on the GGP developments closely.

3. Australia

Peter McDonald reported on the implementation of the GGS in Australia, explaining that it was based on the survey of Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA). The first module of the survey was conducted in 2005. The second and third modules took place in 2008 and 2011 respectively, and the fourth module is planned for 2015. There were difficulties to get through legal system for submitting the micro-data to GGP coordinators, but in the end they were resolved. The data for wave 1 was released by NIDI, and currently harmonization of wave 2 is underway in conjunction with NIDI.

4. Austria

Norbert Neuwirth reported on the status in Austria. It was noted that the GGS is Austria's first panel survey. The second wave is on the way (GGS will enter in the field in September 2012) adhering to a 4-year interval as against 3-years in GGP recommendations. Due to budgetary constraints, the age range had been restricted to 18-45 to avoid overlap with SHARE. The attrition of the panel of 15% was in-built but in fact seems to be lower. CAPI-programming & testing is included for the

wave 2. It is planned that data to NIDI could be transferred by the first quarter of 2014.

5. Belgium

Tom de Winter reported that Belgian wave 1 data are available since September 2011 nationally and the harmonised version was released by NID as well. The national version 2.0 of data was to be released in June 2012. Due to the budgetary constraints as well as lack of support from government, the wave 2 early planned for 2012 is postponed. Some alternative scenarios for waves 2&3 were discussed (including one to be based on register-based data).

6. Czech Republic

Jitka Rychtarikova reminded that the first wave of GGS was conducted in the Czech Republic in 2005 and the second in 2008. The GGS was made possible thanks to the funded research projects. The participants were informed about the plans to deliver GGS data to NIDI for harmonisation in January 2014.

7. France

Ariane Pailhé informed that after the three waves completed (2005, 2008, and 2011) there will be no further GGS waves due to a number of reasons: no funding, shrinking sample (attrition was very high) but also there is a need to take time and analyse the acquired data. Third wave data should be ready for release in 2014.

8. Georgia

Irina Badurashvili reported that wave 2 data were submitted to NIDI in January 2012 and all preparations were made and questionnaires and guidelines were already printed for the third wave of data collection in Georgia planned for 2012. However the funding is very difficult to raise. The first two waves were financed by INED and UNFPA but the latter is not providing any funding for the third wave.

9. Germany

Robert Naderi reported that pre-harmonised data of wave 2 were submitted to NIDI in March 2012, and the documentation of implementation of the 2nd wave was delivered later; pre-harmonised data of 2nd wave of supplementary survey on Turkish nationals living in Germany and documentation of the implementation of the 2nd wave of the supplementary survey were delivered to NIDI in May 2012. German team decided not to conduct the 3rd wave of GGS.

10. Hungary

Zsolt Spéder reported that second wave data had been collected in Hungary in 2008/2009. The harmonization of the second wave takes place in the second half of 2012 due to the lack of resources, and with wave 3 following during 2012. It was reported that Hungarian team is considering using mixed modes after seeing the results the pilot study. They are planning to make GGS-related documentation available on the national website.

11. Italy

Romina Fraboni reported that GGS wave 2 has been collected in 2007, still needs to be harmonized (lack of resources and time), no current plans for wave 3 - no funding could be secured.

12. Japan

Makoto Atoh reported about the release of the wave 1 data to NIDI along with CDB data and standard tables. The 2nd and 3rd wave data are now being cleaned. Conducting the third wave was a big challenge since the earthquake in Japan had resulted in large cuts to research funding but also to displacement of part of the respondents. Efforts are being made to reshape the JGGS-2 and -3 dataset to fit a standard data format. Plans are for completing the Japanese contextual database and securing a research fund for JGGS-4.

13. Lithuania

Ausra Maslauskaite reported that pre-harmonised data for wave 1 were submitted to NIDI in 2011 and was released in 2012. Wave 2 data collection completed but practically whole panel lost due to migration so not sure if data is useful. No current plans to conduct the 3rd wave.

14. The Netherlands

Pearl A. Dykstra provided an update on the Dutch GGS. Three waves have been collected. The third wave used mixed modes. Panel maintenance was successful and overall 52 per cent of wave 1 respondents continued into wave 3. Wave 1 data are harmonised and available online, wave 2 and wave 3 data are being harmonized currently, but it is available in unharmonised form via www.nkps.nl.

15. Norway

Lars Dommermuth reported that wave 1 was harmonized by NIDI and is available for the users. For wave 2 there is no funding at this point. In the meantime, GGP team was involved in national infrastructure project ACCESS under which an “Easy-to-use Panel file” that includes parts (aged 40+) of the Norwegian GGS data was produced. For it, a few selected register data (deaths, marital status, education, births, income, pension) was added to Norwegian data (not harmonized to GGS). Files are freely downloadable.

16. Poland

Irena Kotowska reported on the implementation of wave 1 in Poland. The field work was completed in February 2011 and team is now engaged with data cleaning and harmonizing. Data will be submitted to NIDI by the end of the year; will soon start applying for funding for wave 2. Information for CDB and meta-data for wave 1 has been already provided to MPIDR and NIDI.

17. Slovakia

Gabriel Bianchi of Slovak Academy of Sciences briefly informed about the currently conducted project “Sustainable reproduction in Slovakia: a psycho-social inquiry”

for which a special questionnaire partly modelled on the basis of GGS was developed. He also expressed interest of Slovakian researchers to join the GGP in the near future.

18. Switzerland

Andrea Mosimann – due to the lack of time for presentation provided update in the written form. No GGS is to be carried out. Instead, preparations for the Families and Generations Survey 2013 are well under way; questionnaire is inspired by GGS and contains many of its questions, but survey will not be conducted as a panel (high panel attrition considered too risky as survey only conducted every five years).

19. Written updates had been provided by Denmark, Russian Federation, Croatia, Portugal, Estonia

Denmark has a GGP group consisting of representatives from three universities (Aalborg, Roskilde and Copenhagen) and the Danish National Center for Social Research. The group received promise of seed money but conditional upon additional funds raised. However, large number of funding applications were unsuccessful and the work could not advance substantially.

Russian Federation Russia carried out the 3rd wave of GGS in summer 2011, They do not plan to carry out any other waves.

Croatia just recently introduced SILC, hence unlikely to take active part in GGP in the near future.

Portugal: the GGP project still temporarily suspended, but they remain interested in participating.

Estonia: wave 1 was completed while ago but now follow up with wave 2 is foreseen. Panel was not maintained.

Spain reported that a new Continuous Population Survey is to become the basic and common infrastructure for collecting household surveys data. This will be a big annual sample of households, with a short questionnaire about basic socio-demographic information – to be implemented in 2013. The sample will be the frame to select subsamples for follow-up social surveys, GGS one of the first candidates from 2014 – depending on budget decisions.

11. Summary and conclusions

Aat Liefbroer and Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich thanked participants and summarized the discussions and decisions of the meeting. They highlighted that three parties – NIDI, INED and UNECE are fully committed to continue with the respective coordination efforts and MPIDR will keep working on the CDB after the current funding expires. They stressed that a forthcoming stakeholders meeting, the submission of the Blue Print for GGP 2015 and active search for funding possibilities (including tender applications for Horizon 2020) are main elements of 2012 and beyond. .

12. Date and venue of the next meeting

The next meeting of the network of national focal points was not discussed. The Consortium board during its next meeting will decide upon a date and venue for it (note: at the CB meeting in May 2012, the Bocconi University suggested to hold a GGP conference and NNFP meeting in Milano in October/November 2013).