

Report
20th Meeting of the
Generations and Gender Programme Council of Partners

Online
27 June 2023

Participation

There were GGP representatives from 28 countries (Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and Uruguay) and team representatives from Hong Kong (China) and Taiwan (China) attending the meeting. Observers from Sri Lanka and Armenia also participated. Together with representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the GGP Central Hub, the meeting had a total of 58 participants.

1. Opening

The Council of Partners (CoP) meeting took place online on 27 June 2023 (13:00 – 14:30 CEST) on the Webex platform. The meeting was chaired by Zsolt Spéder (Hungarian Demographic Research Institute), the Chair of the Council of Partners, and moderated by Lisa Warth of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the secretariat of the Council of Partners. Following the welcoming remarks by the Chair of the Council of Partners and the secretariat of the Council of Partners, the meeting participants adopted the proposed agenda and the minutes of the last meeting, which are available on the meeting [website](#).

2. Overview of developments in the GGP

Anne Gauthier, Director of the GGP at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) provided an overview of key achievements during the past year and discussed ongoing projects and opportunities related to data collection and processing for the second round of the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS-II), outreach and dissemination, and research funding and infrastructure.

GGS-II

Fieldwork for the second round of the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS-II) has been completed or is ongoing in 21 countries, surpassing the initial goal of 10 countries. Data processing and methodological analysis is ongoing to determine data quality, assess the impacts of different modes of data collection, and study completion patterns. The questionnaire for wave 2 is currently being tested. Partners may be requested to help test the questionnaire, especially those involved in teaching methodology courses.

Outreach and dissemination

The GGP-Connect seminar series has been useful for sharing national experiences around data collection and processing. Recording of previous webinars are available on the GGP [website](#).

The 7th GGP user conference will take place 13-15 September at the Warsaw School of Economics in Poland. Partners are encouraged to attend, where findings from methodological research on recently collected data will be presented as well as substantive GGS-based research. The user conference will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from users about their experiences working with GGS-II data.

Funding and infrastructure

GGP has secured funding from the European Commission for the GGP-5D project which, through five dimensions, aims to improve the long-term sustainability of the GGP infrastructure and support the acquisition of legal status for the GGP. The first meeting of the GGP Board of Governmental Representatives will take place in the autumn.

Funding is available for research visits to the GGP central hub for individuals interested in using the data or learning more about the hub's operations. Opportunities are limited to those based in European countries working on projects focused on youth, young adults, or well-being research. Partners are encouraged to inform colleagues, PhD students, or postdocs about these opportunities and to reach out via email for more details.

3. Presentations by national teams

Session I. Funding and collaborative strategies for a new GGS: Italy, Poland, Switzerland, Spain, Western Balkans (UNFPA)

Italy

The GGS-II survey in Italy is funded by the NextGeneration EU programme in the context of the Fostering Open Science in Social Science Research (FOSSR) which aims to create a framework of tools and services for the social science scholarly community and an integrated life-course observatory together with other relevant data sources. Fieldwork is planned for next year with 10,000 targeted interviews. Whether the target population will cover those aged 18 to 79 or—to avoid duplication with the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)—those aged 18 to 59 is still under consideration. The decision will be made in consultation with the GGP Central Hub. The sampling will be done by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), and a mixed-mode approach of one-third CAWI, two-thirds CAPI will be used for the interviews. Preparation and translation of the questionnaire, pilot studies, and the tender process for an external agency to carry out data collection are currently underway.

Poland

In Poland, GGP partners are finalizing a proposal to the Ministry of Science and Education for funding of the GGS-II. Inflation and uncertainties around the effectiveness and response rates of CAWI have served as challenges. If secured, funding would be provided for six years, allowing two waves of the survey to be fielded. The aim is to begin fieldwork in late 2024, targeting 10,000 interviews among those aged 18 to 59 using both CAPI and CAWI. Poland also aims to integrate the GGP and SHARE infrastructures to create a larger life course observatory.

Switzerland

The GGP has been included in the 2023 Swiss Roadmap for Research Infrastructures, however inclusion in the roadmap does not guarantee funding. GGP partners are pursuing funding from

several sources, including the University of Lausanne, a national consortium of universities, the national science foundation, and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). There are ongoing efforts to find sustainable funding schemes, including the development of a lobby group for funding of research infrastructure.

Spain

In Spain, two proposals to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) for funding to apply to the national roadmap were unsuccessful. CSIC did not provide funding for any social science infrastructure projects due to doubts that they would ultimately receive government funding and due to the lack of involvement of the National Statistics Institute (INE), which favors projects based on administrative records. GGP partners in Spain will continue to lobby INE and relevant government ministries for support. If support and funding for a GGS is not secured, the aim would be to field a national fertility survey that is comparable to the GGS. Issues around fertility, family and gender are at the center of the national political debate, and the outcome of the July elections could impact support for the GGS.

UNFPA/Western Balkans

Work to build support for the GGP and a GGS in the western Balkans has been ongoing for several years and included a joint workshop for 8 countries on the topic. Several governments and national statistical offices are willing to participate, with UNFPA providing technical assistance, though political uncertainties and changes have slowed progress. Nonetheless, a budget and action plan are in development. The survey would rely on international funding sources and would aim to carry out fieldwork in six countries at or around the same time. The target sample size would be 10,000 per country, with more in Bosnia and Herzegovina to support policy-relevant disaggregation.

Session II. Recent experiences in fielding the GGS: Croatia, Austria, the Netherlands, Taiwan (China), Hong Kong (China)

Croatia

The GGS is currently in the field in Croatia. The sample, which includes 18,000 persons aged 18 to 54, was drawn from the register of permanent and temporary residents maintained by the Ministry of the Interior. The goal to complete a minimum of 5,000 interviews was exceeded by June, at which time more than 6600 interviews had been completed. The survey has a push-to-web design, with invitation letters delivered by post with links QR codes for accessing the survey. Two reminder letters were sent, and Facebook and Instagram campaigns have been used to raise awareness. A conditional cash incentive of 6.64 EUR is being used. As of June 26, the response rate was 37 per cent. Census data will be used to calculate a more precise response rate when fieldwork has been completed.

Austria

GGP fieldwork was carried out in Austria from the end October 2022 to the middle of March 2023 and employed a combination of CAWI and CAPI methods, with a strong push-to-web strategy. The gross sample size was 22,000 and desired net sample size was 6,600. 7,695 interviews were fully completed and 8,247 were sufficiently completed (demographic characteristics and life histories sections). In addition to standard weighting procedures applied to all GGP data, Austria added a parity age-sex layer, a family and sex layer, and household size layer. The resulting weighted data align with microcensus and register data. GGP partners in Austria are preparing a brochure with 60 short studies on different aspects of GGP to be published by the end of the year.

Netherlands

The GGS is currently in the field in the Netherlands. Response rates are so far lower than those observed in Croatia and Austria. After a third reminder, just over 25 per cent of respondents have fully completed the questionnaire, and 28 to 29 per cent have completed the first two modules of the survey. Response rates have not been sensitive to different incentive strategies. An increase of 10 Euro in the conditional incentive in the second batch of interview invitations did not produce a higher response rate. Low response rates may be related to the field work period coinciding with high temperatures and the summer holidays period. A final reminder may be sent in September.

Taiwan (China)

A GGS pilot study was completed in Taiwan in January 2023 using CAWI only with a final response rate of 12.6 per cent. If sufficient funding is available, the full-scale GGS will use CAWI and CAPI modes. The target sample is 8,000 interviews among males and females aged 18 to 69 years. In the pilot study, five different incentive scenarios were tested with only slight variation in the resulting response rates. An unconditional incentive of NTD100 plus a conditional incentive of NTD300 produced the highest response rates but also requires more resources so discussions about how to proceed are underway.

Hong Kong (China)

GGs fieldwork was carried out in Hong Kong between 16 February and 16 April 2023. Data collection followed a push-to-web design with an online survey available in Chinese and English. The incentive strategy was based on the pilot's successful approach, offering an unconditional HKD 50 and an additional HKD 100 in supermarket vouchers upon survey completion. Sampling relied on a list of 16,000 addresses for permanent residents aged 18 to 59 years from the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department. 5,088 interviews were completed, surpassing the targeted net sample of 4,600 and achieving an unadjusted response rate of 31.8 per cent. Data processing is ongoing, including the calculation of sampling weights and metadata preparation, with the aim of making the data available for public use soon.

Session III. Early insights from recent GGS: Czechia, France, Uruguay, Argentina, UK

Czechia

Data collection in Czechia was carried out over the 18-month period between November 2020 and July 2022 resulting in a final sample size of 5583 completed interviews. Three recruitment methods, mail, in-person and phone, and two modes of interviewing, CAWI and CAPI were used. The final data set deviated significantly from census-based population characteristics. Less educated individuals are underrepresented in the data and university educated people are overrepresented, with twice as many in the GGS dataset compared to the census. Most respondents completed the questionnaire in one session with a median duration of 76 minutes. The majority used a personal computer, though nearly 25 per cent of respondents used a smartphone, highlighting the importance of optimizing the questionnaire for mobile devices. The 18-month data collection period in Czechia provides a valuable opportunity to analyze social changes throughout the pandemic period.

France

GGP partners in France are undertaking an assessment of data collection mode effects within and across countries looking at non-response, normative answers, and straight-lining (answering a series of questions in the same way). Analysis of results from the pilot survey in France which consisted of 54 per cent CAWI interviews and 46 per cent CATI interviews, indicate that non-response is lower with CATI, and that normative answers and straight-lining

are less common with CAWI. Analysis of mode effects based on data collected in Uruguay and Germany as well as the development of practical tools for data collection and analysis is ongoing.

Uruguay

Fieldwork was conducted in Uruguay between October 2021 and December 2022 resulting in a final sample size of 7,245 of persons aged 18 to 79 living in cities of 5000 or more inhabitants. A mixed method approach was used, with 86 per cent completing face-to-face interviews and 14 per cent completing interviews online. Efforts to promote and disseminate the data are ongoing, with a recent launch event and the preparation of dissemination materials which summarize results across the major dimensions of the survey. GGP partners are also holding a contest for graduate students to promote use of the data.

Argentina

The fieldwork period in Argentina was shorter than in other countries, lasting only three months from 1 September to 30 November 2022, to align with the disbursement schedule of the funder, the Inter-American Development Bank. As a result of the shortened fieldwork period, the final sample of 2,397 respondents was lower than targeted. To promote use of the data for policymaking and scholarly purposes, GGP partners in Argentina seek examples of how the data have been used to study various themes and topics in other countries. Fertility and gender issues are part of ongoing political debates in Argentina and the recently collected GGS data can be positioned as a valuable resource to combat misinformation. GGP partners continue to face challenges in securing long-term funding to support ongoing collaboration and research.

United Kingdom

Data collection in the United Kingdom was carried out in two stages, the first beginning in August 2022 and the second in January 2023. The final sample of 7,203 individuals surpassed the targeted sample of 7,000 and reflects a response rate of 13.8 per cent. Based on experiences during the cognitive user testing, certain improvements were implemented for data collection including optimizing the questionnaire for mobile devices and changing how dates were collected. After experimenting with different incentive levels, 15 GBP was used generally and 20 GBP in more deprived areas. The unweighted sample biases females, Whites, the native-born, the more highly educated, and younger age groups. Respondents who are married and/or with children are underrepresented. Weights will be calculated to correct for these biases based on the 2021 census. Lesson learned include the importance of in-depth quality assessment and the development of appropriate weights for push-to-web surveys.

5. Conclusion

In his concluding remarks, Zsolt Spéder expressed hope that more countries will continue to join the Generations and Gender Programme in the future, emphasizing the great potential for cross-national research with increased geographic coverage. He highlighted the importance of addressing declining response rates, biased samples, and data quality concerns in the second round of GGS through weighting but also through institutional solutions. He encouraged partners to participate in the user conference in Warsaw in September and expressed gratitude to partners for their participation in the meeting.