

Report
21st Meeting of the
Generations and Gender Programme Council of Partners

Online
6 June 2024

Participation

Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) partners from Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kosovo, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay attended the 21st meeting of the GGP Council of Partners. 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 59 participants.

1. Opening

The twenty first Council of Partners meeting (CoP) took place online on 6 June 2024 (13:00 – 15:00 CEST) on the Webex platform. The meeting was co-chaired by Zsolt Spéder, Chair of the Council of Partners from the Hungarian Demographic Research Institute and, and Lisa Warth, Chief of the Population Unit at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Following the welcoming remarks by Zsolt Spéder and Lisa Warth, the meeting participants adopted the proposed agenda and the minutes of the 20th CoP meeting, which are available at the meeting [website](#).

2. Updates from the GGP Central Hub

Anne Gauthier, Director of the GGP at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), welcomed attendees, introduced the GGP team, highlighted key achievements during the past year towards European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) legal status for GGP, and provided operational and fieldwork updates.

Towards GGP-ERIC

A series of milestones have strengthened the development of GGP as a research infrastructure. The GGP has been included on the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) roadmap, recognizing its strategic importance for research and giving it priority for funding. The next step is to become by 2027 a permanent research infrastructure with ERIC legal status, enabling direct funding from ERIC member countries. Efforts continue towards inclusion of GGP on national infrastructure roadmaps. With several reopening this year or early next year, partners are encouraged to contact NIDI for support towards inclusion of GGP in national roadmaps. Demonstrating the GGP's scientific and societal impact is important for achieving

these goals. The GGP Central Hub is working to develop teaching datasets which will contribute to the already growing number of data users. The last GGP user conference was held in Warsaw in September 2023 and the next is planned for 2025.

Operational updates

The GGP Central Hub is working on the development of a new GGP data catalogue which will provide a more direct and user-friendly link between the data and the standardized documentation available in the Colectica portal.

Fieldwork updates

GGG-II wave 1 is currently in the field in France and Taiwan. GGS-II wave 2 is underway in Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Republic of Moldova, and Norway. Plans are underway to field GGS-II wave 1 in Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Republic of Korea.

Regional meetings

The chair of the Council of Partners informed meeting participants that as part of the GGP-5D project there will be regional meetings including one in Southern Europe in November 2024. Further information will be provided by early September. Partners are encouraged to attend and to invite relevant colleagues from their own and other countries.

3. Presentations by GGP Partners

Session I: Recent experiences in fielding the GGS

France

Wave 1 fieldwork started in France in February 2024 and will end in July 2024. More than 11,000 respondents are anticipated including a large number of same-sex couples which were oversampled. There have been some challenges related to sampling and weighting due to the multimode design and sample selection. A working group will be formed in autumn 2024 with the aim to disseminate the standard file by early 2025. The GGP node based at Institut national d'études démographiques (INED) will add new metadata for GGS-II surveys and is exploring new procedures for producing and disseminating metadata. In the context of GGP-5D, the INED node is also working on harmonization that aligns with international standards including the FAIR guiding principles for scientific data management and stewardship.

Norway

Wave 2 was fielded in Norway as an online survey in April and May 2024. The data will be released by the end of this year. Statistics Norway's participation in the GGP-5D project has enabled access to additional funding from the Research Council of Norway. The Research Council has asked Statistics Norway to collaborate with other institutions to build a broader

national GGP consortium. GGP partners in Norway requested that partners share any experience they have with collaborating across institutions around GGP in their countries and regions. As a first step towards inclusion on the national roadmap, GGP partners in Norway have submitted a proposal to the infrastructure programme with a decision expected in November 2024.

Taiwan

Wave 1 fieldwork started in Taiwan in January 2024 and is ongoing. Mixed mode in design, the survey combines web (CAWI) and face-to-face (CAPI) methodologies, targeting 8,500 respondents split across two independent nationally representative samples. The CAWI phase, conducted from mid-January to mid-March 2024, collected 4,511 questionnaires. CAPI interviews began in April, with 1,200 completed questionnaires collected by early June. GGP partners in Taiwan reported fieldwork challenges related to the Blaise survey software. In response, the GGP Central Hub expressed appreciation for the feedback, reported that they have increased server capacity and plan to release a new version of the software, and reaffirmed commitment to collaborating with GGP partners in Taiwan to resolve the issues.

Session II: Insights from recent GGS

Austria

The GGP team in Austria will begin preparations for wave 2 in mid-2024. Funding for wave 2 is expected after national elections in 2024. The main period of preparations will be between July 2025 and the end of the year during which the call for tender will be issued and the national module will be developed. The call should be completed by March 2026, with the implementation phase, including pilot testing, starting thereafter. Fieldwork for wave 2 is planned to commence in September 2026 and is expected to conclude in the first quarter of 2027.

Croatia

Wave 1 was carried out in Croatia as a web-based survey between May and July 2023. The final sample is 7,487 respondents aged 18 to 54, representing a 42 per cent response rate. Participants were provided an unconditional cash incentive of 6.64 EUR. The dataset will be released shortly, with preliminary results already showcased to policymakers. Significant attention has been given to panel care, including seasonal greetings and the possible distribution of results brochures. Funding by the Ministry of Demography and Immigration has been secured for wave 2 in 2026 and wave 3 in 2029, and GGP is included on the Croatian Research Infrastructure Development Roadmap for 2023-2030.

Hong Kong SAR

Wave 1 was carried out in Hong Kong SAR last year. The web-based survey used unconditional and conditional incentives (6 and 12 EUR respectively). Current efforts focus on analyzing survey findings, looking beyond fertility preferences to other applications, with an aim to release the data publicly later this year. An adapted pilot survey on youth aspirations has been conducted

among students at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and GGP partners there seek international collaboration on this project. Plans are in place to apply for Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) funding for wave 2 and a linked ageing survey.

The Netherlands

The GGP is included in the Dutch National Roadmap for Research Infrastructure as part of the Open Data Initiative for Social Science and Economic Innovations (ODISSEI). Wave 1 was fielded in the Netherlands as a web-based survey in two phases to test and adapt incentive structures between phases. Phase 1 took place from November 2022 to February 2023 and phase 2 from April 2023 to November 2023 resulting in 7,353 completed interviews among individuals aged 18-59 reflecting a response rate of 27.5 per cent. A small number of cases showed mismatches between the register information and survey responses, which will be flagged in the data for use in methodological research. The data processing team is currently conducting final checks, with a release expected by the end of June.

United Kingdom

Wave 1 data for the United Kingdom are now available from the UK Data Service and the GGP Central Hub. Methodological analyses produced four main findings. First, the representativeness of the GGS survey is similar to other online and offline studies in the United Kingdom, though females, White ethnic groups, more highly educated individuals, married persons, single parents, and people with poorer health are overrepresented. Second, the overall data quality in terms of survey completion and non-response is comparable to other online and face-to-face, but data quality is worse for mobile phone users. Third, targeted conditional incentives of 20 GBP in deprived neighborhoods helped recruit lower-educated individuals. Finally, the length of time spent on the survey does not seem to affect data quality, but may affect respondents' perceptions, with those taking longer to complete the survey reporting more positive experiences. A recontact survey was conducted in January and February 2024 to update contact information and record changes in partnership or childbearing status and achieved a 65 per cent response rate. A grant to secure funding for wave 2 will be written this summer with an aim to field the survey in 2025-2026 using unconditional incentives.

Uruguay

Wave 1 data for Uruguay have been available since May 2023. Efforts to promote data use are ongoing and include the publication in July 2024 of a book compiling articles submitted for a research prize based on GGS data. The data have been used in the development of a social intervention to assist children with disabilities in school. Additionally, the GGS data are being used in master's and PhD theses and various research papers, including presentations at conferences like the IUSSP International Population Conference in 2025. Although no steps have yet been taken, there are plans to initiate preparations and explore funding for wave 2 by the end of the year.

Session III: Forthcoming and potential GGS-II data collection

Argentina

Wave 1 was carried out in the city of Buenos Aires in 2022 resulting in 2,397 completed surveys. The pending activities include releasing the data with additional constructed variables, providing basic tabulations for the main survey results, publishing a short paper with the primary survey results, and managing resources for wave 2 scheduled for 2025. Despite taking longer than expected to finalize the microdata, efforts are ongoing to ensure the data are accessible and useful for future research.

Latvia

Following a pilot study in 2018, funding has been secured for the next phase of GGS fieldwork in Latvia, planned to start next year. The details of the survey methodology are still being determined together with the GGP fieldwork team. GGP is not on Latvia's national roadmap, and unlike other similar projects that are situated within the Ministry of Education, GGP is a part of the State Chancellery. The team is drawing insights from other countries' experiences to improve their survey implementation.

Poland

GGP has been part of the national roadmap for research infrastructure in Poland since 2020 which has facilitated access to funding from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education for two GGS waves. Wave 1 will be carried out in 2025 with a target sample size of 10,000 individuals aged 18 to 59 and will use mixed-mode data collection (CAWI/CAPI). The team is currently working with the Central Hub to prepare the Polish questionnaire and working to select a fieldwork agency. Wave 2 is planned for 2028 with an “in-between” survey planned between waves. After each wave, the team plans to produce methodological and descriptive reports as well as dissemination and teaching materials and to organize events to promote data use.

Italy

Wave 1 fieldwork in Italy is planned for November 2024 to March 2025, targeting 12,500 interviews with individuals aged 18 to 59 to produce a nationally representative sample at the NUTS1 level. Data collection will utilize a push-to-web approach with up to 5,000 CAWI and 7,500 CAPI, and no incentives. Special modules will address topics such as transitions from youth to adulthood. The team is currently finalizing the sample design, questionnaire, and interviewer materials. The project is part of the Next Generation EU program under Fostering Open Science in Social Science Research (FOSSR), which coordinates three national surveys: SHARE, GGS, and GUIDE.

4. Discussion

The discussion addressed several topics including the development of national GGP networks and funding strategies, the participation of older adults in online surveys, implementing “in-between” and follow-up waves, response rates and representativeness of web-based surveys, and other methodological work.

Establishing a national GGP network and funding strategies

The team in Norway inquired about experiences in creating a broader national GGP network. GGP partners in France shared their strategy of applying for a grant to cover data collection for GGP, SHARE, and GUIDE as well as other national surveys and data documentation, dissemination, and training. GGP partners in Poland shared that they also leveraged their cooperation with the SHARE programme for their application to the Polish roadmap. The team in Latvia requested examples of successful roadmap applications as they prepare their application.

Participation of older adults in online surveys

Participants discussed the participation of older adults in web-based surveys. The team in the United Kingdom reported no significant differences in participation by age but the target sample included only persons up to age 59.

Implementing "in-between waves" for enhanced data collection

Participants discussed the value of “in-between” waves for panel maintenance but also as a flexible tool to collect data during unforeseen events or on country-specific topics, noting this type of follow up is easier with web-based surveys. Survey designs in the United Kingdom and Poland include “in-between” waves.

Response rates and representativeness of web-based surveys

Participants discussed response rates and representativeness of web-based surveys compared to face-to-face methods, highlighting the fact that response rates for online surveys are now comparable to those of face-to-face surveys, with some countries like Croatia achieving higher rates. Persisting issues around representativeness and reaching specific subgroups—in both online and face-to-face surveys—were acknowledged. Partners shared approaches to address these issues including targeted incentives (United Kingdom), mixed methods surveys (Latvia), and the use of postal invitations (Croatia).

Methodological analyses

Participants acknowledged the value of the results of the methodological work carried out in the United Kingdom for survey design and implementation in other contexts. Partners from the United Kingdom directed colleagues to a report on cognitive interviewing available on the GGP website and offered to facilitate access to other papers that have been presented at survey research conferences.

5. Conclusion

In the closing remarks, Zsolt Spéder expressed optimism about the GGP's progress and the productive sharing of practices and collaboration among partners. Anne Gauthier emphasized the shift from competition to collaboration with other survey programmes like SHARE, enhancing funding opportunities and providing a more comprehensive understanding of the life course. She celebrated the upcoming fieldwork in various countries and the potential to challenge existing demographic theories. Lisa Warth acknowledged the Central Hub's efforts to promote GGP's work within the policy community and reaffirmed UNECE's commitment to supporting evidence-based policymaking and strengthening the visibility of GGP and its policy applications within the United Nations system.