



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Population Unit

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Intergenerational relationships in ageing societies: follow-up to the in-depth discussion in 2010

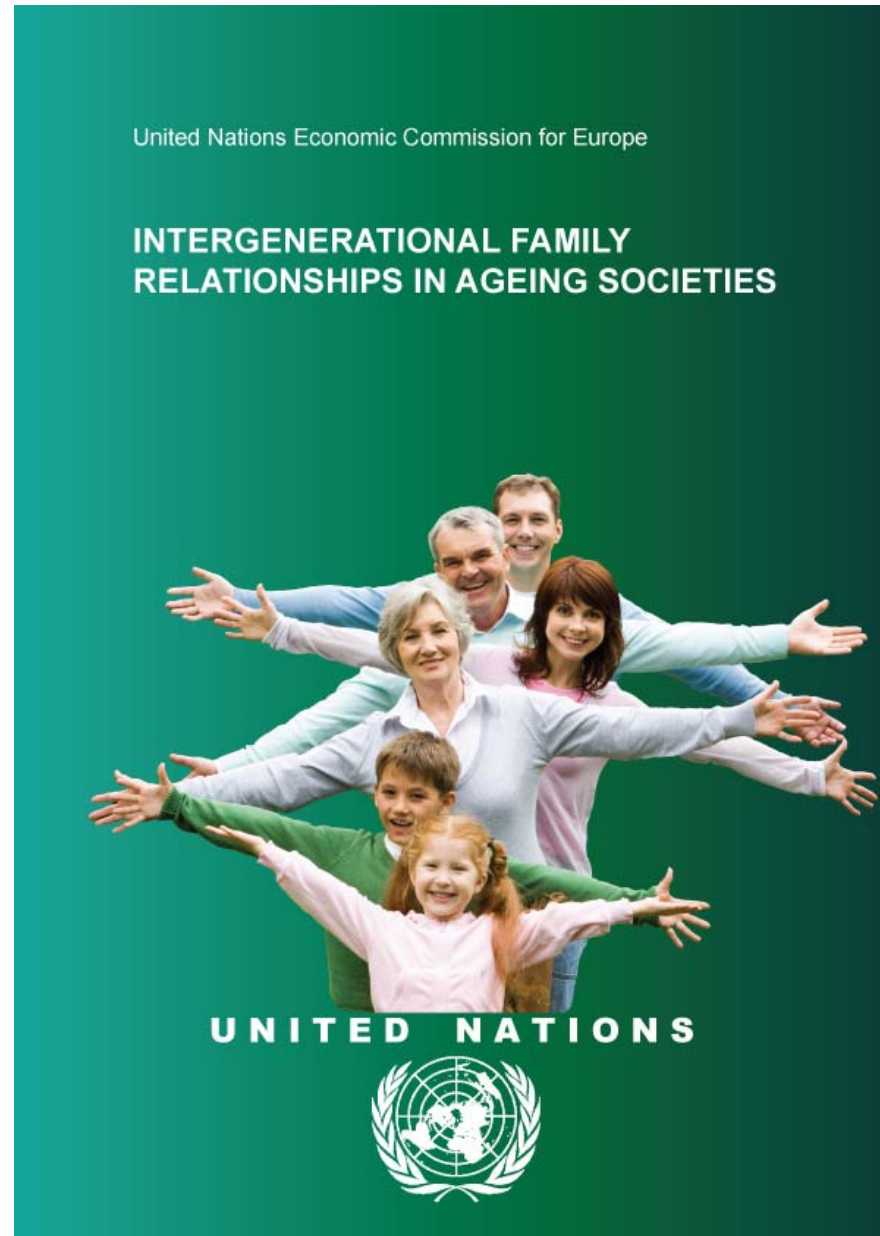
► **Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich**

Third Meeting, UNECE Working Group on Ageing
Geneva, 22-23 November 2010



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**A keynote speech
by Pearl Dykstra:
Published
and available
on the internet**





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Based on three key premises:

- ✓ population ageing affects people of all ages
- ✓ there are critical interdependencies between family generations and between men and women which are built and reinforced by social policies
- ✓ to understand intergenerational interdependencies, a range of levels must be distinguished and recognised



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Drawing on:

- ✓ Generations and Gender Programme (ggp-i.org):
 - Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)
 - Contextual Database
- ✓ MULTILINKS, an FP-7 project focusing on multiple linkages in families, across time, and across levels (multilinks-project.eu)

Leading sources for studies of intergenerational and gender relationships and family issues



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Stating in summary:

- ✓ **Exclusive or primary reliance on the family**
 - brings risks for the well-being of frail older persons
 - strengthens socioeconomic inequalities between families
 - and jeopardises women's economic independence
- ✓ **Insufficient economic independence among women implies**
 - limited pensions for women, and
 - poorer life chances for children
- ✓ **It is important to consider the prospects of future generations**
 - of pensioners (which include women), and
 - of workers (today's children)



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Four main messages for policy makers:

- ✓ There is little evidence that people are less inclined to care for family members if public provisions are available
- ✓ Interdependencies between generations and between men and women are built and reinforced by the legal and policy arrangements
- ✓ National policies should develop intergenerational regimes that do not reinforce social class inequalities and gender inequalities
- ✓ Women's integration in the labour force takes place without fundamental changes to the formal and informal rules associated with the 'breadwinner' model



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Next priority theme for in-depth discussion

Linked to the 2nd review and appraisal of RIS/MIPAA?

The key words:

- ✓ Social situation
- ✓ Well-being and dignity
- ✓ Development
- ✓ Human rights of older persons