Generations and Gender Survey

Towards a Better Understanding of Relationships and Processes in the Life Course

GGP IWG meeting, Istanbul, 6-8 Oct 2005
Overview of Talk

• Background
• Objectives of the GGS
• Objectives of the conceptual paper
• Main points of the paper
Background

- Meeting in Geneva in 2000 → the “green book”
  *GGP: Exploring future research and data collection options* (UN, 2000)
- Consortium → QDG1 → various justification texts 2001-2003
- 1st wave questionnaire 2001-2003
- Needed: a text to explain the questionnaire
Objectives of the paper

- Describe how the GGS questionnaire is related to the overall objective of the GGP:

  to improve our understanding of demographic and social development, with a particular attention towards relationships between children and parents (generations) and relationships between partners (gender).
Objectives of the paper

- Describe how the GGS questionnaire is related to the main objectives of the GGP
- Provide an explanation and reference material for data users
- Provide a background document for promoting and raising funds for the GGP
- Document the work of QDG1
Audience

- People working with and promoting the GGP
- Scientists analysing and planning to analyse GGS data
Structure of the Paper

- **Introduction:**
  GGS as one of the two pillars in the GGP, level of analysis

- **Organization and key features [of the GGS]**

- **Survey content**

- **Organization of the questionnaire**
Organization and Key Features of the GGS

• Account of developing the survey tools
• Key features
  – Panel design: crucial novelty compared to FFS
  – Multidisciplinarity: broader basis than demography
  – Comparability: aiming at more rigorous adherence to common tools and content
  – Context-sensitivity: contextual database
  – Addressing the second half of the life course: generations aspect
  – Gender aspect: access to education and employment, autonomy, division of roles; sample of both sexes, couple perspective, response items
Focus of the GGS

- Transitions in generations and gender relationships, marked by demographic events such as
  - birth of a child,
  - formation and dissolution of a partnership,
  - leaving parental home,

as well as by
- retirement,
- ageing, and
- changes in the health status.
Focus of the GGS

• Target processes
  – Childbearing
  – Partnership dynamics
  – Home leaving
  – Retiring
Main criterion for including explanatory topics

- Theoretically grounded relevance to explaining one or more of the target processes
Content of the GGS

- Two main explanatory domains (to explain the target processes):
  - Economic aspects, including subjective assessments
    - Activity
    - Income
    - Wealth
    → Theories of New Home Economics, relative income
  - Values and attitudes
    → Second Demographic Transition
Content of the GGS

• Other topics
  – Parent-child relationships
  – Gender relationships
  – Household composition and housing
  – Stepfamilies
  – Contraception and infertility treatment
  – Education
  – Health
  – Subjective well-being
  – Social networks and private transfers
  – Welfare state and public transfers
Organisation of the Questionnaire

- Core + 4 optional sub-modules
  - Nationality & ethnicity
  - Previous partners
  - Intentions of breaking up
  - Housing

- Flow by topic:
  - 13 sections, self-explanatory headings
Organisation of the Questionnaire: Issues cutting across the sections

- Relationship to close kin outside the household (child, non-resident partner, parents):
  - Proximity
  - Contact frequency
  - Satisfaction with relationship
Organisation of the Questionnaire: Issues cutting across the sections

- Personal networks
  - Childcare
  - Personal care
  - Emotional support
  - Monetary transfers and inheritance
Organisation of the Questionnaire: Issues cutting across the sections

- Intentions, expected consequences, important circumstances, perceived attitudes of relevant others:
  - starting to live with a partner; if in a non-residential partnership, starting to live with the current non-resident partner;
  - starting to live separately from parents;
  - having a/another child;
  - retiring;
  - breaking up (in the corresponding optional sub-module)
Organisation of the Questionnaire: Issues cutting across the sections

- Intention of:
  - moving
  - resuming education
  - marrying
  - starting to live together with parents
  - resuming work after maternity leave, parental leave, or childcare leave;
  - taking a job or starting a business
  - finishing education
  - changing company or starting a business (employees); starting a new business or taking a job (self-employed)
  - give up paid work (those who are working)