Meeting Report

Fifth Meeting of the GGP International Working Group

Ljubljana, Slovenia
18-20 January 2007

Chair: John Hobcraft, (University of York), Chair of the CB

Participants: IWG members
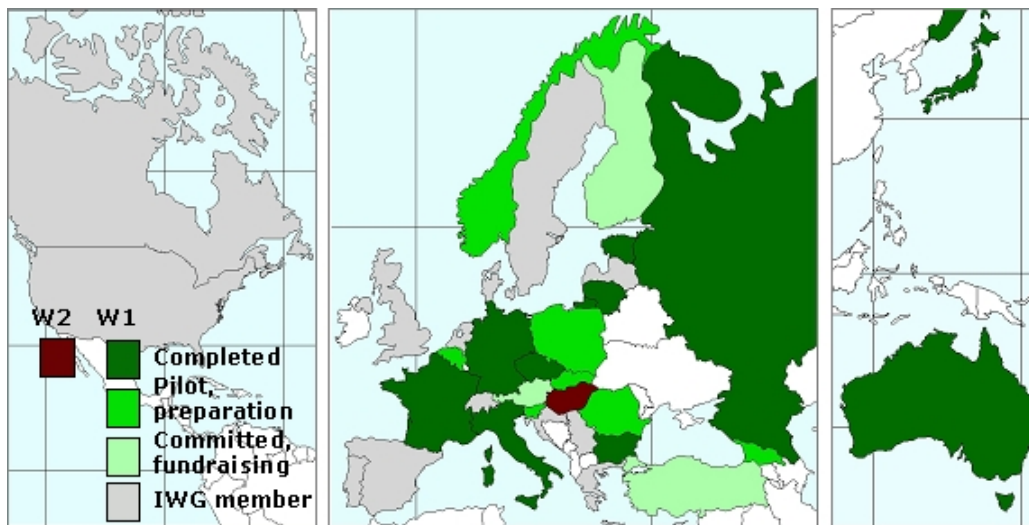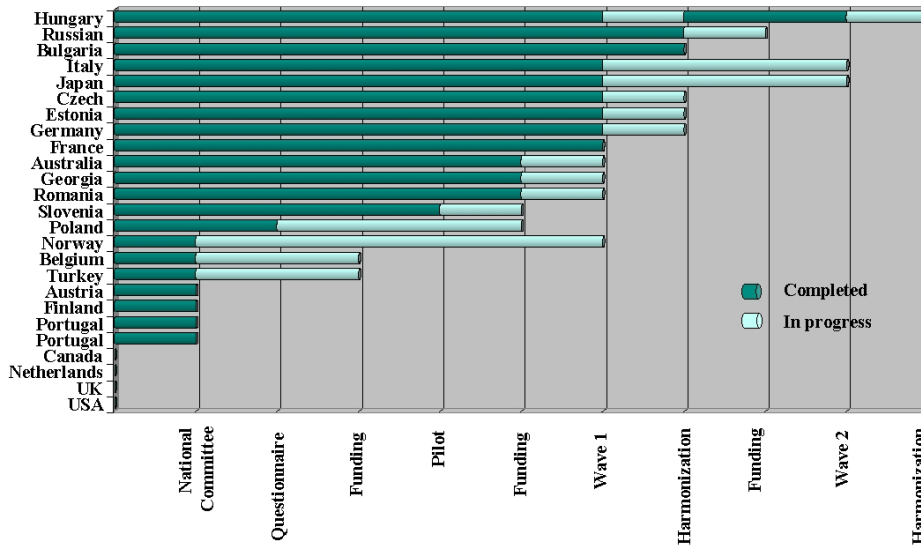*Venue:*   CITY Hotel, Ljubljana

Contents

The present report reflects the floor discussions of all the agenda items. The presentations and prepared background documents are available on the GGP website (`http://www.unece.org/pau/ggp/iwg/2007Ljubljana.htm`) and are not summarized in this report. The progress report presentations given by the country representatives are summarized in full detail and thus reflect the presented material as well as floor discussion if any.

Representatives from 24 countries attended the meeting. Six were from national statistical offices, 46 from research institutes and four from governmental institutions. Members of the Consortium Board (CB) and the coordinators of the GGP expert working groups attended as well (see the List of participants).

1. The Chair of the CB, John Hobcraft, welcomed the participants to Ljubljana.

2. The agenda was approved without any comments.

3. Oto Luthar (Director of the Scientific Research Centre) and Andres Vikat (Chief, UNECE PAU) welcomed the participants. Duška Knežević Hočevar (Head of Socio-Medical Institute, Scientific Research Centre) and Oxana Sinyavskaya (Independent Institute for Social Policy) were elected as Vice-chairs for the meeting.

GGP progress and current situation

4. The development of survey instruments continues. GGS Wave 2 Questionnaire and the panel maintenance guidelines were completed and approved at the April 2006 meeting of the Consortium Board (CB). The work on the data cleaning guidelines was initiated. There has been considerable progress in programme development and implementation since Istanbul in the areas of data processing, information exchange and monitoring, and programme implementation. The report of the previous IWG meeting in Istanbul was approved without any comments.

Preparation of standard tables and analyses

5. Francesco Billari presented the report on the development of the GGP Standard Tables and analyses. He focused on the guidelines for standard tables, stressing the importance of combining novel approaches with retaining as much retrospective comparability of the results as possible, especially in relation to the FFS.

6. The standardized outputs present a platform for international comparative research. However, the standardization of the GGS datasets and tables is still work in progress regarding data harmonization procedures

as well as the preparation of standardized outputs. Preliminary computer programmes for the production of the GGS standard tables will be made available on request for in-country diagnostic procedures. Before publishing the finalized standard tables, the data providers will be consulted for approval of the final version of the tables.

7. There are no provisions to coordinate the preparation of country reports. It is highly recommended to use GGS Standard Tables when preparing GGP country reports. The main requirement for the successful use of the standard tables is a harmonized data file (HDF). In order to maintain high levels of comparability and standardization of the calculations, the standard tables will be produced centrally. The final version of the computer programmes for the production of the standard tables will be made publicly available.

8. Some methodological issues regarding standard tables production were also discussed. Weights should be used in standard tables. In the Wave 1 tables the foreseen weights include sampling weights (to correct for the unequal probability of selection) and the nonresponse weights (to correct the sample structure due to nonresponse). In the Wave 2 standard tables complex weights will have to be used.

   Current standardized use of information on the age of the respondent entails the use of 10 year birth cohorts in retrospective tables and 10 year age groups in cross-sectional tables. Once more countries are available for comparison other possible solutions can be investigated, such as 5 year intervals.

   The presentation of the tables will be limited in the cases where the number of valid respondents per cell falls below 30 units.

Analyses of GGS data

9. Dora Kostova presented the evidence from Bulgarian and Russian GGS titled "The emergence of cohabitation in transitional socio-economic context".

   For a decade and a half after the fall of the state socialist system, Bulgaria and Russia have gone through intensive societal transformations (economical, political, cultural, etc). This study aims to compare two countries with similar welfare state, political regimes and demographic development at the turning point (beginning of 1990s) and to reveal the essential factors for the recent demographic changes by linking the

macro-level changes to individual lives. Using recent data from the Bulgarian and Russian GGS (2004) the issue of family formation and the shifts in the timing and type of first union in dramatically changed socio-economic contexts are being investigated. The paper is aiming to provide an answer to the question whether the cohabitation as a union type is "institutionalised" or it is rather recognized as the final stage in a process leading to marriage. The main emphasis is put on the impact of the family background and the social environment on union formation as well as on the transformation of cohabitation into a marriage.

The results show that cohabitation existed in both countries in the pre-transitional period. In Bulgaria the changes in the beginning of the 1990's are more pronounced. An increase in the direct marriage intensities is observed in Russia for the period 1970-1989, while in Bulgaria the marital family is already losing its universality. Parental family characteristics are shown to be an important factor for spreading the cohabitation in Bulgaria. No evidence was found to support that family of orientation is an important predictor of the individual family formation behaviour in Russia. In Bulgaria low educated women have a 70% higher risk to start their first union in cohabitation (compared to those with medium education). This trend decreases in the second half of 1990's, combined with an elevated risk for the other two educational categories. In Russia cohabitation risks are 40% higher among highly educated women. This pattern remains stable over the years of transition in Russia (becoming even more pronounced).

10. Charlotte Höhn presented the study led by the Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB) on "Low fertility and policy options in Germany".

    The average desired number of children by women aged 20-49 years in Germany is the lowest in Europe. The results of the survey showed that children hardly increase joy from life and families don't enjoy special prestige, although family formation may improve partnership. Having children only marginally increases security in the later stages of life. Additionally, women's expectations towards their own employment opportunities show a decline when viewed in light of them being mothers. Men show similar expectations pertaining to employment opportunities of mothers. Potential parents fear worse financial situation, and, at the same time, children reduce free options, and more money and better time are considered options very important. Finally, the sur-

vey highlights that a better family policy is particularly attractive for one-child-families.

11. Zsolt Spéder presented the analysis of the Hungarian GGS on "Becoming a parent in a Post-Communist Society".

    Hungary is the only country that has already completed the first two waves. The presentation showed some results and underlined the importance of the subjective indicators, as the intention-fertility relation and the role of ideational factors, subjective components in explaining fertility decision. Following this concept the paper studies the realisation of birth intentions and the occurrence of non-intended births.

    The results show that around one fifth of the intention are realised and there is an advancement of births (three tenth of the births). The survey also highlights the existence of non-intended childbearing, due to failures and/or reassessment of intentions. Ideational factors, like religiosity, partnership quality and norms, have significant effects in case of both genders, however not the same. On the contrary, income has the same effect in case of both genders: slopped U shape and highest odds at the upper level.

12. Arnaud Régnier-Loilier showed the analysis of the French GGS on "Frequency of contact with parents".

    The study highlights that children tend to leave the parental home at the same age as 40 years ago on average. In this context, the factors, which influence the frequency of children/parent visits, were shown. Age when leaving home is an important variable: the earlier people leave the parental home, the less often they see their parents. Other factors include family environment during childhood (separated parents) and sib-ship (children with no siblings see their parents more often). Additionally two other elements were identified: the period in the life cycle (age) and the social category (managers and professionals see their parents less often, farmers more often). The average distance between parents and children does not explain everything: differences remain large among children living less than 30 minutes away.

Use of administrative records

13. Helge Brunborg presented a report on the development of the methodology for using administrative records as the supplement to the GGS questionnaire.

14. Norway remains the only active GGP country using registers. The countries with comprehensive administrative registers have the necessary tools to join Norway with the similar methodological approach to the GGS data collection. So far Finland has the most potential.

15. There are three essential requirements for the use of administrative data to complement a survey: existence of the unique identifier (PIN) for the total resident population; PIN included in the survey for each respondent; the availability of data sources with PIN for total population with additional variables. Register data can be introduced into the data collection design before or after the survey has been carried out. The GGS questionnaire has to be modified to adjust for the use of the register data.

16. The most sensitive issue when dealing with the register data is the concern for privacy and data protection. The use of the register data is bound to the written and signed letter of approval, where the respondent consents to be interviewed and his/her register data used in the process. The protection of personal information also arises when the data are being disseminated to the research community. Special approvals directly from Statistics Norway will have to be obtained before the access to the Norwegian GGS data could be granted.

    The information contained in the registers beyond the GGS Wave 1 questionnaire is relatively scarce. Some additional aspects, such as more detailed education data, are available, however, health topics are relatively poorly covered. Current provisions in Norway do not allow the data in registers to be updated using survey data, unlike the Netherlands where the institutions in charge of registers are requesting more and more survey data to be provided to them for the inclusion in the registers.

    Some additional questions checking the discrepancies between the register information and the social reality should be foreseen, when planning the combined register and survey GGS data collection.

Data accessibility and dissemination

17. Andrej Kveder and Raphaël Laurent presented the conceptual framework and practical implementation of data submission and dissemination procedures.

18. The main GGS data archive (GGS-DA) will be housed at INED. The GGS-DA will present the main repository for all the GGS data. However, the GGS-DA is not exclusive, and countries are encouraged to submit the GGS data to their respective national data archives. The Harmonized Data File (HDF) is the only data file format supported by the GGS-DA and other Consortium members involved in data preparation and dissemination.

19. The review process of the data applications will be simplified in order to allow better use of the data. The GGS data request application is similar to the FFS one, where the researchers requests the datasets for all the countries he/she is interested in. The review process will be in the hands of the PAU as the coordination centre. In the cases with lone researchers with weak institutional affiliation or applications bordering on the ineligibility, the assistance for review will be sought within the Consortium Board. All the names of successful applicants along with the titles of their research proposals will be published on the GGP web page. Additional information on the successful applicants will be automatically relayed to all the concerned data providers.

    The application procedure for the data from the countries using the register data will have to be adapted to the legislation of the country in question and will include the direct involvement of the data provider in the review process.

    Application is valid and the data use authorized only for the topic described in the submitted application. In an event when a researcher wants to expand or continue his/her research, the data request has to be resubmitted to the Coordination Centre.

    Collaborative projects and applications are highly encouraged. Currently there are no contingencies for matching applicants with similar applications and thus facilitating collaborative projects. However, this kind of initiative will remain among the priorities after the Data Archive has been established.

20. Different countries have different situations and schedules concerning the release of the data to the Coordination Center (CC).

    Italy immanent.

    ISTAT has signed the contract and data release of the GGS Wave 1 dataset is immanent. University Bocconi will provide assistance in harmonization process.

Bulgaria April 2007

Bulgarian dataset of the GGS Wave 1 can be released in fully harmonized form.

Russian Federation April 2007

Russian dataset of the GGS Wave 1 can be released in fully harmonized form.

Hungary April 2007 at the earliest.

The Wave 1 data have been available for 2 years. Harmonization of Hungarian GGS Wave 1 and 2 will be started in order to create more proper harmonized Hungarian GGS Wave 1 dataset.

Germany May 2007.

The data is already available on cooperation bases. Currently there are some unresolved issues regarding the translations of the documents in English.

France July 2007.

The Netherlands second half of 2007.

NKPS (Netherlands Kinship Panel study) is already available, and the correspondence with the GGP core questionnaire is being checked. Following the successful check, the harmonization will be carried out in order to include the NKPS in the GGP DA as the Dutch GGS Wave 1.

Belgium end of 2008

The preparations towards Wave 1 data collection are well under way.

Norway end 2009.

The release of the Norwegian GGS Wave 1 will be 1.5 years after the data collection is completed.

Australia no commitment with expectation for the end of 2007.

The start of harmonization process is pending the acquisition of some additional funds. The support of the Australian government for the inclusion of the Australian GGS Wave 1 data in the international data archive is very high.

Czech Republic no commitment with expectation for the beginning 2008.

The harmonization of the Czech GGS Wave 1 data has been started. Some work has already been published. In the process

of analysis some inconsistencies in the data were discovered, and affords are made to correct them. The discussion with government agencies for data release will be initiated shortly.

Poland no commitment with expectations for the beginning 2008.

Pilot Survey is available as of June 2006.

Lithuania no commitment with expectation for the beginning of 2010.

The GGS Wave 1 data collection has only recently been concluded. Due to the national legislation there are 3 years of moratorium on data submission.

Japan no commitment.

Time and personnel constraints exist for the final GGS Wave 1 data preparation.

Panel Maintenance

21. Andrej Kveder presented the draft document on Panel maintenance. The paper was accepted without any comments.

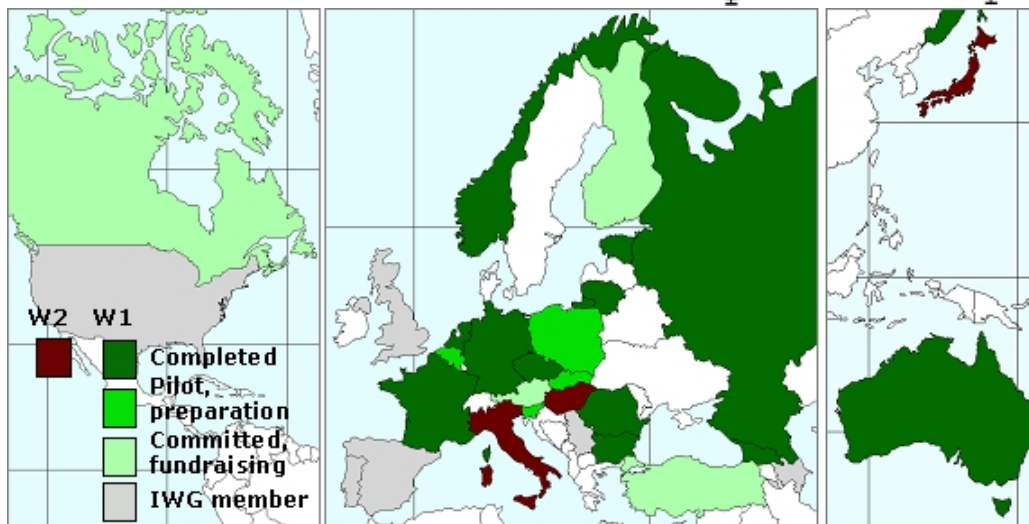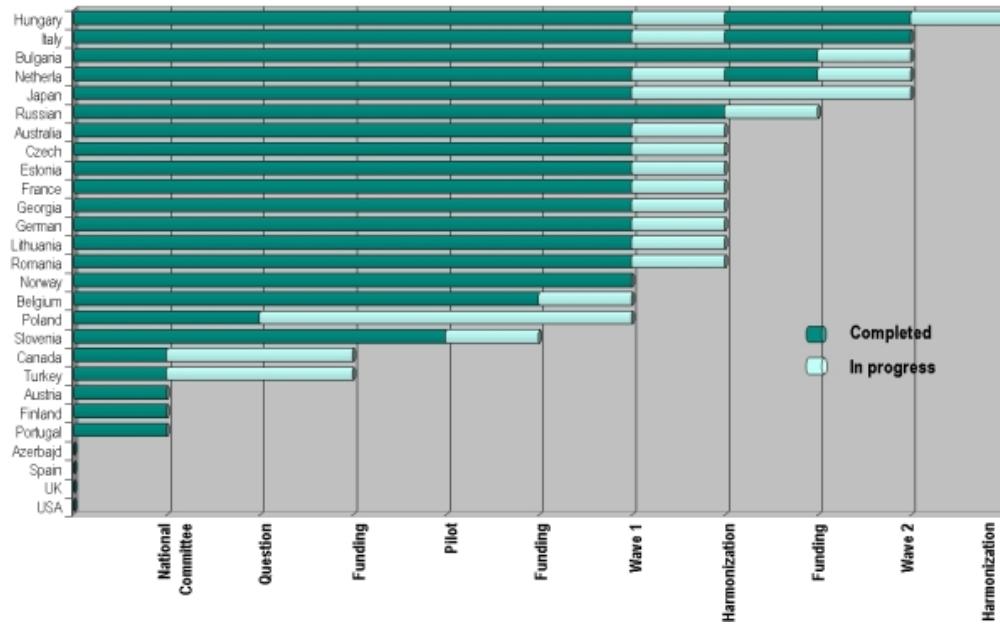# GGP Contextual Database and its national implementation

22. Martin Spielauer described the progress of the GGP Contextual Database (CDB) since the IWG meeting in Istanbul.

    The CDB is an integral part of the GGP and needs to be closely integrated with the GGS. In this process, it's important to support innovative data analysis, like contextual and multi-level analysis or comparative research, and establish a theory-based framework, following approaches developed in welfare state research.

23. Since last IWG meeting in Istanbul a number of countries have provided their data for the integration into the CDB: Russian Federation, Hungary, Canada and Romania. In many countries the data collection is ongoing, for example Lithuania has already completed 50% of the data collection, and in Norwegian CDB data gathering is also proceeding. Technical implementation of the on-line database has been finalized and is hosted on the web-servers of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research.

Country progress

24. Overview of programme implementation in January 2007.

25. Country presentations.

Belgium GGP will be carried out nation-wide in Belgium including Flemish and Walloon regions. Funding for all 3 waves was secured in September 2007. Pilot study is planned for March 2007 with the targeted $n = 100$ completed interviews. Belgian GGS Wave 1 is scheduled to take place in the period August to December 2007.

GGS Wave 1 Core questionnaire was fully implemented. Additionally the majority of the optional sub-modules were also included in the current version of the Belgian GGS Wave 1 questionnaire (housing sub-module was very limited). The use of registers in data collection is not foreseen. Data will be collected using CAPI method.

The target population is represented by residential, non-institutionalized population aged 18-79 at Wave 1. Restoration of the cross-sectional representativity is planned for Waves 2 and 3 by bottoming up the younger age groups. National register of population will be used as a sampling frame. Target sample size for Wave 1 data collection is $n = 10,000$ respondents. The sample will be stratified according to region, gender and age. The city of Brussels will be over-sampled. Final selection method has not been agreed upon as yet.

Bulgaria The Bulgarian GGS Wave 1 was completed in January 2005 on $n = 12,658$ respondents. Following the successful conclusion of the fieldwork data entry procedures were initiated using double data entry approach to minimize entry errors.

GGS data are already being used in scientific and policy oriented research in Bulgaria:

- research project "The elites in regions with mixed population (Bulgarians, Turks, Roma)"
- research project "The variety - a pledge for prosperity"
- forming an expert opinion toward project of law "Equal gender opportunities"
- scientific reports devoted to "responsible parentship", Inter-family relationships, inter-generation solidarity, place and role of the child in the modern society .

Some steps were made toward dissemination and usage of the survey. For example some blocks of GGS are used as an empirical basis at the stage of development of different research project.

The Bulgarian team started preparatory work for the Wave 2 of GGS. The preparatory work includes preparing national GGS Wave 2 questionnaire and some panel maintenance activities. Special introductory letter will be sent to potential respondents informing them of the importance of the GGS in Bulgaria, especially due to the recent demographic crisis in the country. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research is supporting these activities. The Wave 2 fieldwork is scheduled to start in April 2007. According to the current schedule it should be completed by the end of June 2007. Contact details form will be used in the Wave 2 fieldwork to collect extensive information about each contact with the potential respondent.

Czech Republic The GGP in Czech Republic was started on the July 1 2004. The pilot was carried out in December 2004 on $n = 394$ respondents. Wave 1 data collection started in February 2005 and was completed in September 2005 consisting of $n = 10,006$ respondents and securing a reported response rate of 54%.

As of to date the outputs of the Wave 1 data analysis consist of basic descriptive tables of selected questionnaire sections analysed by gender. Several papers using Czech GGS Wave 1 data were presented at the conferences and printed in the Czech scientific journals. Other publications based on more advanced analysis (event history etc.) are in the process of being finalized.

During the implementation some issues emerged as problematic for the Czech context. In this regard some important variables are considered to be missing (e.g. marital status of the respondent's partner, information about abortion) and other variables were only marginally applicable in the Czech context (e.g. detailed information about contraception, infertility treatment). Some questions were also deemed as ambiguous (e.g. If family uses more childcare services, it is unclear which child uses what kind of service and how much family pays for each type of service). Currently the Czech data set and the accompanying documentation are being translated into English.

As a part of the panel maintenance activities the respondents received a special leaflet with an acknowledgement for their participation and with the main results from the survey. With regards towards the preparations for the GGS Wave 2, Czech national committee was successful in raising the funds for the fieldwork and is engaged in the preparations for the fieldwork. The estimated

time for the GGS Wave 2 fieldwork is 2008. CAPI is intended to be used as a data collection method.

Georgia Following the pilot survey carried out in September 2004 ($n = 150$), the Georgian Centre of Population Research (GCPR) has finalized a national version of GGS Questionnaire in Georgian and Russian languages that included the GGS Wave 1 core questionnaire, additional sub-module on "Intentions of breaking up" and was additionally supplemented by 22 additional questions on completeness of death registration, abortion, religious marriage and retirement. GGS Wave 1 data collection was completed in June 2006 with $n = 10,000$ interviewed respondents. The first screening of the sample was carried out on $33,000$ households in 425 census units. This effort resulted in the starting sample of $10,000$ individuals with a reserve list of $4,000$ addresses. Final reported response rate was 85% with slightly lower in the capital (81%). The average duration of the interview was 71 minutes. Almost a third of the respondents were interviewed while other people were present. The funds for the Georgian GGS Wave 1 fieldwork were provided by INED and Georgian office of the UNFPA.

The preparation of contextual database is in progress. The main data sources for the contextual information are the Council of Europe's annual publication "Recent Demographic Developments" (RDD) and the database of Georgian Official Statistics (GOS). The work on the contextual database has been impeded by various problems such as the scarcity of information on Georgia in the RDD, discrepancies between the RDD and GOS estimations, difficult accessibility of Georgian official statistics.

Lithuania The pilot study was carried out in March 2006 on $n = 150$ respondents. The estimated average duration of the questionnaire was 139 min. The pilot study revealed that the used version of the questionnaire was too long and too complicated, with some topics not suitable for the Lithuanian context (Possessions in household and inheritance, Partners and fertility - for older people). The majority of questionnaire adaptation was done in the Section 10 of the GGS Wave 1 Core questionnaire, namely some more general question on the eagerness of respondent to answer the questions on possessions were added, while some questions were dropped (i.e. 1010-1018).

Wave 1 fieldwork was concluded in September 2006 on $n = 10,000$

interviews. The initial sample drawn was based on $n = 30,681$ addresses. The reported response rate was 34.5%. The sampling was multi stage with $1,000$ primary sampling units (PSU) selected. Random route was used as sampling method with the "last birthday method" used for within household selection.

Work on contextual database has almost been concluded (90%) and is expected to be finalized by the end of February 2007.

The Netherlands Wave 1 of the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (NKPS) was concluded in 2004 with the first public release of the data in July 2004. Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) was used as data collection method greatly facilitating random selection of family members, postal code and occupational classification coding.

Wave 2 of the NKPS was started in the autumn 2006 and the data release is expected in late summer or autumn 2007. Multimode data collection will be used. CAPI interviewing will be combined with the Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI). Wave 1 information was incorporated in the Wave 2 versions of the questionnaire.

Norway Norwegian GGP joined an already existing panel survey NorLAG and at the same time expanding the sample and scope of the newly born project "Life Course, Generation and Gender" - LOGG. The original NorLAG sample was expanded to national representative sample of Norwegian population aged 18-79 of $n = 26,000$ individuals, out of which $n = 6,000$ are respondents to the NorLAG survey. Introductory letter will be sent to all the potential respondents which includes the written consent form to be interviewed as well as for the use of the register data. Data collection will be multimode including Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CAPI) and self-administered paper or web based questionnaires. Administrative records will already be used in the preparatory stages and certain information included in the questionnaires. The majority of the register information will be added to the finalized survey dataset. The fieldwork for the Wave 1 is expected to be concluded in March 2008.

The GGS Wave 1 Core questionnaire was modified to the Nordic context. Based on the initial self-assessment 84% of the GGS questions are covered out of which 16% will be provided from the registers. The most substantial reductions of the questionnaire were within the topics covering living apart together (LAT) part-

nerships, however there additional questions were added to the cohabitation part. The most substantial addition of questions was introduced from the NorLAG questionnaire covering work and retirement; family and intergenerational relationships; coping, mental health and quality of life; and health, disability and long-term care. Among others LOGG is using a set of standardized measurement instruments such as: 12 item scale on functional health; full 20 item scale on depression scale; 20 item scale and five factor model on personality (capturing: extraversion, neuroticism, conscientiousness, openness to experience, and agreeableness); 27 item scale on psychological well-being; and 22 item scale on values.

Concerning the contextual database, collection of statistical variables is almost complete, while qualitative variables are expected to be completed before summer 2007.

Poland The GGS Wave 1 pilot study was completed in June 2006 on n=40 respondents out of the selected $n = 100$. The duration of the interview varied between 1.5 to 2 hours. Based on the experience of the panel the national implementation of the questionnaire had to be reduced by approximately 25%. The modifications include changes in the partnership section, omitting information on stepchildren, fecundity and partner's income and activity. Some questions on dwelling conditions and preference theory in the values section were added. The Polish GGS Wave 1 questionnaire is split in two parts: the household part and the individual part.

The sample for the Wave 1 will be selected in two stages. Statistical regions will be sampled at the first stage, and dwellings selected at the second one ($n = 20,000$). All households within the selected dwelling will be interviewed using the household part of the questionnaire. One respondent will be chosen within each household for the individual interview (using the "last birthday method"). The expected response rate based on previous experience is estimated at 80%.

Pending the successful resolution of the financial issues, data of the Polish GGS Wave 1 will be available for public use at the end of 2007 (or at the beginning 2008). However, due to the current unfavourable situation no clear time commitments can be made.

Romania The pilot for the GGS Wave 1 was carried out in November 2004 on the starting nation-wide sample of $n = 424$ individuals. GGS Wave 2 data collection was successfully concluded in December 2005 on $n = 11,986$ respondents. Sampling was multi-stage

with 420 out of 780 research centres constituting PSU's. Within the selected PSU's $n = 12,600$ dwellings were selected into the main sample and additional $n = 1,680$ dwellings were selected for the reserve sample. Kish method was used for in household selection. Average duration of the interview was between 90 and 100 minutes.

The national GGS Wave 1 questionnaire consisted of two parts: the household part and the individual part.

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research provided important technical and financial support. Additional financial support was provided by the UNFPA Romania.

Future developments

26. Andres Vikat presented future developments of the GGP. The main challenge for the coming period 2007-2008 is the transition from data collection to analysis and policy discussion. One of the steps towards this goal is the organization of the conference on "Causes and Consequences of Demographic Change: Policy-Relevant Insights from the Generations and Gender Programme" in Geneva 14-16 May 2008.

    Among the presented possible topics some additional may be:

    - Urban rural dichotomy
    - Partnerships, family formation, what is the family, step families
    - The relation of the postponement of life events and the ageing events.
    - Special topics on central and eastern Europe.
    - Poverty
    - Effect of population policies on fertility and family formation.

Summary and conclusions

27. GGS Wave 1 Standard Tables currently represent the only standardized output from the GGP. All the standard tables will be produced centrally to ensure the highest possible level of standardization. Finalized tables will be published on the GGP home page, pending final clearance from the respective national coordinators.

28. The main GGS data archive will be hosted at INED. GGS harmonized data file is the only format supported by the archive. The data archive should be officially launched in the autumn 2007 and should contain at least 7 GGS Wave 1 data files (Italy, Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Hungary, Germany, France and the Netherlands).

29. GGS data archive at INED represents the central data repository for the GGS data. However, any collaboration with bigger European data archives as well as national data archives is considered highly beneficial.

30. Standardized technical report should become part of the meta-documentation held at the GGS data archive. PAU will prepare the template for such a report.

31. The review process for data requests will be simplified and in handled by the staff of the PAU. In disputable cases Consortium Board will be consulted. All the successful applicants and the titles of their proposed research will be posted on the GGP home page. Data providers will be additionally informed of all the applications for their respective data sets.

32. GGS Wave 1 data sets submitted to the GGS data archive should be complimented with the submission to the CDB. Data to the CDB can be submitted in batches and does not have to be finalized.

33. Conference on "Causes and Consequences of Demographic Change: Policy-Relevant Insights from the Generations and Gender Programme" will be organized in Geneva 14-16 May 2008.

Next IWG meeting

34. The next IWG meeting will be organized in Geneva by the PAU and is scheduled for the 13 May 2008.