

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Generations & Gender Programme

Concepts and Guidelines



UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 2007

NOTE

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This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union.

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UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION

Sales No. E.08.II.E.6

ISBN: 978-92-1-116985-0

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Printed at United Nations, Geneva (Switzerland)

PREFACE

Current demographic developments in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) have important and far-reaching implications across all spheres of society, affecting economic development, social cohesion, sustainability and equity, and posing key challenges to public policies. It is therefore indispensable to improve the ability to understand and explain the causes and consequences of demographic developments in a manner that would allow working out sustainable responses to the policy challenges. The vital role of research in developing effective policies and programmes on population has been brought forward in the Programme of Action of the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) and was again emphasized in the Declaration, “A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities”, adopted by UNECE member States at the recent León Ministerial Conference on Ageing (2007).

At the International Meeting on Generations & Gender (Geneva, 2000), member States invited the UNECE secretariat to organize another round of region-wide data collection and research on population issues, building on the successful experience with such cooperation programmes in the 1980s and the 1990s. The meeting discussed four conceptual papers on research and data collection pertaining to children and adolescents, working-age adults, older persons, and intergenerational relationships, respectively (United Nations, 2000). Together, these conceptual papers mapped the field for developing the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), which is now becoming a compelling source for policy-relevant research on population issues in the UNECE region. The Programme comprises: (a) a survey covering a broad range of influences on demographic behaviour; (b) a related contextual database of national and regional trends and policies on these issues; and (c) analyses of these data.

The articles in this volume present the conceptual framework and content of the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) and the Contextual Database of the GGP, and provide guidelines for the survey fieldwork and maintaining the panel sample. This volume follows the footsteps of two earlier UNECE publications on the GGP: one including the four initiating papers (United Nations, 2000), and the other including the survey instruments (United Nations, 2005).

Over the years, the coordination of the GGP has been supported by several institutions and funding agencies. UNECE wishes to acknowledge the support from the United Nations Population Fund from 2000 to 2004, and that from the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission in 2007 and 2008.

UNECE is grateful to the authors of the three contributions to this volume. Written primarily for those who are implementing the GGP and for its data users, it is expected that these contributions will also be of interest to a wider audience interested in population matters and international comparative surveys.



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