



Generations &
Gender Programme



Report

11th Meeting of the Generations and Gender Programme Council of Partners UNECE International Working Group

Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest, Hungary

25 June 2014



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Participation

Focal points representing 23 GGP countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom) attended the meeting. Together with representatives of UNECE, the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) / Population Europe, the meeting had a total of 37 participants (see list of participants: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=34549>).

1. Opening

The meeting took place ahead of the European Population Conference (EPC2014) which was opened following the meeting, in the evening of 25 June 2014. The meeting of the Council of Partners was chaired by Irena Kotowska (Warsaw School of Economics, Poland), the chair of the Council of Partners. She welcomed participants and introduced the agenda, asking if there were any additional requests regarding the agenda. The agenda was approved as circulated ahead of the meeting without further amendments. The report of the 11th meeting of the Council of Partners (26 October 2013 in Milan) was adopted. It is available online: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32353>.

2. GGP: progress made and plans for the future

Both NIDI and UNECE provided updates about developments since the last meeting. New data have become available, including for Japan and the Czech Republic (wave 1) as well as for Australia, Lithuania and Hungary (wave 2). More data will be forthcoming, including from Sweden (wave 1), Austria, the Czech Republic, Italy and the Russian Federation (wave 2), as well as from Australia, France, Hungary, Netherlands and the Russian Federation (wave 3).

The two-tier application process continues to be in place as before. Belgium has now joined the lighter application procedure whereby only one form needs to be signed (instead of three) which can be sent electronically (rather than submitting signed originals via mail). The application procedure where 3 signed forms need to be submitted as originals continue to apply for data from Australia and Norway.

A new booklet "Changing families, complex lives" was developed presenting key findings generated with the help of GGP data. Other dissemination activities included several issues of GGP at a Glance, the GGP Research Note, the website, and news items on Twitter.

The Bibliography of papers using GGP data has now been integrated directly into the website. Data users who wish to submit details of their publications using GGP data can now directly enter bibliographic data into an online database which will then be submitted for approval by GGP coordinators. The database already holds around 950 entries.

Several envisaged activities to secure future funding for the GGP Programme were discussed, including in the Horizon 2020 framework and under ESFRI. All countries participating in the GGP Programme are encouraged to inform NIDI if they are part of a national Road Map. For the Netherlands and Norway this is already the case. All countries are encouraged to try integrating into such Road Maps.

Generally, countries are reluctant to finance new GGP surveys because the survey is expensive and public funding has become scarcer in many countries due to the general economic situation. Especially for smaller countries, requirements by EUROSTAT represent a significant work load and they are prioritized over voluntary activities such as GGP. In most cases Generation and Gender Surveys were financed as stand-alone research projects with the need to fundraise separately for each wave which is not sustainable. It was discussed if the GGP could become an integrated part, for example to EUROSTAT, but even then, it might be too big an undertaking for some countries. Another option might be to have seed money for new surveys with the requirement for countries to raise the remainder.

It was suggested to explore integrating the Family and Fertility Survey (FFS) into the GGP website, to facilitate the application procedure. UNECE, with the help of the members of the Council of Partners, will contact the signatories of original data agreements to seek their endorsement.

3. The GGP data archive/NESSTAR on-line access

Arianna Caporali (INED) presented about new developments of the GGP data archive and NESSTAR system. It is a software system that enables to search, browse and visualize GGS data and metadata, without the user having to apply for the micro-data. Basic data analysis (e.g. tabulations and regressions) can be performed.

Recently, new first wave data for Poland and Czech Republic were added to the database, bringing the number of countries with available first waves in NESSTAR to 17. Second wave data sets were added for Australia, Lithuania and Hungary, bringing the number of countries with available second wave data in NESSTAR to 8. The system now also allows comparing data across countries as well as merging data from first and second waves for each country. The online data analysis tool is available at: <http://www.ggp-i.org/online-data-analysis.html>

4. The Contextual Database

Daniela Vono de Vilhena (MPIDR/Population Europe), with support from Arianna Caporali (INED), presented on the Contextual Data Base (CDB). The CDB provides cross-country comparative data on demographic, social, and economic trends as well as policy developments for the countries that carried out the GGS. It provides 95 cross-country comparative indicators for up to 60 countries as well as metadata for each indicator and data entry. It also provides 12 national “Contextual Data Collections” provided by GGP partners (not necessarily comparable across countries). Data sources of the CDB are databases of international organisations, research institutions and statistical offices of GGP countries

The funded project to maintain the CDB ended in 2012. In future, tasks will be divided between INED and MPIDR/Population Europe. Technical support for the increase and update of national data collection and the update and revision of existing harmonized indicators and geo-coding will be led by INED. The extension of the CDB with additional data and policy indicators will be done jointly by MPIDR/Population Europe and INED while MPIDR/Population Europe will work to improve the web-interface and management.

5. Country progress reports

Countries were invited to update participants about recent developments.

Austria

Norbert Neuwirth reported that Austria had started to lobby for a GGS as early as 2001. The survey was finally carried out in 2008/2009. They could not afford to run a full sample of 10,000 respondents, so the sample size was reduced to 5,000. The age bounds were limited to 18 – 45 years (fertile cohorts). The harmonized data were published in September 2010. The budget for an extended core questionnaire for wave 2 was confirmed in May 2011. Wave 2 was surveyed from October 2012 to May 2013, making the panel interval 4 years. A refresher sample of young respondents aged 18 – 22 years was included. Two higher age cohorts of female respondents had to be filled up by additional refreshers as their panel mortality was too high. Wave 2 is expected to be available online in September 2014. Meanwhile, first results have been published in a brochure: www.ggp-austria.at. The Austrian contribution to the GGP-Contextual Database is expected by October 2014.

Czech Republic

Jitka Rychtarikova reminded that four institutes were collaborating for the Czech GGS, namely the Charles University in Prague, the Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, SC&C Market Research and the Czech Statistical Office. Harmonized data were

released ahead of the meeting. Wave 1 data collection took place in 2005, covering 10,006 cases with a response rate of 54%. More information is available at: www.czech-ggs.cz.

France

Arianna Caporali presented progress of the French GGP. Three waves were conducted at intervals of 3 years. Wave 1 (2005) had 10,079 respondents, wave 2 (2008) had 6,534 respondents and wave 3 (2011) had 5,781 of which 348 were non-respondents at wave 2). Between wave 1 and 3 the attrition was 43%. Harmonized data of wave 1 and 2 are available online. It is expected that harmonization of wave 3 will begin before the end of the year, so that data can be available online in 2015.

Italy

Romina Fraboni reminded that wave 1 has been available online for some time. Wave 2 needs to be harmonized which is foreseen in the near future.

Japan

Nobutaka Fukuda shared the news that data for wave 1 have recently become available online. Data of the CDB can also be accessed online (including quantitative data only). Waves 2 and 3 have been pre-harmonized. Wave 4 will be prepared for submission in the near future. Additional funds for the Japanese GGS still have to be secured.

Netherlands

Pearl Dykstra reported about the cooperation with the Central Bureau of Statistics which will allow linking the GGP with registry data. The fourth wave of the kinship panel has recently gone to the field. All data is collected through the web. There have been already more than 1,000 respondents. The next step will be to send out reminders. Telephone interviews might be conducted with those unable to fill in the questionnaire online. There will be a new GGS among Polish migrants living in the Netherlands. This part will probably go to the field in September 2014.

Norway

Thomas Hansen announced a new wave of Norwegian GGS that is forthcoming. This would make the interval with the first wave eight years long. Funding could be obtained for an age range 50 years and above, possibly 40 years and above. The project will be part of the active ageing project of the Norwegian Research Council. Organisers will try to raise additional funds. Preparations will start after the summer, data collection will probably take place in 2016.

Poland

Irena Kotowska announced that after successful completion of the first wave, Poland is starting the field work for wave 2 in mid-August 2014. In the new wave, additional

questions will be asked about migration experiences. The central statistical offices have kindly agreed to support implementation of the wave by providing interviewers and infrastructure.

Romania

Cornelia Muresan informed that wave 1 was implemented in 2005 with funding support from UNFPA and MPIDR and proved to be a unique data source. Since the accession of Romania to the EU in 2007 it has only been possible to obtain funding for data collection mandated by EUROSTAT. There has been some recent interest to continue GGS data collection, but the question remains how useful it will be to continue after such a large interval.

Russian Federation

Sergei Zakharov referred to the 3 waves conducted in the Russian Federation. Only few of the respondents participated in all waves. In addition to wave 1 which is already available online, it was decided to share data of wave 2 and 3 with the international public. No funds are available to implement new waves.

Sweden

Elizabeth Thomson presented information about progress implementing the Swedish GGS. The survey was carried out with the help of funds received from the Swedish Research Council and a private foundation, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond. Management, documentation and preparation of a file for dissemination will be supported through the Linnaeus Center for Social Policy and Family Dynamics for which support was recently renewed through 2018. Data collection took place between April 2012 and March 2013. Information obtained with the help of the survey was combined with registry information. In addition, a questionnaire was disseminated via postal mail. The interview response rate was 54% and the postal response rate, conditioned on completing the telephone interview, was 65%. The questionnaires and registry data combined matched the GGS core questionnaire 98%.

Sweden will produce a file that will be made available to NIDI for dissemination. Some items considered too sensitive, (e.g. regarding spouses' health) will not be included but could be used in collaborations with Swedish scholars.

The permission has been obtained to match information from all relevant registers up to 10 years afterwards, in particular for the following items: birth, cohabitation, marriage and divorce, annual income from different sources and education. Historical data are already available.

Currently, no efforts are being made to fundraise for a wave 2 interview or postal questionnaire; registry data will provide a limited amount of wave 2 and wave 3 information.

6. Summary and conclusions

The Chair, together with colleagues from NIDI and UNECE, thanked participants and summarized the discussion of the meeting. They also thanked the Hungarian colleagues, organizers of the 2014 European Population Conference, for the possibility to host the meeting on the side of the Conference.

The date and time of the next meeting was not decided. UNECE and NIDI will discuss possibilities to organize the next Council of Partner meeting in conjunction with another event that many GGP partners will attend. Members of the Council of Partners will be informed in due course.