

The Generations and Gender Preparatory Phase proposal

– Executive summary

Objectives

The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) is an interdisciplinary research infrastructure on population and family dynamics. It collects, processes and disseminates cross-nationally comparable longitudinal data on young adults, families, generational exchanges, and the life courses of women and men. In turn, these data help address key scientific and societal questions related to demographic changes. This includes questions such as: Why do people have fewer children than they intend to? Why do women continue to be penalized in their career when having children? How complex have become today's families and what are the best policies to support them? According to the 2021 EU Strategic Foresight Report, demographic shifts are one of the mega-trends affecting the future and sustainability of societies. The GGP therefore responds to large needs for solid data on the life trajectories of individuals, on families, gender roles, and relationships between generations.

During the past twenty years the GGP has transitioned from a network of scientists to an integrated research infrastructure. This has involved the strengthening of its Central Hub located in the Netherlands, the centralization of its data collection and processing operations, the signature of its first Consortium Agreement in 2020, and its entry on the ESFRI Roadmap in 2021. The next step for the GGP is to establish itself as a permanent research infrastructure with its own legal entity (ERIC: the European Research Infrastructure Consortium). To prepare for this next step, **the aim of the GGP-5D project is to enhance the long-term sustainability and the overall 'investment-readiness' of the GGP.** Specifically, this means bringing the GGP to a stage at which governmental stakeholders will be willing to commit and invest into. To do so, the GGP-5D project will pursue five main objectives, each of them tapping into five specific dimensions of readiness.

Objective 1: To enhance the technical excellence of the GGP. The GGP's collection currently includes individual-level data from around 500,000 people from 33 countries. These datasets are fully documented, open access and can be downloaded by registered Users from a single data portal (accessible from the GGP website). To further enhance the technical excellence of the RI, the GGP-5D will (1) increase the degree of compliance to the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Inter-operable, Recyclable) guidelines, (2) improve the services to users and national teams involved in the data collection, especially regarding the GGP's recent introduction of mixed mode of data collection (i.e. interview-based and web-based), and (3) revise the final technical design to better respond to sudden challenges (e.g. Covid pandemic) and the integration of non-survey data (e.g. register and administrative).

Objective 2: To enhance the scientific and socio-economic impact of the GGP and the engagement of stakeholders: The GGP already counts more than 5000 scientific users and the GGP data are regularly used to provide empirical evidence in policy debates on topics such as gender equality and work-life balance. To further enhance this impact and further evolve as a community-driven RI, the GGP-5D will (1) revise its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and better document its impact in the policy domain, (2) systematically involve existing and new scientific stakeholders in the development of the GGS (Generations and Gender Survey), and (3) create a new Dialogue Forum to facilitate the engagement and collaboration of scientific, governmental and societal stakeholders. This joint engagement will be essential to make sure that the GGP remains sensitive and responsive to current and emerging scientific and societal challenges.

Objective 3: To enhance the financial sustainability of the GGP: The GGP is currently financed through the annual contribution of its Consortium members and the host institution

(the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute), the service fees related to the collection and processing of the GGS, and projects' grants. To enhance the financial sustainability of the GGP, more sustainable solutions are needed. To do so, the GGP-5D will (1) revise the Cost book and Business Plan, and (2) expand the revenue portfolio of the GGP including an assessment of the suitability of European instruments and other sources of funding at the national and international levels. This will also involve discussion with governmental representatives in each country for the identification of structural sources of funding.

Objective 4: To develop the legal frameworks for the ERIC: The GGP Consortium Board has evaluated in recent years the options for a future legal entity and concluded that the ERIC was best suited. The next step will be to develop and adopt the right frameworks, policies and procedures for the GGP-ERIC. This will involve (1) drafting the ERIC statutes, (2) preparing the whole ERIC Step-1 submission package (explained in the next section), (3) preparing the MoU (Memo of Understanding) which will specify the commitment of the governmental stakeholders regarding the future GGP-ERIC, and (4) developing and adopting agreements with the host institution (including human resources management). This objective is crucial for the full implementation of the GGP. To reach this objective, the GGP-5D consortium will work closely with the new Board of Governmental Representatives which will be composed of delegates from each of the GGP participating countries. The mandate of this Board will be to help review the investment-readiness of the GGP. At the end of the project, they will be the ones taking the decision regarding the involvement of their country in the future GGP-ERIC.

Objective 5: To consolidate the strategic position of the GGP in the landscape of RIs: The GGP occupies a specific position in the landscape of social sciences RIs through its focus on population and family dynamics. It is thus complementary to Guide (with its focus on Children), SHARE-ERIC (with its focus on older adults) and ESS-ERIC (with its focus on values and attitudes). In order to strengthen the strategic position of the GGP, the GGP-5D partners will (1) increase the collaboration with the other social science RIs to share methodological insights, identify common cost reduction strategies, and assess and formulate plans for common inclusion on national roadmaps, and (2) develop strategies for enlarged membership of the future GGP-ERIC, including countries that have participated in the past in the GGP but not in recent years, and those that have never participated.

The GGP-5D Consortium

In order to successfully carry out the proposed project, GGP-5D comprises fifteen partners. This includes fourteen partners which are already actively involved in the GGP as well as CESSDA-ERIC which will help strengthen the technical work in WP1 and will provide knowledge and advice in the other WPs regarding the ERIC requirements and contribution to the Open Science. Together these fifteen partners come from fourteen European countries: AT, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, NL, NO, PL, SE. These will be the priority countries in forming the Board of Governmental Representatives (in WP6) and in seeking their commitment towards the future GGP-ERIC.

Together these partners bring to the Consortium:

- **Multi-disciplinarity:** All partners work in the broad field of population studies, but which itself encompasses scientists from various disciplines. This includes demography (NIDI, INED, BiB, OEAW), economics (UB, Zagreb, SGH), sociology (Stockholm), and statistics (DRI, StatNor).
- **Active engagement with the GGP:** All partners (except CESSDA-ERIC) are currently part of the GGP Consortium and/or have secured a Letter of Support from their country for the GGP ESFRI Roadmap application.
- **Experience in data collection and fund-raising:** All partners have been involved in data collection and all have experienced in fund-raising and participation in European projects.

- **Training of the next generations:** All partners are involved in training activities including in working with PhD students and early career researchers.
- **Geographical diversity:** together the partners cover the different regions of Europe (Eastern, Southern, and Western Europe). This is important as these regions vary largely in terms of funding opportunities and participation in large infrastructures.
- **Gender:** each partner in GGP-5D will be represented by two people in the Consortium meetings. Among those, there will be a 50-50 gender ratio. All these fifteen partners will be involved in the overall assessment of the progress of GGP-5D (in WP7) and will play an important role in WP6 (partnership).

The project is expected to run from October 2022 to September 2026 (budget = 3 million euro)

List of partners:

1. KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN - KNAW (Netherlands)
2. INSTITUT NATIONAL D'ETUDES DEMOGRAPHIQUES (France)
3. SZKOLA GLOWNA HANDLOWA W WARSZAWIE (Poland)
4. BUNDESINSTITUT FUR BEVOLKERUNGSFORSCHUNG (Germany)
5. KOZPONTI STATISZTIKAI HIVATAL NEPESEGTUDOMANYI KUTATO INTEZT (Hungary)
6. UNIVERSITA COMMERCIALE LUIGI BOCCONI (Italy)
7. OESTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN (Austria)
8. SVEUCILISTE U ZAGREBU EKONOMSKI FAKULTET (Croatia)
9. Masarykova univerzita (Czechia)
10. TALLINN UNIVERSITY (Estonia)
11. VYTAUTO DIDZIOJO UNIVERSITETAS (Lithuania)
12. STATISTISK SENTRALBYRAA (Norway)
13. AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS (Spain)
14. STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET (Sweden)
15. CESSDA ERIC (Norway)