



multilinks

Report of the final Multilinks policy conference (deliverable D7.3)

The **final policy conference** of the EC-funded Multilinks research project *How demographic changes shape intergenerational solidarity, well-being, and social integration: A multilinks framework* (Grant agreement no. 217523, Seventh Framework Programme SSH-2007-3.1.1) was held at the Inntel Hotel in Rotterdam, February 10, 2011, and organized in cooperation with the Erasmus University Rotterdam.



The purpose of the conference was to present key findings from the Multilinks program to an audience of policy makers, to receive feedback from policy makers, and to discuss ways in which findings from the Multilinks program might be implemented in policy.

The program of the final conference is enclosed, as is the list of participants.

Examples of insights arising during the discussion were:

- It makes good sense to consider early stages of families and later stages of families together. Too often, issues on young families and issues on old families end up in different corners of policy agendas. Their joint consideration offers new insights. Examples are: grandparents leaving the labour force to care for grandchildren (implying expensive childcare), private pensions being redistributed in families to help needy young adults (more efficient policies are imaginable).
- The 2012 European Year combines active ageing and intergenerational solidarity. Intergenerational solidarity is too often conceived in terms of the young providing for the old (at the society level, and in families). Multilinks provides the insight that older adults provide care to their children and grandchildren up to advanced ages. Older adults do not become net beneficiaries of assistance and help until they are quite old (i.e. beyond the age of 70). Multilinks also provides the insight that active ageing is not only about participating in the labour force or performing volunteer work. Active ageing also entails providing care to grandchildren and children of school-age.

- EU-SILC, the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, which is anchored in the European Statistical System (ESS), is not always useful for the kinds of analyses that are relevant to Multilinks. For example, items in EU-SILC on childcare refer to both publicly provided and commercial daycare. The two cannot be separated, which is nevertheless essential to answer questions such as: What is the state doing with regard to childcare? What guarantees are there regarding the quality of commercial daycare? How can costs be regulated? Unfortunately EU-SILC is being used to monitor the Barcelona targets. To do that properly, there should be information on public care only, not on a mix of public and commercial childcare. Another example pertains to the inability to differentiate unemployment from inactivity in EU-SILC. This difference is essential for analyses of the effects of care leaves.
- The Lisbon strategy has mixed messages. It calls for raising the retirement age, and increasing the labour force participation of women. But what about the provision of informal care to frail elderly and to small children. How can that be organized?
- The three patterns regarding the division of financial and caring responsibilities between the state and families, as formulated by Saraceno and Keck, are helpful to policy makers because they bring into question the extent to which governments support intergenerational autonomy and/or encourage intergenerational dependency. The three patterns are: *familialism by default* (no or few publicly provided alternatives to family care and/or financial support, *supported familialism* (policies support families in keeping up their financial and caring responsibilities (e.g. paid leaves, child benefits, cash for care payments), and *defamilialisation*: care and financial needs are partly answered through public provision (e.g. services, pensions).
- Age segregation is institutionalized in our societies. There are few contexts where young and old meet and engage in activities together. Greater effort should go into evaluating programs aimed at bringing the generations together. Debates on ageing societies tend to focus on older adults. “Neglected” children miss out on security, cultural capital, financial capital, and social capital.
- The extension of working life requires creative policies, such as: flexible retirement ages, prizes for organizations that succeed in keeping older workers, jobs that match the skills and interests of older workers, entitlement to pension based on work record instead of retirement age, and job rotation to avoid burnout.

Pearl Dykstra, March 10, 2011



multilinks



International One-day Policy Conference

Generational Interdependencies

Thursday, February 10th, 2011
Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Keynote and plenary speakers include:

Pearl Dykstra, Professor of Sociology (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
Chiara Saraceno, Professor of Social Policy (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für
Sozialforschung)
Jan van Bavel, Professor of Demography (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Conference Chair: Luule Sakkeus, Professor of Demography (Estonian Interuniversity
Population Research Centre, Tallinn)

Conference Program:

- 09:00 Registration and Coffee
- 09:30 Welcome by the conference chair, Luule Sakkeus
- 09:45 Pearl Dykstra: “Key Findings from the MULTILINKS Research Program”
- 10:15 Chiara Saraceno: “Intergenerational Policy Approaches for Gender and Social Inequality”
- 10:45 Discussant: Agnieszka Chlón-Dominczak, Warsaw School of Economics
- 11:00 Break for refreshments
- 11:30 Jan van Bavel: “Cross-national Differences in Grandparental Care and Mothers’ Work”
- 12:00 Discussant: Julius Op de Beke, European Commission, Brussels
- 12:15 General Discussion

- 13:00 Lunch

- 14:15 Opening of afternoon session
- 14:30 Roundtable discussion “Young and Old in Aging Societies” led by Gunhild Hagestad, Norwegian Social Research, Oslo
- 15:15 Break for refreshments

15:45 Roundtable discussion “The Pension Age: Reconciling the Views of Employees, Employers and Government” led by Joop Schippers, Utrecht University

16:30 Closing of the conference

18:00 Conference dinner (Wereldmuseum)

Conference Information

The international policy-conference “Generational interdependencies” on Thursday February 10, 2011 marks the end of the research project MULTILINKS, which was funded through the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme. The full title of the research project is: “How demographic changes shape intergenerational solidarity, well-being, and social integration: A multilinks framework”.

MULTILINKS started from three key premises. The first is that population ageing is not only about older persons: it affects people of all ages. The second key premise is that there are critical interdependencies between family generations and between men and women in families, which are built and reinforced by social policies. A third key premise is that to understand generational interdependencies, a spectrum of levels must be distinguished: country, historical generation, family, and the individual.

The morning session includes three key notes. Pearl Dykstra, the coordinator of MULTILINKS will provide a general overview of the project’s accomplishments, including a database of intergenerational policy indicators. Chiara Saraceno will reflect upon the implications of different intergenerational policy approaches for gender and social inequality. Jan van Bavel will reveal new insights gained from applying the developed policy indicators in a cross-national comparative study on grandparental care.

The afternoon session is devoted to roundtables on current policy challenges. These include:

- The Pension Age: Reconciling the Views of Employees, Employers and Government
- Young and Old in Aging Societies

The roundtable sessions will start with a brief introduction by the roundtable chair, followed by 30 minutes of discussion in small groups and a final 10 minutes of plenary discussion.

Targeted audience:

- policy-makers and decision-makers at the national and European levels



Participants at the Policy Conference on Generational Interdependencies, Rotterdam, February 10, 2011

Participants

Organisation

Prof.	Arnstein	Aassve	Bocconi University
	Anita	Abramowska-Kmon	Warsaw School of Economics
Prof.	Sara	Arber	University of Surrey
	Bruno	Arpino	Bocconi University
Prof.	Piotr	Bledowski	Warsaw School of Economics
Dr.	Valeria	Bordone	Bocconi University
	Agnieszka	Chłoń-Domińczak	Warsaw School of Economics
	Silvia	Conduto de Sousa	Minho University
Drs.	Fred	Deven	Knowledgecentre WVG
Prof.dr.	Pearl	Dykstra	Erasmus Univeristy Rotterdam
	Thomas	Emery	University of Edinburgh
	Maria	Fleischmann	Erasmus Univeristy Rotterdam
Dr.	Tineke	Fokkema	Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
Prof.	Frank	Furstenberg	University of Pennsylvania
Prof.dr.	Jenny	Gierveld	Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
Msc.	René	Groot Koerkamp	Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
Prof.	Gunhild	Hagestad	Norwegian Social Research (NOVA)
	Katharina	Herlofson	Norwegian Social Research (NOVA)
	Leen	Heylen	University of Antwerp
	Eleonora	Hostasch	European Commission
	Wolfgang	Keck	Social Science Centre Berlin (WZB)
Prof.	Aafke	Komter	Utrecht University
Prof.	Irena Elzbieta	Kotowska	Warsaw School of Economics
Mr.drs.	Jaap	Lammers	Rabobank Netherland
Prof.dr.	Aart	Liefbroer	Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
Msc.	Xander	Lub	Tilburg University
Drs.	Kris	Luijsterburg	City of Rotterdam
Drs.	Anne	Mattila	Erasmus Univeristy Rotterdam
Prof.dr.	Dimitri	Mortelmans	University of Antwerp
	Julius	Op de Beke	European Commission
Drs.	Marja	Pijl	ANBO/AGE-Platform Europe and Eurocarers

Dr.	Allan	Puur	Tallinn University
Drs.	Judith	Raven	Erasmus Univeristy Rotterdam
Mr.	Eloi	Ribe	King's College London
Prof.	J.P.	Roos	University of Oxford, University of Helsinki
Dr.	Luule	Sakkeus	Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre
Prof.	Chiara	Saraceno	Social Science Centre Berlin (WZB)
	Niels	Schenk	Erasmus Univeristy Rotterdam
Prof.	Joop	Schippers	University of Utrecht
	Britt	Slagsvold	Norwegian Social Research (NOVA)
Prof.	Jan	van Bavel	Free University Brussels
Dr.	Anne	van Putten	Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
Dr.	Mara	Yerkes	Erasmus Univeristy Rotterdam