

Bocconi



multilinks

Report of the Multilinks fourth progress meeting (Deliverable D8.2) and the third meeting with the Scientific Advisory Board (deliverable D8.3)

The fourth progress meeting of the EC-funded Multilinks project was held at the Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics, at Bocconi University in Milan, on March 25-26, 2010.

The purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss the most recent scientific papers resulting from the Multilinks collaboration, and to evaluate the project's achievements and to discuss further research plans.

The list of participants, including the members of the Scientific Advisory Board who attended the meeting, is enclosed.

See the enclosed programme, for the list of presentations.

Recurring themes were:

- Care should be taken not to transport western hypotheses to eastern Europe.
- Family theory should not be neglected. Much has been written about the differences in family systems between East and West.
- It is essential to explicitly consider gender in virtually every paper.
- There is a need for information on non-response in and data quality of the Generations and Gender Surveys (GGS). (Pearl Dykstra will address this issue with the coordinator of the Seventh Framework Infrastructure Programme for the GGS.)

Feedback provided by the members of the Scientific Advisory Board:

- The availability of data from eastern European countries is a great asset of the GGS. Nevertheless it is important to address the concerns about the quality of the data
- The indicators database is a wonderful tool for researchers. Its value will increase enormously if means are obtained to update it.
- As a general publication strategy: hit as wide a range of journals as possible. Try also to first publish papers as Working Papers. A collection of papers as a special issue is also worth pursuing.

- Descriptive findings are useful to policy makers. Do not underestimate their value.
- Include basic background information (demographics, economic circumstances, etc) on the various countries included in the analyses.
- Number the Policy Briefs. At present they appear indistinguishable.

Further research plans:

- Pearl Dykstra will explore the possibilities of publishing a collection of papers in *Demographic Research*, *Advances in Life Course Research*, or *Aging & Society*.
- Remaining publications will address the three central questions of Work Package 6:
 - (1) What level of context seems most powerful in shaping inequalities in intergenerational solidarity, well-being, and social integration?
 - (2) Under which policy frameworks do intergenerational dependencies constitute risks, and correspondingly, under which policy frameworks do family relationships and individual wellbeing seem positive?
 - (3) What are appropriate methodological strategies for policy analysis?

The next meeting (together with the Policy Advisory Board) will be in Oslo, September 16-17, 2010. The final meeting will be in Rotterdam, February 10-11, 2011.

The group thanks the organizers, Arnstein Aasve, Ilaria Fortuna, and Francesco Billari, for hosting a wonderful meeting.

Pearl Dykstra, May 12, 2010



Program of Multilinks meeting
 March 25-26, 2010
 at the

Bocconi University
 Milan

Chairperson: Pearl Dykstra

Thursday, March 25	
Morning 9.30 – 12.45	
9:30 – 10:00	Opening, agenda, introductions
10.00 – 10.30	General report on progress Pearl Dykstra (EUR)
10.30 – 11.00	Update on the Multilinks database Wolfgang Keck (WZB)
Break 11.00 – 11.15	
11.15 – 12.00	A comparative perspective on parent-child proximity and intergenerational support in Western and Eastern Europe Dimitri Mortelmans & Leen Heylen (UA)
12.00 – 12.45	Levels of co-residence across European regions Katrin Schwanitz (EUR)
Lunch 12.45 – 13.30	
Afternoon 13.30 – 16.45	
13.30 – 14.15	Family constellations in the GGS countries: Differentials across population groups Allan Puur & Luule Sakkeus (EKDK)
14.15 – 15.00	Policy and family determinants of fertility Aafke Komter & Nienke Moor (UU)
Break 15.00 – 15.15	
15.15 – 16.00	Consequences of new demographic behavior for intergenerational relationships Arnstein Aassve, Nicolas Robette & Raffaella Piccarreta (BU)
16.00 – 16.45	Should mothers work and children attend childcare? Normative assumptions and contradictory behaviors at the individual and policy level Chiara Saraceno (WZB)
Dinner	

Friday, March 26	
Morning 9.30 – 12.30	
9:00 – 9:45	Balancing intergenerational responsibility Katharina Herlofson (NOVA)
9.45 – 10.30	Insights on family obligations Jan van Bavel (VUB)
10.30 – 11.15	Cross-age interaction in 19 European countries Pearl Dykstra & Niels Schenk (EUR)
Break 11.15 – 11.30	
11.30 – 12.15	Comments, suggestions for the future Scientific Advisory Council
12.15 – 13.00	Administrative issues, wrap-up and discussion
Lunch (13.00 – 14.00)	

**List of Participants Multilinks progress meeting, 25 – 26 March 2010, Dondena
Centre for Research on Social Dynamics, Bocconi University, Milan**

Arnstein Aasve, Bocconi University (Consortium member)
Sara Arber, University of Surrey Guildford (Member Scientific Advisory Board)
Bruno Arpino, Bocconi University (Consortium member)
Jan van Bavel, Brussels Free University (Consortium member)
Francesco Billari, Bocconi University (Consortium member)
Pearl Dykstra, Erasmus University Rotterdam (Consortium member)
Jenny Gierveld, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute The Hague
(Member Scientific Advisory Board)
Gunhild Hagestad, Norwegian Social Research Oslo (Consortium member)
Katharina Herlofson, Norwegian Social Research Oslo (Consortium member)
Leen Heylen, Antwerp University (Consortium member)
Jan Hoem, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research Rostock (Member Scientific
Advisory Board)
Maaïke Jappens, Brussels Free University (Consortium member)
Wolfgang Keck, Social Science Research Center Berlin (Consortium member)
Aafke Komter, University Utrecht (Consortium member)
Nienke Moor, University Utrecht (Consortium member)
Dimitri Mortelmans, Antwerp University (Consortium member)
Giulia Polci, Bocconi University (Consortium member)
Allan Puur, Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre Tallinn (Consortium
member)
Nicolas Robette, Bocconi University (Consortium member)
Luule Sakkeus, Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre Tallinn
(Consortium member)
Chiara Saraceno, Social Science Research Center Berlin (Consortium member)
Niels Schenk, Erasmus University Rotterdam (Consortium member)
Katrin Schwanitz, Erasmus University Rotterdam (Consortium member)
Britt Slagsvold, Norwegian Social Research Oslo (Consortium member)
Belinda Wijckmans, Brussels Free University (Consortium member)