



multilinks

Report of the sixth (and final) progress meeting (Deliverable D8.2)

The **sixth (and final) progress meeting** 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 11, 2011.

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 the finalization of the project.

See the enclosed programme, for the list of presentations. The list of participants, is also enclosed.

Recurring themes were:

- The usefulness of the Multilinks approach with its focus on both the young and the old is becoming increasingly evident. Parallels between care for the young and for the old do not emerge if researchers continue to consider these issues separately. Cross-country differences in priorities for the young and the old, respectively, are also starting to emerge.
- It is great to see analyses involving the Multilinks database. The selection of indicators requires careful thought about possible underlying mechanisms. There is the risk of spurious associations: countries with more generous policies tend to be also the ones where there are more part-time jobs, where people have preferences for public care, and so forth.

Final business

1. Future of Multilinks

There is the general feeling that Multilinks collaboration should be continued. The project has been fun and successful. Several suggestions are put forward regarding future collaboration

- a workshop on grandparenthood and grandchildhood (organizer: Saraceno)
- SHARElife user workshop September 1-2, 2011 in Tallinn as a meeting place to put together future projects (contact: Sakkeus)

- conference of the European Sociological Association, Geneva September 7-9, 2011 (contact: Arber)
- extend collaboration to include Atralia; there is an Australian GGP and the 2013 Community, Work and Family Conference will take place in Australia (contact: Yerkes)
- a Multilinks session at the meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, November 18-22, 2011 (contact: Hagestad)

2. Future of Indicators database

a. Possible elaboration

Saraceno is currently considering whether to add information on private services. It is important to know what the state is doing to understand the impact of policies, but a majority of the research questions being addressed require information on market provisions. Not much effort will be put into elaboration for the time being, but integration with OECD data etc. might happen in the future.

b. Institutional support

The Wissenschaftszentrum has shown an interest to maintain the database, to keep it public, and to link it to the contextual database of the Generations and Gender Programme in Rostock. There are no formal commitments yet.

The consortium members agree that:

Whoever uses the database must acknowledge Multilinks and the original EC funding. The authorship of Saraceno and Keck must also be acknowledged. Agreement to these terms can best be arranged digitally. Users of the Indicators database must send the reference to their publications to the host of the database. The publications must be listed on internet.

3. Finalizing the FP7 project

The consortium members agree to deviate from the topics for the three final reports as listed in the original proposal. Given how Multilinks has progressed substantively, the results that have been obtained do not fit the original topics (i.e. the context producing the greatest inequalities in social integration, intergenerational solidarity, and individual well-being; the risks of intergenerational care regimes; appropriate methodological strategies for policy analysis). Instead the following three reports will be prepared:

- indicators (Saraceno)—a summary of the papers that have used the database. All those who have written papers (published or not) using the database, send them to CS so she can write her report on the indicators.
- methodology (Aassve)—a summary of the methodological challenges encountered in preparing publications (e.g. viewing families “from the top” versus “from the bottom”, endogeneity of geographic proximity and support, causality and selection in analyses of well-being)

- where has Multilinks made a difference (Dykstra & Komter) —a summary of new insights provided by Multilinks (e.g. East/West, micro/macro, attitudes)

4. Dissemination

Arber, speaking on behalf of the Scientific Advisory Board, is pleased with the outcomes of Multilinks research, both theoretically and policy wise. It is important not just to publish, but to tell people more about what has been done. A suggestion is to write short policy briefs (1-2 pages), including lists of publications, and disseminate them widely. Multilinks is at the intersections of different fields—so it is imperative to find a way to get into different networks of researchers and policy makers.

Dykstra, speaking as coordinator, emphasizes the need to use the word Multilinks in abstracts of conference presentations and in submitted publications. At present, there is no central publication link on the Multilinks website. A list of publications will be put on the Multilinks website.

The group thanks Mara Yerkes, the local organizer, for hosting a wonderful meeting.

Pearl Dykstra, March 10, 2011



**Programme sixth (and final) progress meeting,
Rotterdam, Friday, February 11th:**

Chairperson: Pearl Dykstra

09:30-12:30 Paper presentations

- Maxim Kovalenko & Dimitri Mortelmans: “Patterns of career transitionality and its effects on retirement. An optimal matching analysis on Sharelife Belgium”
- Nienke Moor & Aafke Komter: “Differences in well-being among the elderly across Europe: who are the most vulnerable?”
- Katharina Herlofson: “Intergenerational family obligations in Europe: Is Scandinavia an outlier?”
- Arnie Aassve, Bruno Arpino, Valeria Bordone and Francesco Billari: "Grandparents in Europe: a reserve army or a daily support? The effect of policies"

12:30-13:30 Lunch at Brasserie Water

13:30-14:00 Paper presentation

- Mara Yerkes & Niels Schenk: “The impact of childcare and leave policies on part-time work in Europe”

14:00-14:30 Chiara Saraceno: the Indicators database: Its future, location, and updating

14:30-15:00 Final report: Status and deadlines

15:00-16:00 Evaluation, wrapping up and future plans

17:00 Depart hotel to walk to Willemskade (10 minutes) for water taxi pick up

17:15 Depart by water taxi to dinner location

17:30-18:30 tour of the SS Rotterdam, former cruise ship of the Holland-America line

18:30-21:00 Dinner on the SS Rotterdam

21:15 Departure by water taxi to Willemskade

List of Participants Multilinks sixth (and final) progress meeting, February 11, 2011, Inntel Hotel Rotterdam, organized by Erasmus University Rotterdam



- S. Arber**, member Scientific Advisory Board, University Surrey
- Arnstein Aasve**, member Consortium, Bocconi University
- Jan van Bavel**, member Consortium, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- Valeria Bordone**, member Consortium, Bocconi University
- Pearl Dykstra**, member Consortium, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Frank Furstenberg**, guest, Bocconi University
- Jenny Gierveld**, member Scientific Advisory Board, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
- Gunhild Hagestad**, member Consortium, Norwegian Social Research
- Katharina Herlofson**, member Consortium, Norwegian Social Research
- Leen Heylen**, member Consortium, University Antwerp
- Wolfgang Keck**, member Consortium, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung
- Aafke Komter**, member Consortium, Utrecht University
- Nienke Moor**, member Consortium, previously Utrecht University, now Tilburg University
- Dimitri Mortelmans**, member Consortium, University Antwerp
- Chiara Saraceno**, member Consortium, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung
- Niels Schenk**, member Consortium, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Britt Slagsvold**, member Consortium, Norwegian Social Research
- Mara Yerkes**, member Consortium, Erasmus University Rotterdam