

Report of Multilinks kick-off meeting and of the first meeting with the Multilinks Scientific Advisory Board (Deliverables D8.1 and D8.3)

The kick-off 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 in The Hague, April 16-17, 2008. The kick-off meeting also served as the first meeting with the Multilinks Scientific Advisory Board. The list of participants, and the programme of the meeting are **enclosed**.

The primary purpose of the kick-off meeting was to discuss the position papers prepared by researchers from each of the participating institutes. Topics of the position papers were:

- Intergenerational care regime indicators (Chiara Saraceno and Wolfgang Keck, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin)
- Living arrangements and intergenerational support (Dimitri Mortelmans and Inge Pasteels, Antwerp University)
- Potential and actual support (Kalev Katus and Allan Puur, Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre)
- Intergenerational transfers and social inequality (Arnstein Aasve, Bocconi University)
- Values, gender and intergenerational solidarity (Britt Slagsvold, Gunhild Hagestand and Katharina Herlofson, Norwegian Social Research)
- Conceptualizations of support (Aafke Komter and Nienke Moor, Utrecht University)
- Welfare regimes and family solidarity (Niels Schenk and Pearl Dykstra, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute)
- Divorce and intergenerational exchanges (Jan van Bavel and Belinda Wijckmans, Free University Brussels).

Each of the position papers addressed the following questions:

- What do we, what do we not know about the topic
- Why does the topic matter
- How do we plan to contribute to the literature
- How will our work help answer the questions of Multilinks
- What is our curiosity regarding the topic.

Secondary purposes of the kick-off meeting were to:

- More fully acknowledge the policy relevance of the Multilinks program
- Arrive at a list of members for the Policy Advisory Board (see the **enclosed** list)
- Be informed about contacts with and responsibilities towards the European Commission.

The meeting was characterized by lively scientific debates on the best ways of performing cross-national analyses, intergenerational segregation versus integration, the universality of solidarity models, and so forth. The two members of the Scientific Advisory Board who were able to attend the meeting provided constructive and critical feedback.

Pearl Dykstra, October 27, 2008

List of Participants

Arnstein Aassve (Consortium member)
Bocconi University

Sara Arber (Scientific Advisory Board)
University of Surrey

Jan van Bavel (Consortium member)
Brussels Free University

Pearl Dykstra (Consortium member)
Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute

Jenny Gierveld (Consortium member)
Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute

Gunhild Hagestad (Consortium member)
NOVA
(Norwegian Social Research)

Katharine Herlofson (Consortium member)
NOVA
(Norwegian Social Research)

Kalev Katus (Consortium member)
Estonian Interuniversity Population
Research Centre

Wolfgang Keck (Consortium member)
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung

Aafke Komter (Consortium member)
University Utrecht

Aat Liefbroer (Consortium member)
Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute

Nienke Moor (Consortium member)
University Utrecht

Dimitri Mortelmans (Consortium member)
Antwerp University

Inge Pasteels (Consortium member)
Antwerp University

Allan Puur (Consortium member)
Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre

Chiara Saraceno (Consortium member)
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung

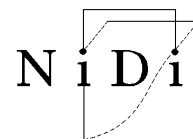
Niels Schenk (Consortium member)
NIDI

Britt Slagsvold (Consortium member)
NOVA
(Norwegian Social Research)

Dominik Sobczak (Observer)
European Commission

Clemens Tesch-Roem (Scientific Advisory Board)
Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen

Belinda Wijckmans (Consortium member)
Brussels Free University



Programme of Multilinks kick-off meeting

Wednesday, April 16

Morning 9.30 – 12.30

9:30 – 10:15	Opening, agenda, introductions
10.15 – 10.30	Presentation Dominik Sobczak (EC)
10.30 – 11.30	Presentation/discussion Chiara Saraceno/Wolfgang Keck (WZB)
Break (11.30 – 11.45)	
11.45 – 12.30	Presentation/discussion Dimitri Mortelmans/Inge Pasteels (UA)

Afternoon 13.30 – 16.45

13.30 – 14.15	Presentation/discussion on GGS data: availability, harmonization procedures, and potential pitfalls Niels Schenk (NIDI)
14.15 – 15.00	Presentation/discussion Kalev Katus/Allan Puur (EKDK)
Break (15.00 – 15.15)	
15.15 – 16.00	Presentation/discussion Arnie Aassve (BU)
16.00 – 16.45	Presentation/discussion Britt Slagsvold/Gunhild Hagestad and Katharine Herlofson (NOVA)
16.45	Dinner and evening program at: Panorama Mesdag

Thursday, April 17

Morning 9.00 – 12.30

9.00 – 9.30	Presentation/discussion Gunhild Hagestad (NOVA)
9.30 – 10.00	Presentation/discussion Aafke Komter/Nienke Moor (UU)
10.00 – 10.30	Presentation/discussion Niels Schenk (NIDI)
Break (10.30 – 11.00)	
11.00 – 11.45	Presentation/discussion Jan van Bavel/Belinda Wijckmans (VUB)
11.45 – 12.00	Presentation Dominik Sobczak, EC: Policy relevance of Multilinks
12.00 – 12.30	Policy Advisory Board

Afternoon 13.00 – 15.15

13.00 – 14.30	Wrap-up and discussion
14.30 – 14.45	Dominik Sobczak, EC: Cooperation and interaction between consortium and EC throughout the program
14.45 – 15.15	Administrative issues: Work Package coordination, finances
15.15	Trip to Keukenhof, and dinner afterwards at Restaurant Djawa

Members Multilinks Policy Advisory Board

Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak, Vice-Minister for Pensions in the Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and member of the EU Social Protection Committee.

Silvia Conduto de Sousa, on leave from her position as Assistant Professor in the Economics department at the University Of Minho, Braga, Portugal, and advisor to the Cabinet of the Minister for Labour and Social Solidarity in Portugal.

Astrid Nøklebye Heiberg, Norwegian conservative politician, professor of medicine, and former President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Eleonora (Lore) Hostasch, former Austrian Minister of Health, Labour and Social Affairs (1997-2000), now at the Federal Ministry of Social and Consumer Protection, and Chair of the European Commission's Expert Group on Demographic Issues.

René Groot Koerkamp, advisor on economic issues to the members of government for Health, Welfare & Sports, and Youth and Family in the Netherlands, and involved in preparations for the government memorandum on Family Policy.

Gabriele Müller-List, in the department of Senior Citizens in the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and member of the Board of Official Representatives of the German Center of Gerontology.

Julius Op de Beke, policy analyst in the unit responsible for social and demographic analysis in the European Commission, and part of the secretariat of the Commission's new government advisory group on demographic issues.

Pilar Rodriguez Rodriguez, General Director of the Spanish Institute for the Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO), coauthor of the National Gerontological Plan, and in previously General Director for the Elderly Care Regime in Asturias.