

Report of the Multilinks second meeting and of the first meeting with the Multilinks Policy Advisory Board (Deliverables D8.2 and D8.4)

The second meeting of the EC-funded Multilinks project was held at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB). This meeting was held together with members of the policy advisory board. The list of participants, including members of the Policy Advisory Board, and the programme of the meeting are enclosed.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss the first scientific papers resulting from our Multilinks collaboration, and to enlist the interest and commitment of the policy advisory board for our work.

The following substantive presentations were given:

- *Update on institutional data collection* (Chiara Saraceno (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin), Allan Puur and Luule Sakkeus (Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre))
- *Towards a gendered intergenerational regimes typology* (Chiara Saraceno, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin)
- *A first exercise in clustering childcare and elderly care indicators* (Wolfgang Keck, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin)
- *Demographic change and intergenerational care: a weakening or strengthening force?* (Nienke Moor and Aafke Komter, Utrecht University)
- *The influence of divorce and repartnering on norms and attitudes about intergenerational support* (Belinda Wijckmand and Jan van Bavel, Free University Brussels)
- *Maternal employment and intergenerational transfers* (Arnstein Aassve and Bruno Arpino, Bocconi University)
- *Gender differences in family obligation norms* (Britt Slagsvold and Katharina Herlofson, Norwegian Social Research)
- *Picturing living arrangements in relation to the complexity of family constellations: Towards a clear operationalisation based on GGS* (Dimitri Mortelmans and Leen Heylen, Antwerp University)
- *Validity and reliability of a six-item loneliness scale: cross-national comparisons* (Jenny Gierveld, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute)
- *The role of European welfare states in intergenerational monetary transfers: a micro-level perspective* (Niels Schenk and Pearl Dykstra, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute)

The presentations of the WZB-researchers led to lively debates during which the limitations of existing data sources for the construction of intergenerational regime indicators became apparent. The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC Survey) has two drawbacks for our purposes: (a) it assesses the use of services, not the legal and policy context in a country, and (b) it does not distinguish between market and government services. The data on policy measures and laws in the Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC) show inconsistencies, are rarely harmonized, and are at times incorrect. The WZB-researchers presented the intergenerational regime indicators database that will be available to the public once all indicators have been collected. The Estonian team has been extremely instrumental in obtaining data from former communist countries. At present, the database is only accessible to consortium members for testing purposes.

The findings on East-West differences underscore the importance of considering people's normative orientations in the cultural context of the country in which they live. They also instruct us to adopt a critical perspective on the portability of different explanatory models.

The Policy Advisory Board members appreciated being involved in the Multilinks project virtually from the start. Their wish to have another meeting sooner than month 30 (as specified in the proposal) will be considered seriously. One of the insights the members of the Policy Advisory Board gained, is that the process of re-familialization in new EU-countries has consequences for well-being, life chances and social inequality.

Pearl Dykstra, November 12, 2008

List of participants Berlin meeting

Arnstein Aassve (Consortium member)
Bocconi University

Bruno Arpino (Consortium member)
Bocconi University

Jan van Bavel (Consortium member)
Brussels Free University

Julius Op de Beke (Policy advisory board)
European Commission

Silvia Conduto de Sousa (Policy advisory board)
Cabinet of the Minister for Labour and Social
Solidarity

Pearl Dykstra (Consortium member)
Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic
Institute

Jenny Gierveld (Consortium member)
Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic
Institute

Rene Groot Koerkamp (Policy advisory board)
Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sports

Philipp Hessel
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung

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

Leen Heylen (Consortium member)
Antwerp University

Milagros Juárez Bustos (Policy advisory board,
substituting for Pilar Rodriguez)
Institute for the Elderly and Social Services

Wolfgang Keck (Consortium member)
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung

Aafke Komter (Consortium member)
University Utrecht

Irina Kotowska (Policy advisory board, substituting
for Agnieska Chlón)
Institute of Statistics and Demography in
the Warsaw School of Economics

Aat Liefbroer (Consortium member)
Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute

Nienke Moor (Consortium member)
University Utrecht

Dimitri Mortelmans (Consortium member)
Antwerp University

Allan Puur (Consortium member)
Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre

Luule Sakkeus (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)

Belinda Wijckmans (Consortium member)
Brussels Free University



Multilinks progress meeting
October 30-31, 2008
at the

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung
Reichpietschufer 50, Berlin

Chairperson: Pearl Dykstra

Program

Thursday, October 30

Morning 9.30 – 12.30

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| 9.30 – 10.00 | Opening, agenda, introductions |
| 10.00 – 10.15 | Niels Schenk (NIDI): <i>Update on GGP-data</i> |
| 10.15 – 10.45 | Chiara Saraceno (WZB), Allan Puur/Luule Sakkeus (EKDK): <i>Update on institutional data collection</i> |
| 10.45 – 11.15 | Niels Schenk (NIDI): <i>The Multilinks website and database for indicators</i> |
| 11.15 – 11.30 | Break |
| 11.30 – 12.15 | Chiara Saraceno (WZB): <i>Towards a gendered intergenerational regimes typology</i> |
| 12.15 – 13.00 | Wolfgang Keck (WZB): <i>A first exercise in clustering childcare and elderly care indicators</i> |

Lunch 13.00 – 14.00

Afternoon 14.00 – 16.45

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| 14.00 – 14.45 | Julius Op de Beke (EU), René Groot Koerkamp (NL), Irena Kotowska (PL), Silvia Conduto de Sousa (PT), Milagros Juárez (ES):
<i>Intergenerational care regime indicators from a policy point of view</i> |
| 14.45 – 15.30 | General discussion: <i>Intergenerational care regime indicators and methods for doing cross-national comparative research</i> |
| 15.30 – 15.45 | Break |
| 15.45 – 16.15 | Nienke Moor/Aafke Komter (UU): <i>Demographic change and intergenerational care: a weakening or strengthening force?</i> |
| 16.15 – 16.45 | Belinda Wijckmans/Jan Van Bavel (VUB): <i>The influence of divorce and repartnering on norms and attitudes about intergenerational support</i> |

Dinner 19.30



Friday, October 31

Morning 9.00 – 13.00

- 9.00 – 9.30 Arnie Aassve/Bruno Arpino (BU): *Maternal employment and intergenerational transfers*
- 9.30 – 10.00 Gunhild Hagestad (NOVA): *Age norms: A theoretical perspective*
- 10.30 – 11.00 Britt Slagsvold/Katharina Herlofson (NOVA): *Gender differences in family obligation norms*
- 11.00 – 11.30 Break
- 11.30 – 12.00 Dimitri Mortelmans/Leen Heylen (UA): *Picturing living arrangements in relation to the complexity of family constellations: Towards a clear operationalisation based on GGS*
- 12.00 – 12.30 Jenny Gierveld (NIDI): *Validity and reliability of a six-item loneliness scale: cross-national comparisons*
- 12.30 – 13.00 Niels Schenk/Pearl Dykstra (NIDI): *The role of European welfare states in intergenerational monetary transfers: a micro-level perspective.*

Lunch 13.00 – 14.00

Afternoon 14.00 – 15.00

- 14.00 – 14.15 The Brussels policy conference (March 19, 2008)
- 14.15 – 15.00 Julius Op de Beke (EU), René Groot Koerkamp (NL), Irena Kotowska (PL), Silvia Conduto de Sousa (PT), Milagros Juárez (ES): *General comments*
- 15.00 – 15.30 Wrap-up and discussion