





## Documenting cross-country comparability of survey data: the case of the Generations and Gender Programme

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#### Outline



- Main characteristics of GGP surveys.
- GGP methodology.
- GGP survey metadata and documentation.
- Challenges in documenting this type of surveys.
- Outlook on possible developments.





## Main characteristics of the GGP surveys



- Launched in 2000, as the continuation of the international surveys on fertility carried out since the 1960s (e.g. CFS, WFS, FFS).
- Aimed at studying how micro-level factors influence the relationships between generations and gender.
- Covering a variety of topics: fertility, partnership, health, care duty, etc.
- Designed as longitudinal panel studies (3 year intervals) on 18-80 year olds.
- Carried out in 19 countries (Europe and beyond).





## Methodology



- Based on a common questionnaire and guidelines for sample design and for data cleaning and harmonization, developed by the coordination team (i.e. NIDI, MPIDR, Ined).
- Adapted to the different national contexts by national teams or incorporated into existing surveys (e.g. Australian, Dutch and Italian cases).
- Leading to country differences in:
  - fieldwork methodologies,
  - ✓ "compliance" to the standard questionnaire (varying between 80% and 30% of the questions asked).





## Methodology



- Implementing *post hoc* harmonization procedures: e.g. label and routing checks, calculation of consolidated variables.
- Keeping country-specific values (i.e. different response categories)
   and country-specific variables (i.e. different question wordings).
- Requiring comprehensive metadata (i.e. descriptions of common questionnaire and guidelines for data collection and harmonization, as well as of country deviations).





### Groups of metadata items



- Description of the harmonization process.
- 2. Information on country fieldwork methodologies provided by national teams.
- 3. Additional documents (e.g. methodology reports, presentations).
- 4. Detailed examination of each variable (e.g. question, universe, value labels, country deviations from the standard questionnaire, calculation method).
- 5. Description of variable availability across country datasets.





## Survey documentation



- Provided in compliance with the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI), the international standard for documenting social survey data expressed in XML.
- Implemented through the software package Nesstar, which allows to prepare metadata following the DDI-C specification, and to browse and analyse data and metadata online.





### GGP-Nesstar welcome page





#### **GGP-Nesstar**



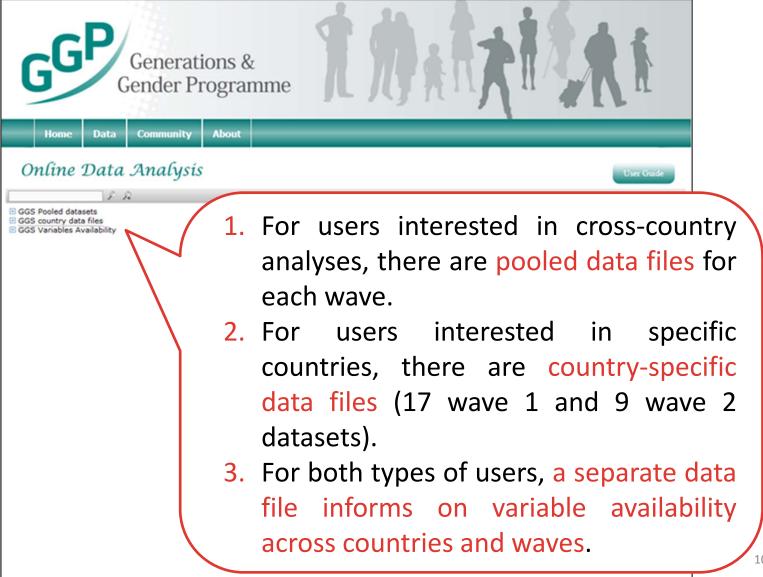
http://www.ggp-i.org/online-data-analysis.html





#### **GGP-Nesstar content**





#### Pooled data files



- Metadata common to all harmonized data files (e.g. keywords, abstract, description of the harmonization process and missing values).
- Possibility to understand for several countries at the same time, how country deviations from the standard questionnaire are dealt with in the harmonization process.



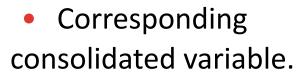


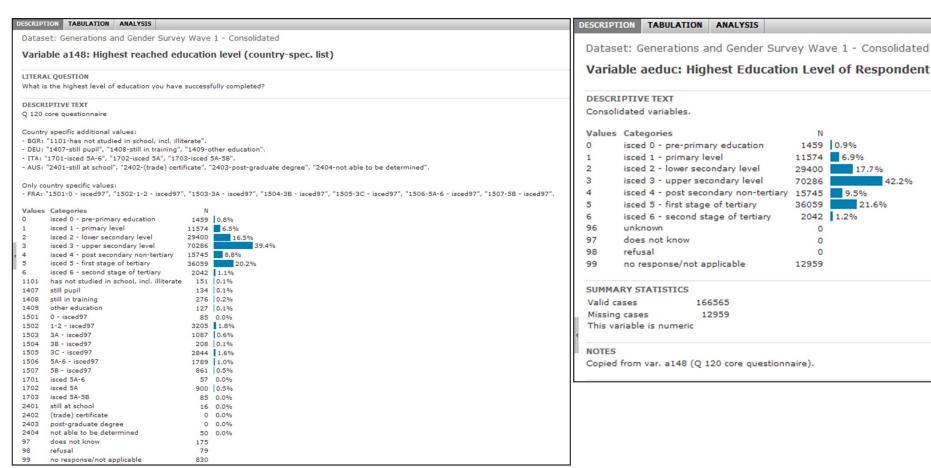
## Example of variable descriptions in the pooled data files



42.2%

Non-consolidated variable.





## Country data files



- Metadata common to all harmonized data files.
- For each country, possibility to merge datasets of different waves.
- Description of changes across GGP survey versions.
- Country-specific survey metadata and links to relevant documentation.

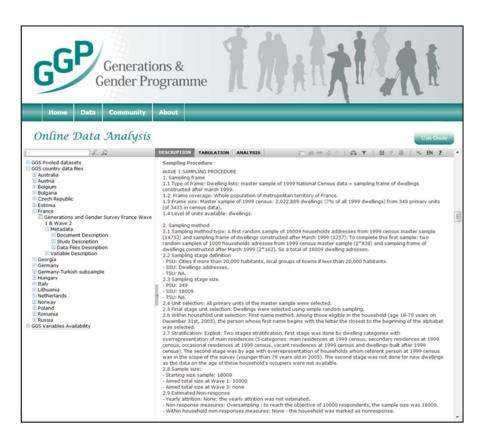




## Example of country-specific metadata in country data files



Fieldwork metadata.



Links to documents.

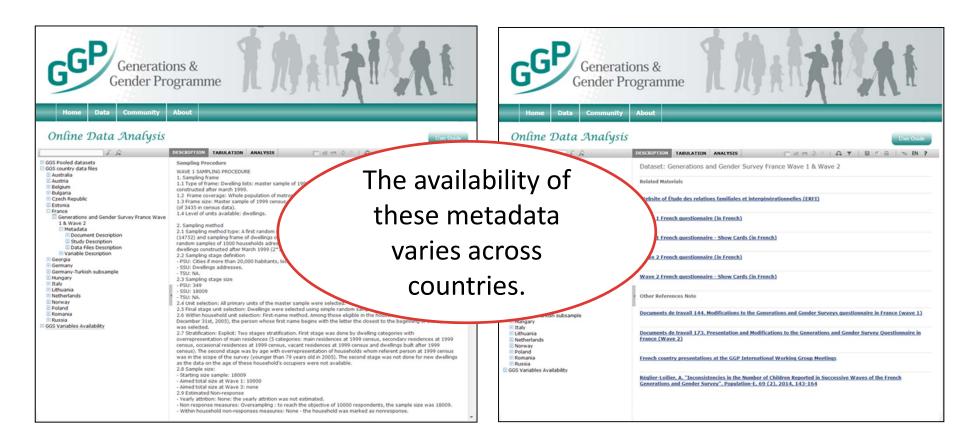


## Example of country-specific metadata in country data files



Fieldwork metadata.

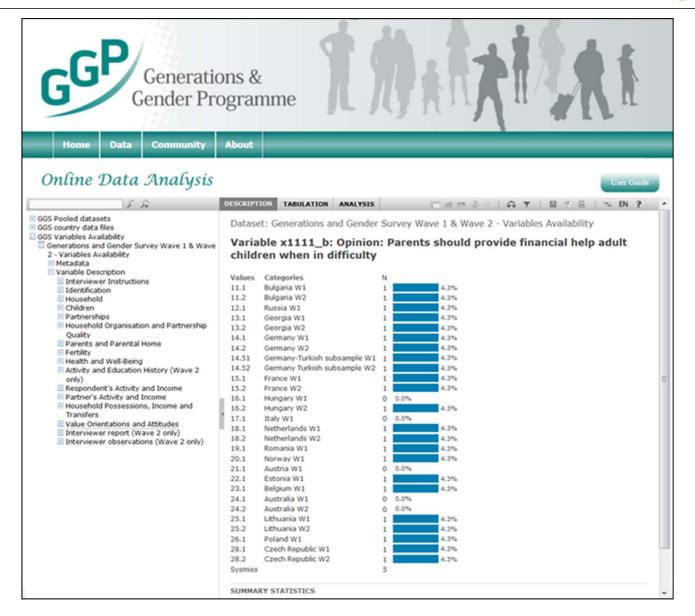
Links to documents.



## Variable availability data file







# Conclusion & possible developments



- Surveys based on a decentralised model, like the GGP, mobilize a lot of resources of the coordination team for data documentation.
- In the future, we aim at continuing to enrich country-specific information.
- The consideration of upgraded DDI standard may help optimize the collection of country-specific metadata, as well as the management of the entire documentation.











## **Comments or questions?**

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