

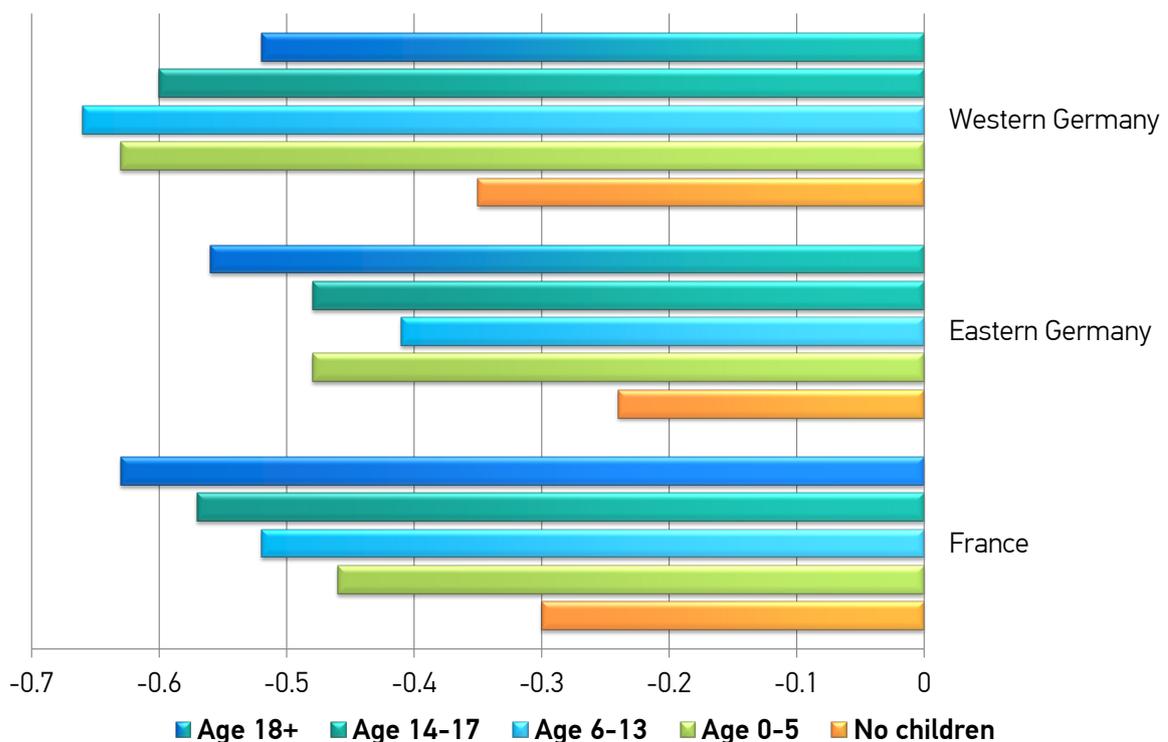
# GGP AT A GLANCE

## Did you know?

The presence of children is associated with greater inequality in the gender division of housework among couples in France, western Germany, and eastern Germany. In all three cases, couples with children share housework tasks less equally than their childless equivalent. However, major cross-national differences exist when it comes to the age of children. While in western Germany the inequality is largest when young children are present, and slightly improves thereafter, the exact opposite pattern is observed in France.



### Gender division of housework by age of the youngest child<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Note: 1- The index is based on the division of labour associated with four everyday household tasks (cooking, doing the dishes, vacuum cleaning, and grocery shopping). A value of 0 indicates equal sharing of household tasks, a value of -1 indicates that the woman is mainly responsible and a value of +1 indicates that the man is mainly responsible.

Source: Zabel, C., Heintz-Martin, V.K. (2012). Does children's age impact the division of housework? A comparison of France, eastern and western Germany. *European Societies*. DOI:10.1080/14616696.2012.749413.

# Recently published GGP studies

**Albertini, M., Mencarini, L. (2012). Childlessness and support networks in later life: new pressures on familistic welfare states? *Journal of Family Issues*. Published online before print November 6, 2012, doi: 10.1177/0192513X12462537.**

Abstract. Childlessness is an increasingly common condition in many European societies. The consequences that this demographic phenomenon might have on welfare systems—and long-term care policies in particular—are widespread. This is particularly the case for the familistic welfare states of Southern Europe. Using data from the 2003 Italian GGS, the article explores the relation between the absence of children and support received in later life. Overall, the results support the idea that in Italy elderly nonparents, compared with those who have children, do not face significantly large support deficits in terms of the likelihood of receiving support. However, it is shown that they are likely to miss those forms of support that are most needed in the case of bad health. Next, the childless are more likely to be helped by nonrelatives and not-for-profit organizations and to a lesser extent by the welfare system.

**Kreyenfeld, M., Horning, A., Kubisch, K. (2013). The German Generations and Gender Survey: Some critical reflections on the validity of fertility histories. *Comparative Population Studies – Zeitschrift für Bevölkerungswissenschaft*. Preprint (Date of release: 10.01.2013).**

Abstract. This paper validates the fertility histories of the German Generations and Gender Survey (GGS). Focusing on the cohorts 1930–69 of West German women, the total number of children, the parity distribution and the parity progression ratios are compared to external sources. One major result from this validation is that the German GGS understates the fertility for the older cohorts and overstates it for the younger ones. We presume that two mechanisms are responsible for this pattern in the German GGS: On the one hand, children who have left parental home are underreported in the retrospective fertility histories. On the other hand, women with small children are easier to reach by the interviewer. These two mechanisms taken together produce too low numbers of children for the older and too high ones for the younger cohorts. Extending the validation to marital histories has revealed a similar bias. Our general conclusion from this investigation is that the German GGS may not be used for statistical analyses of cohort fertility and marriage trends. For subsequent surveys, we suggest integrating simple control questions in questionnaires with complex retrospective fertility and union histories.

**Régnier-Loilier, A., Légaré, J. (2010). Generations and Gender Programme: présentation and perspectives. *Santé, Société et Solidarité*. 2: 129—35.**

Abstract. The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) was launched in 2000 by the Population Activities Unit of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Centred on family-building and relationships between generations and between genders, the project involves two main components: establishing a three-wave longitudinal survey of approximately 10 000 women and men aged 18 to 79 (Generations and Gender Surveys – GGS) and collecting contextual data in each of the participating countries. This article provides details about this project, reports on its progress and suggests a few potential analytical perspectives.

**Zabel, C., Heintz-Martin, V.K. (2012). Does children 's age impact the division of housework? A comparison of France, eastern and western Germany. *European Societies*. DOI:10.1080/1461669 6.2012.749413.**

Abstract. In this study, we investigate couples' division of household tasks by the age of the youngest child, comparing France, eastern Germany, and western Germany. For our analyses, we draw on Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) data. As expected, our findings are that the division of housework is less egalitarian for couples with preschool age children than for childless couples, and these differences are greatest in western Germany. However, we had also expected the division of housework to be more egalitarian again for couples with older children, among whom maternal employment rates are higher than among those with younger children. Our findings confirmed this expectation for western Germany. Surprisingly though, we found that in both eastern Germany and France, the division of housework was actually continuously less egalitarian the older couples' children. An explanation may be that the traditionalizing impact of parenthood unfolds slowly with parenthood duration as couples increasingly yield to societal expectations regarding parental roles. In western Germany, where women reduce their employment most significantly when becoming mothers, employment status effects appear to dominate any other trends associated with the age of the youngest child.

# Announcements

## **2<sup>nd</sup> GGP User Conference**

**24-26 October 2013**

**Hosted by DONDENA Centre for Research on Social Dynamics, Bocconi University - Milan - Italy**

The DONDENA centre – in cooperation with the Consortium Board of the Generations and Gender Programme and the Population Unit of the UNECE – is organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> User Conference of the GGP.

This international conference aims to bring together researchers working with data from the Generations and Gender Survey and the GGP Contextual Database, and invites them to present and discuss their most recent methodological approaches and empirical findings. The conference provides a forum for exchange of ideas among existing as well as new potential GGP users, policy makers and the research community at large.

Papers will cover a wide range of substantive and methodological issues: Survey methods and implementation, Data quality and validation, Methodological considerations in studying demographic behaviour (e.g. accounting for contextual influences), Subjective wellbeing and demographic outcomes, Labour market and economic well-being, Intergenerational relationships, Grandparenthood, Retirement, Fertility of subpopulations and different social groups, Fertility intentions and their realization, Division of (un)paid work, Cohabitation, Fertility, Union formation and dissolution. The organizers especially encourage the submission of papers using the GGP longitudinal data.

### **Organizing committee:**

Arnstein Aassve (DONDENA, Bocconi University)

Pearl Dykstra (Erasmus University)

Anne Gauthier (NIDI)

Sebastian Klüsener (MPIDR)

Trude Lappegård (Statistics Norway)

Anna Matysiak (Warsaw School of Economics)

Cornelia Mureşan (Babeş-Bolyai University)

Elisabeth Thomson (SUDA, University of Stockholm)

**The deadline for submission is 15 May 2013.**

Please submit a 300 word abstract to [Noemi.Colombo@unibocconi.it](mailto:Noemi.Colombo@unibocconi.it).

The conference fee is € 40.



**Generations & Gender Programme**

For more information, visit our website: <http://www.ggp-i.org>

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