

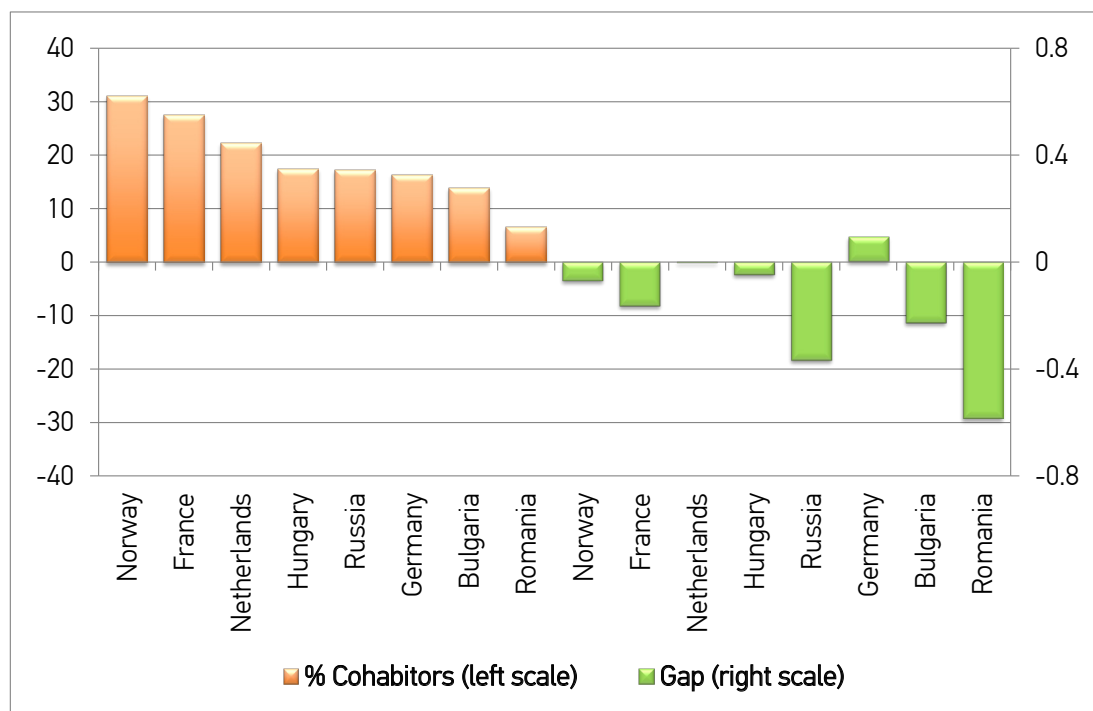
# GGP AT A GLANCE

## Did you know?

In most countries, cohabitators report lower levels of relationship quality as compared to married couples. However, the quality gap (between cohabitators and married people) is largest in countries where cohabitation is less prevalent. Cross-national differences in the acceptance and prevalence of cohabitation may therefore have an influence on how cohabitators perceive the quality of their relationship. It may contribute to making them more, or less, similar to married people.



### Prevalence of cohabitators and relationship quality gap between cohabitators and married people (age 18 to 55)<sup>a</sup>



*a: Sample restricted to those currently married or cohabiting. The level of relationship quality is based on the question: "How satisfied are you with your relationship with your partner/spouse?" with answers ranging from 0 (very dissatisfied) to 10 (very satisfied). The data in the graph (right-hand side) capture the difference (gap) between the mean value of the relationship quality of cohabitators and that of married people. Results from multivariate analyses (not shown here) reveal that the quality gap was statistically significant and more pronounced only in Russia and Romania (as compared to Norway).*

Source: Wiik, K.A., Keizer, R., Lappegård, T. (2012). Relationship quality in marital and cohabiting unions across Europe. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. 74: 389-98.

# Recently published GGP studies

**Wiik, K.A., Keizer, R., Lappegård, T. (2012). Relationship quality in marital and cohabiting unions across Europe. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. 74: 389-98.**

Abstract. In this study, the authors used data from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey to investigate relationship quality among currently married and cohabiting individuals ages 18 to 55 (N = 41,760) in 8 European countries (Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Romania, Russia, and The Netherlands). They expected to find fewer differences between cohabitation and marriage in countries where cohabitation is widespread. Controlling for a range of selection characteristics of respondents and their partners (e.g., common children, union duration, and education), the analyses showed that in all countries cohabiters more often had breakup plans and were less satisfied with their relationships than individuals who married. This cohabitation gap in relationship quality was largest in Russia, Romania, and Germany, which indeed were among the countries in the current sample where cohabitation was least prevalent.

**Cavalli, L. (2012). He wants, I don't: females' contrasting attitude about fertility intentions for a second child. *International Review of Sociology*. 22, 1: 71-93.**

Abstract. Thanks to the use of household-level micro-data from the 'Family and Social Subjects' survey carried out by the Italian National Statistical Office in 2003, this paper aims at understanding the determinants of a woman's contrasting attitude towards her partner's positive intention for another child considering the bargaining process literature.

The econometric analysis is based on sample selection models that allow the study of this issue considering the probability of recording a couple's disagreement on higher-order fertility. The analysis finds that when within the couple the female partner is more educated, she disagrees less with her partner's positive intention for a second child. If we deal with the job-related features, the probability that the female contrasts her partner's positive fertility intention is higher when she is unemployed, when she is employed but she experiences a lack of provision of child-care, and if she perceives that another child might jeopardize her career.

The findings are coherent with the assumption that a higher consistency between the individual's and the couple's fertility intentions may be achieved; the presence of a rigid labour-market and the lack of public child-care provision and of public policies should contribute to explaining the problems in reconciling family and working life.

**Fokkema, T., Naderi, R. (2013). Differences in late-life loneliness: a comparison between Turkish and native-born older adults in Germany. *European Journal of Ageing*. DOI 10.1007/s10433-013-0267-7**

Abstract. The aim of this study was (1) to examine whether Turkish older migrants are indeed—as is often claimed without solid scientific evidence—lonelier than their peers with no migration background and (2) to determine the factors that account for the differences in loneliness between them. We analysed data of adults aged 50–79 from the first wave of the German Generations and Gender Survey and a supplementary survey of Turkish nationals in Germany (N = 3,248 born in Germany and N = 494 born in Turkey). Differences in degree of loneliness between Turkish and native-born older adults were determined by the six-item Loneliness Scale of de Jong Gierveld. To identify the specific factors contributing to these loneliness differences, a series of multivariate regression analyses were conducted, examining the impact of two groups of risk factors (poor health and low socioeconomic status) and two groups of protective factors (social embeddedness in the family and informal support exchanges) on loneliness. Results showed that feelings of loneliness are indeed more prevalent among older adults of Turkish origin than their German counterparts, which is entirely attributable to their lower socioeconomic status and poorer health. Living with a partner or children, frequent contacts with non-coresident children, emotional support exchange and looking after grandchildren—though important factors to prevent loneliness at the individual level—did not specifically protect Turkish older adults from loneliness, or did so rarely. These findings not only indicate new and challenging directions for further research but also raise questions about the effectiveness of the most common loneliness interventions, which focus on improving number and quality of social relationships.

**Scodellaro, C., Khat, M., Jusot, F. (2012). Intergenerational financial transfers and health in a national sample from France. *Social Science & Medicine*. 75: 1296-1302.**

Abstract. Financial transfers from parents to their adult children are a growing trend in contemporary societies, and this study investigates the relation of those transfers to their beneficiaries' health in France. In the 2005 nationally representative Gender and Generation Survey, nearly 6% of the subjects aged 25–49 years reported having received financial transfers during the last 12 months. Subjects who had achieved intergenerational upward mobility as

well as those who had remained in the upper class were more likely to receive transfers, suggesting that parents rewarded those of their children who achieved most social success. After adjusting for a wide range of socio-demographic factors, subjects who had been given large transfers were much more likely to report very good health than subjects who had not been given anything. Findings were interpreted within the framework of sociological research on intergenerational transfers and that of lifecourse epidemiology.

## Announcements

### GGP Blueprint for the Future published

The GGP Consortium presented its **Blueprint for Future Development and Implementation 2013-2020** during a well-attended seminar in Brussels on March 18. This Blueprint is the final outcome of a four-year *Design Study*, funded by the EU-FP7, to evaluate the progress made over the years and to outline the goals for the future of the GGP Research Infrastructure. The GGP is committed to provide data that fit Europe's research strategy as outlined in Horizon 2020. With abundant information on two of its key themes – *Health, demographic change and wellbeing*, and *Inclusive, innovative and secure societies* – and its wide coverage of European countries, the GGP is ideally suited to formulate scientifically informed and policy-relevant answers to key societal questions.

In the Blueprint plans are developed for the sustainable future of the GGP. The GGP will undertake all possible measures to assure inclusion in the ESFRI Roadmap as soon as possible. In addition, the GGP will work towards the establishment of an ERIC by 2020 at the latest. The GGP will continue to support fundraising activities in participating countries, but also press for partial central funding of data collection activities. The overall evaluation of the quality of the design of the GGP is favourable. In the future, its main tenets will be retained, but with space for innovation. In particular, the Blueprint suggests a number of measures to reduce costs, of which the shift towards a design in which Web-questionnaires play a prominent role is the most important.

Copies of the Blueprint can be ordered at no costs by sending an email to [www.ggp-i.org](http://www.ggp-i.org). A digital version of the Blueprint will be made available soon on our website.

### Forthcoming GGP Users Conference (Milano, October 2013)

A reminder of the forthcoming GGP Users Conference, The deadline for submitting an abstract is 15 May. Information about this conference may be found in the previous issue of our newsletter (January-February 2013): <http://www.ggp-i.org/materials/newsletters.html>

### Reminder: Wave 2 data!

Harmonized GGP Wave 2 data sets of Germany (main sample and supplemental sample of Turkish migrants), France, Georgia and Bulgaria are available for registered GGP data users. For more information on how to access the data, see: <http://www.ggp-i.org/data/data-access.html>



Generations & Gender Programme

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