

Max-Planck-Institut für demografische Forschung
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
Konrad-Zuse-Strasse 1 · D-18057 Rostock · GERMANY
Tel +49 (0) 3 81 20 81 - 0; Fax +49 (0) 3 81 20 81 - 202;
<http://www.demogr.mpg.de>

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**The Generations and
Gender Contextual Database:
Concepts and Content**

Martin Spielauer (spielauer@demogr.mpg.de)

This working paper has been approved for release by: Vladimir M. Shkolnikov (shkolnikov@demogr.mpg.de),
Head of the Laboratory for Demographic Data.

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Abstract

This paper aims at contributing to a proposal for the concept and content of the Contextual Database of the Generations and Gender Program. We develop guidelines for data collection by identifying the main focus, the key dimensions as well as the main data types of the GGP Contextual Database.

Based on these theoretical considerations and with a view to support a multilevel approach to GGP data, we propose a list of 200 variables that include statistical norms, legal norms and regulations, the general economic situation, welfare state policies, and culture.

0 Introduction

This paper aims at contributing to a proposal for the concept and content of the Contextual Database of the Generations and Gender Program. It is based on an earlier contribution to the database development, in which we identified the main contextual domains linked to the Generations and Gender Survey (Spielauer 2004a). In this paper, we aim at identifying the main dimensions of such a data collection and develop a list of variables that captures these dimensions.

The paper is organized in three parts. We first give an introduction on contextual data and the main contextual domains of the database. In the second part we develop guidelines for data collection by identifying the main focus, the key dimensions as well as the main data types of the GGP Contextual Database. In the third part, we develop the database content by contextual domain or topic, highlighting the importance of each topic, its key relation to individual behaviors and by proposing and describing a list of variables. The full list of variables is found in the Appendix.

1 What are contextual data?

The Generations and Gender Program consists of two main components, the Generations and Gender Survey, which collects information on the individual level, and the Contextual Database, which complements this information by variables measuring the higher level context of the behavior studied on the micro level. The term contextual data is usually used in connection with hierarchical data-sets and indicates variables that refer to a higher level “context” of the units investigated. All units at the lower level receive the value of a variable for the unit to which they belong at the higher level (Hox 1995). While the term contextual data always refers to “higher level” or macro data, the term contextual analysis is used with at least two different meanings. Courgeau (2003) uses the term to distinguish micro-level models that include higher level variables without explicitly taking into account the different levels (e.g., event-history models including higher-level characteristics and treating them such as individual characteristics) from multi-level models, which explicitly model the hierarchical data structure. Contextual analysis is also used as a synonym for descriptive macro-level analysis.

While contextual information has always been of importance in demographic analysis, the way it is linked to demographic events has changed over time. Historically, demographic research moved from the macro to the micro level of analysis towards an integration of levels, a move that is paralleled both by developments in analytical methods and new ways of data collection. The Generations and Gender Program is an innovative step in this direction. While the data of the GGP

contextual database may be useful for descriptive macro-level analysis as well, the main ambition lies in the provision of data that can be used for multi-level and contextual analysis in the former sense – i.e., together with the micro-level information collected in the Generations and Gender Survey.

To get a clearer picture of which type of data we aim at collecting in the Contextual Database, a classification of data as used in Hox (1995) is helpful. At each level – the following illustration only distinguishes two such levels – we can define the variables that describe the units of this level (global variables) and the relations between them (relational variables). Global variables collected in the GGP are e.g., all individual characteristics and biographies. The GGS also collects relational variables of many dimension, such as the legal dimension of partnerships, power relations and economic exchange relations. Global variables of the macro level may include policy regulations, while relational variables may include information on the relative importance of policies of different types, e.g., by relating expenditures. Lower-level variables can be shifted to a higher level by aggregation, thereby we obtain analytical (aggregated global variables) and structural (aggregated relational) variables, e.g., the mean values and distributions. In the opposite direction, we can shift the variables from a higher level to a lower level by disaggregation, and thereby obtain contextual variables.

MICROLEVEL	MACROLEVEL
GLOBAL describe units of this level	→ ANALYTICAL aggregated measures of lower level absolute variables
RELATIONAL describe relationships between units of this level	→ STRUCTURAL aggregated measures of lower level relational variables
CONTEXTUAL disaggregated higher level variables	← GLOBAL
	← RELATIONAL

Illustration: Variable types and levels

For the GGP Contextual Database we collect macro-level information of all four types, as displayed above. Analytical and structural variables, although derived by aggregation of micro-level data, influence micro-level behaviors as far as they

constitute statistical norms. Many demographic and economic indicators are of this type. The mean age at marriage of a region may have an impact on individual marriage decisions, and unemployment rates may have an impact on various life course decisions, etc. While many of these variables can be derived from GGS data, there might exist more representative (e.g., administrative) data sources.

Policy data and descriptions are a typical example of global variables. Very often there exists a direct link to individual records e.g., by eligibility criteria. Other links are more general, such as by time period or region. Some of this information is collected at the micro level in the GGS survey, e.g., received unemployment payments and other benefits or the use of public childcare services. But the possibility to collect this kind of information on the micro level is naturally limited and we usually need higher-level information in order to understand the operation of the related macro-level system and the specific incentives created by these systems.

The GGP Contextual Database contains variables structured by 16 key contextual domains (see below). We aim at identifying variables that fulfil various criteria as developed below, including a clear link to individual level data, a strong focus on key dependent variables of the GGS, and measuring key dimensions derived from demographic theory and welfare state research.

2 Contextual domains

The following two figures display the GGS content and linked contextual domains by means of graphical charts¹. The black boxes refer to persons and contain the main “global” variables of the survey, with biographical data organized by life course domains. Links between persons are indicated by the orange diamonds - they contain the “relational variables”, i.e., information on the various relations between people. The green diamond denotes “job relations” and links persons to their job (green box). All relational diamonds are linked by two key “exchange” flows, the blue one indicating monetary flows (income including benefits and pensions; blue boxes) and exchange relations, the red one indicating exchange and use of time i.e., working time, care services and other items relating to household production (red boxes).

The second figure adds related contextual domains to the previous figure. Most boxes (brown) refer to the welfare state, i.e., the tax & benefit and regulatory system which structures the relations between markets, the private sector, families and gender. These domains are connected; and three main concepts of welfare state research are highlighted in the graph: (1) policies that impact the dependency of income on market

¹ A more detailed description of the survey and its link to 16 key contextual domains is contained in Spielauer (2004).

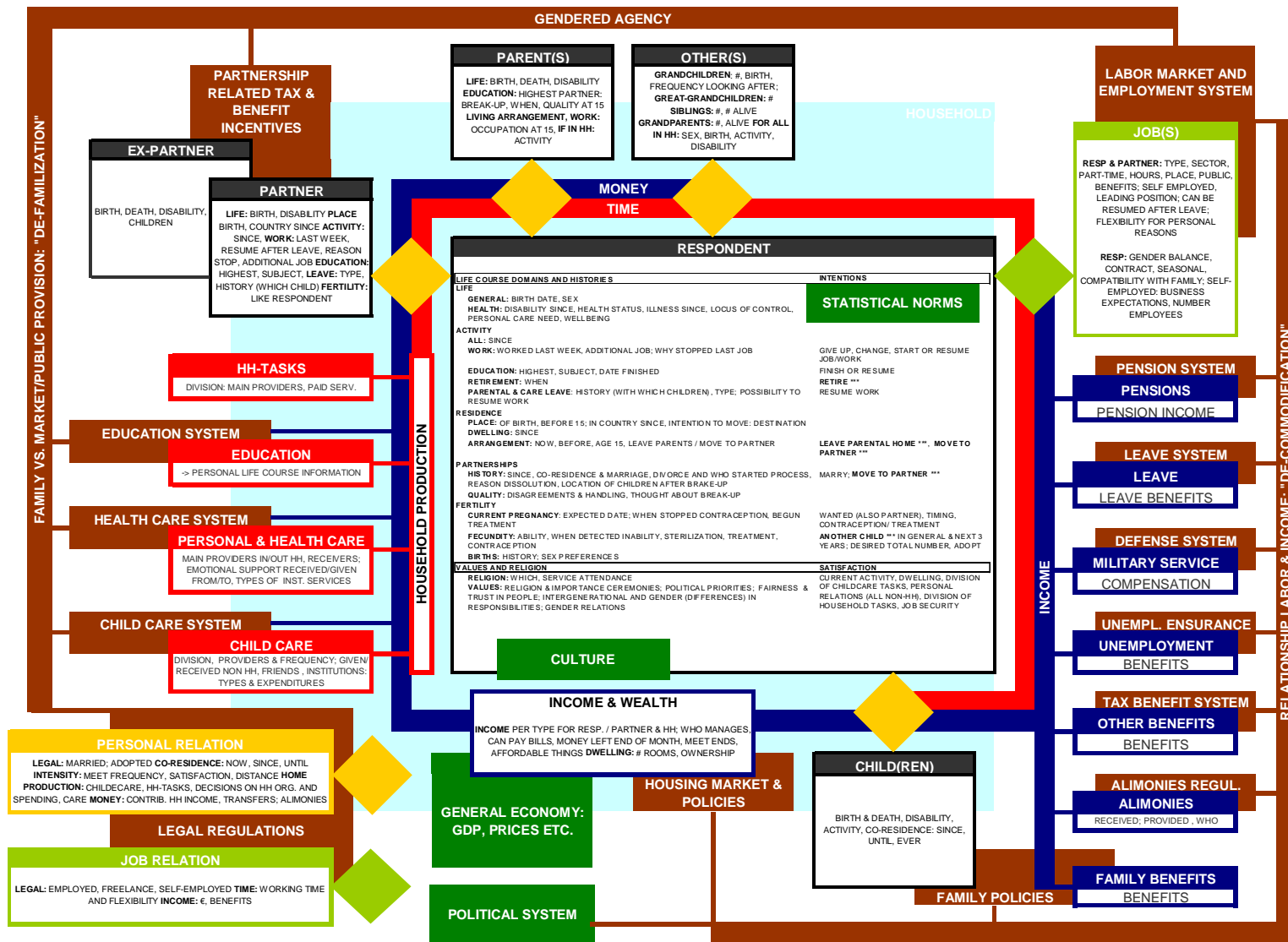
work, i.e., the concept of de-commodification introduced by Esping-Andersen (1980); (2) policies and institutional care provisions that impact the availability of care services outside the family, referring to Esping-Andersen's concept of de-familialization; and (3) policies that structure the gender division of paid and unpaid work, e.g., policies that support dual or single breadwinner models, referring to the "gendered agency" concepts introduced by Korpi (2000).

Besides welfare state institutions, individual behavior is assumed to be influenced by the general macroeconomic situation, cultural, religious and other (e.g., statistical) norms; these macro domains are displayed in the green boxes.

The 16 main contextual domains identified are:

- general demographic indicators
- general economic indicators
- labor market and employment
- pension system
- parental leave institutions
- childcare policies and institutions
- military and alternative civilian service system
- unemployment
- tax/benefit system
- housing market and policies
- legal regulations of personal relations & family responsibilities
- education system
- health
- elderly Care
- political system
- culture & values

In Section 5 entitled "Contextual domains" we will describe the measurement dimensions and the database content by domain.



3 Data content

By identifying the main contextual domains as described above, we aimed at establishing a close link between the Generations and Gender survey and the Contextual Database. In this section, we move on from “choosing the right topics” to “asking the right questions”, i.e., to develop the criteria that decide which variables to include in the database.

The novelty of the survey lies in the broad spectrum of covariates, reflecting the multidisciplinary approach of the program. The range of theories and hypotheses is accordingly broad and this highlights the importance of identifying useful selection criteria. What are the key criteria for the development of the list of variables? First, we have to ensure that there exists a close link between the contextual variables and key behaviors – the dependent variables – of the survey. To allow meaningful analysis, it also has to be possible to link individual level data to their relevant context. For example, time-series information on a regional level is useful only, if we know the individuals’ migration history. In the literature on that subject, we find different contextual spheres that are believed to impact individual behavior, such as norms, policies, the economic situation and culture. Accordingly, we aim at selecting variables that together cover different important spheres. Regarding policies, welfare state research has identified important concepts that constitute important dimensions such as risks, equality, rights and agency. Many measures relate to one of two key concepts - time and money - which, as discussed in Spielauer (2004a), capture important dimensions of generational and gender relations studied in GGS. The following illustration displays the key concepts that the database variables should relate to – the focus - and the variables that should be included – the coverage. These concepts also lend themselves as classification scheme of the database.

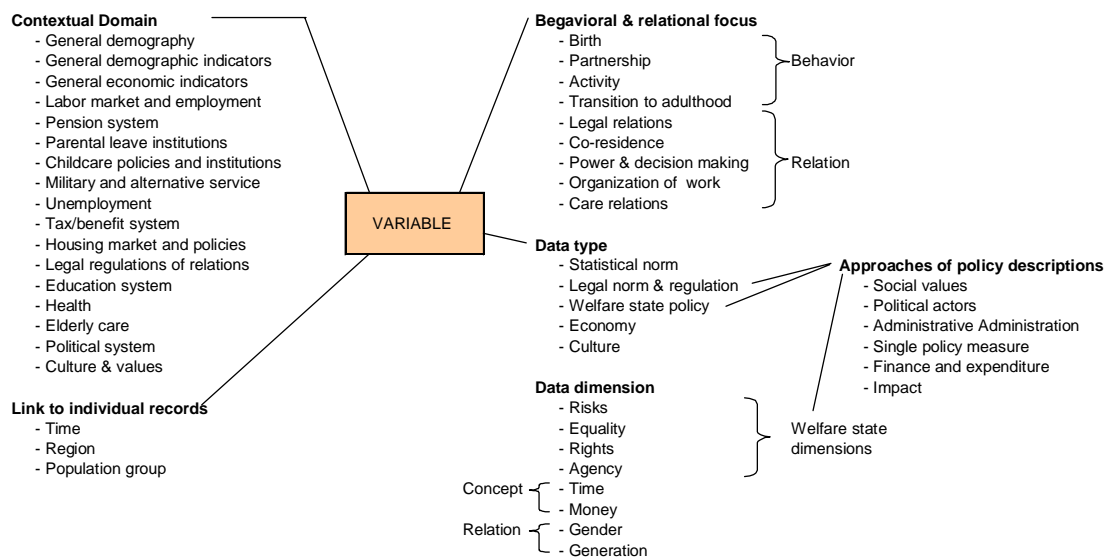


Illustration: Key concepts and variable classification

0.0 Behavioral and relational focus of the data collection

While the general focus of the GGP and the important links of micro behaviors to the macro context are already reflected in the choice of the 16 contextual domains, the selection of variables within this broad range of contextual domains also has to consider the key behaviors and relations that constitute the dependent variables of the GGP. A guiding question for the decision to include a variable in the database or not therefore is, if there exists a hypothesis that links this variable to one or more of the studied behaviors. As the study of behaviors in the GGP follows a life course approach that structures individual biographies into parallel careers and records the time of occurrence of central events belonging to these selected careers, we aim at identifying variables that impact the timing, sequencing and synchronization of one or more central life-course events of the GGP.

The central careers of the first wave of the GGP are partnerships and births as well as some aspects of education and economic activity, which will be supplemented by full job and educational histories in the second wave. The most important events are:

- partnership formation: cohabitation and marriage
- partnership dissolution: end of partnerships and legal divorce
- childbearing including the adoption of children and the use or means to prevent and support pregnancy risks (contraceptives and fertility treatment)
- leaving home
- starting, resuming and finishing education
- starting paid work and interrupting job careers due to leave periods, unemployment etc.
- retirement

The mechanisms of how the context influences individual life-course decisions are usually of a complex nature. Some contextual characteristics, such as legal norms and restrictions, influence behavior directly, but the mechanism is usually indirect as the context defines the set of choices and the consequences of certain behaviors rather than directly enforcing them. We will isolate some central context types and dimensions in the next section.

Besides its focus on life course events, the GGP studies the respondent's partnership and intergenerational family relations. The GGP collects data on gender and generational relations in various dimensions, including their legal nature, co-residence, intensity, satisfaction, quality, power and decision making and economic interchange both regarding money and household production of child and elderly care. While the legal regulations of personal relations constitutes one of the 16 contextual domains by itself, intergenerational and gender relations are of importance also as general focus of the contextual data collection.

1.0 The link between contextual and individual data

With a view to support a multilevel approach to GGP data, we have to ensure that it is possible to link individual level data to their relevant context. Together with the innovative design of the Generations and Gender Survey, and especially its combination of retrospective and prospective components, this places high demands on our contextual data collection. In order to meet the historical depth of the Generations and Gender Survey and to link individual biographies to the historic context, we need to provide time series (or context history) data. As individual migration histories are not collected in the GGP survey (at least in the first two waves), this part of the data collection is limited to national level data only. There exists essential variation over time, and this is a key criterion for the inclusion of a time-series variable in the database. Time series and context history data will be collected for the time period 1970 onwards.

A link by region can be established for cross-sectional data and concerning the prospective component of the survey. Around 25% of variables of the contextual database are collected on the regional level – usually provinces – and will be updated with the successive waves of the survey. Considerable regional variation – which is a criterion for inclusion in the database - can frequently be observed for (1) economic indicators such as (un)employment, income, poverty and the housing situation; (2) general demographic indicators; (3) the availability and use of formal child-care institutions; (5) education; (6) dominant political tendencies as well as (7) the religious and ethnical composition of the population.

Besides the general link of individuals to context by time and region, different population groups find themselves in very specific contexts. Typical population groups frequently separated in aggregated statistics are constructed by gender, age group, marital status, educational attainment, and occupation. An additional group that is relevant for the study of gender relations and frequently used in the contextual database are parents and mothers (e.g., the employment of mothers by age of youngest child). In order to determine policy contexts for individuals of different characteristics, the description of policy measures especially emphasizes concepts of eligibility.

2.0 Types of context data and data dimensions

0.0.0 Norms

Etymologically, the term "norm" comes from the Latin word "norma", which means "angle measure" or "rule". Norms denote reference values for the evaluation of individual behavior. Important conceptualizations of norms useful for our purpose are (1) the statistical conceptualization of norms originating in behaviorism and the (2) sociological conceptualization of norms as social facts.

Statistical norms refer to regular behavior, a behavioral pattern becomes a norm if the majority of actors behave due to this pattern. Thus, norms are objectively observable and measurable e.g., by mean values, such as the mean age at first birth. In difference to this descriptive concept of norms, the second concept is prescriptive and value-oriented. In the sociological conceptualization of norms, norms are social facts that can be identified through the existence of certain sanctions rather than directly. In Parson's theory (1964) norms represent institutionalized role expectations. The objective character of norms is obtained by the integration of role expectations into the cultural system, formal and informal regulations and legislation; they obtain a regulating function due to different mechanisms of social control.

0.0.0.0 Statistical norms

In the contextual database we include statistical norms in the form of mean values and age distributions of the key demographic events, such as the mean age at childbearing and marriage. Many of these statistical norms are found in the first contextual domain of “general demographic indicators” but are also present in most other contextual domains. As statistical norms change over time, they can also serve as indicators of developmental stages assuming universal transition mechanisms as in demographic transition theory. In this sense, statistical norms can be used as indicators of the prevalence or emergence of certain behaviors (e.g., unmarried cohabitation).

According to the classification of Hox, statistical norms are “analytical variables” derived by aggregation describing means and distributions of individual events and characteristics. Statistical norms are also present in the context of policies, where they constitute important outcome variables, e.g., measuring enrolment and take-up rates. Besides the concepts of time (e.g., average age) and enrolment rates, some important statistical norms also refer to monetary concepts, such as a certain level of income or economic living conditions, seen as prerequisite for marriage and childbearing.

1.0.0.0 Legal norms and regulations

Legal norms and regulations are prescriptive and can be identified through the existence of legal sanctions for their enforcement. Many legal regulations impose important timing norms that impact key domains of the individual life course. This is especially visible for education systems that e.g., define the minimum compulsory time of schooling. Important timing norms are also set by work time regulations, paid maternity leave periods, the conscription age and time of obligatory military services or the legal retirement age.

Some legal norms impose important quality standards, e.g., staff requirements of childcare institutions, which may impact individual decisions on the organization of care.

Legal regulations also define family responsibilities and may restrict, prohibit or regulate certain behaviors and personal relations, examples being abortion laws, divorce regulations and the legal treatment of same-sex partnerships. According to their importance, these legal regulations constitute a contextual domain of the database of their own.

1.0.0 Policies and the welfare state

Policy data constitute one of the core elements of the contextual database of the Generations and Gender Program. We are interested, if, how, and to which extent public policies influence individual behavior and aim at providing instruments for policy-relevant research. The term “public policies” is closely related to governmental action and indicates both the principles underlying governmental action and the action itself, expressed in legislation, resolutions, programs, regulations etc. When providing policy indicators for a database, the possible range of such indicators accordingly varies from the indicators of the underlying policy concepts to the detailed description and quantification of single policy measures (e.g., the length of the care leave period reserved for fathers, in days).

Policies can be analyzed on several dimensions and at different levels. Bahle & Maucher (1998) distinguish between six different approaches, some of which can directly be related to various streams of welfare state research:

(1) The study of social values and normative concepts, i.e., the principles underlying governmental action. Normative concepts are e.g., reflected in the different programs and priorities of political parties and also correspond to the various typologies of welfare state regimes, such as Esping-Andersen’s classification of liberal vs. universal and conservative welfare states. Many useful classification schemes for policies and system designs are derived from this perspective and are useful to characterize the policies and welfare state institutions that are covered by our database. The dimensions used in the Contextual Database in order to either classify policies directly or by providing variables that allow such a classification include:

- general typologies for social security systems
- the underlying and supported family paradigm of male breadwinner vs. dual care and earner families; and
- the target unit of policies, distinguishing individualistic vs. family-oriented concepts.

(2) The study of political actors and programs. The development of welfare states involves and reflects the efforts and struggles of competing interest groups to gain political influence and to lobby policy makers to their course. The presence and power of certain groups reflect dominant value systems and - assuming universal movements such as secularization or female emancipation – to some degree the developmental stages of societies. The study of political debates reveals politically important and controversial

topics and the extent of interest group mobilization. The contextual database includes information on the main political parties, their relative political strength as well as participation in government coalitions, as very often it is consensual politics that shape certain policies. Other variables include the religious composition of the population and the importance of churches and religious parties to society. The study of the public presence and representation of various groups of the population, most importantly of women, is related to the study of political actors. Measures contained in the database include data on females in decision-making positions, political parties and governmental bodies.

(3) The study of the administrative organization and implementation of policies. The level of policy implementation, i.e., the level to which policies are institutionalized on the level of central government or at the regional level may indicate national priorities and the extent to which policies are perceived as social rights rather than supplementary poor-relief measures, which are frequently organized at the local level. The autonomy of agencies from government is another dimension, and this autonomy is reflected in funding mechanisms. Especially government pressure to cut tax-financed programs may be greater if the social security institution or fund is government-funded rather than self-sponsored. Another dimension is the degree of administrative centralization or de-centralization of agencies and their clientele; the latter often applies to occupational social insurers. As to the contextual database, we are largely limited to national policies and capture the administrative organization of policies in an indirect manner, e.g., by indicating the coverage of programs (indicating the degree to which a given systems is universal).

(4) The study of single policy measures includes benefits, service provision and institutional regulations such as entitlement conditions, benefit rates and access to these services. This approach aims at developing a standardized description and quantification of key features of single or comparable policy measures. It is one of the challenges of comparative research to find such schemes that capture all important dimensions of policies and suit a wide set of possible policy designs. Applied to the contextual database, we follow this approach for various policies, most importantly parental leave institutions and childcare provision. Some of the main policy dimensions that we aim at capturing will be described below.

(5) Funding and social expenditure. This approach uses social expenditure as a measure of the welfare state at various detail levels. While the general level of social expenditure gives some indication of the extent to which a state engages in the provision of economic and social security etc., the study of how spending is distributed between different categories provides additional information. We can distinguish between two important perspectives. The functional perspective focuses on the purpose of social spending, i.e., to which extent provisions are allocated to certain means and population groups, e.g., old age, health, unemployment, family, survivors, disability, existence minimum. Expenditure data by population group reveals important Generations and Gender paradigms governing

welfare-state policies as it highlights priorities in the distribution of welfare state provisions and recipients: young versus old, families versus individuals, men versus women, mothers versus fathers, care receivers versus care givers etc. A major shortcoming of this approach is that it does not fully capture the funding of benefits, e.g., aspects of tax-incidence and long-term financial commitments of governments. Data availability problems frequently also lead to the non-inclusion of some policy aspects, such as tax benefits, in the expenditure calculations.

The second perspective is institutional, and involves an analysis of who provides which kind of benefit. This approach is linked to the study of administrative organization as described above, quantifying the share of spending channeled through the different agencies. This approach reveals important aspects of the underlying mechanisms, principles and paradigms of welfare state regimes. As different institutions are based on different funding mechanisms, e.g., general taxes or individual social security contributions, this perspective also captures some aspects of the funding mechanism and its relative importance to the tax/benefit and social security system. The institutional perspective also includes an analysis of the share of expenditure by the level at which programs are implemented, i.e. the national vs. regional. To some extent this level indicates the perception of provisions as social rights.

(6) The study of policy impact. This approach focuses on the outcome of policies. Thereby we can make a distinction between the theoretical study of policy impact e.g., by means of model calculations and the microsimulation of tax-benefit systems and empirical research. Examples of the former are the OECD “Taxing Wages Database”, which provides internationally comparative data on direct tax collected from employees and their employers; and another example is the EUROMOD microsimulation model. From such calculations we obtain important indicators of the “pressure on behavior” of tax-benefit systems, such as marginal tax rates and the tax treatment of spouses and children that influences female labor-market behavior especially. The contextual database contains a limited set of such variables, which are obtained from international comparable data sources. The provision of instruments for the empirical study of the impact of policies on demographic behavior and gender and generational relations is one of the main aims of the Generations and Gender Program.

What are the variables that best describe and measure this context? What are the most important dimensions and what level and detail is the most appropriate for our purpose? The appropriate level depends on various parameters. First it depends on the contextual domain. Some of the domains are specific (e.g., parental leave institutions) and refer to single programs, while other domains are kept general (e.g., labor market). This distinction does not reflect the importance of certain topics to the database, it rather reflects the availability of data, the possibility and ease to identify comparative measurement schemes and variables, and also the appropriate level of detail to establish a link between individual

level GGP data and contextual variables. Sometimes, a detailed description of a single representative measure – “the whole is in the part” - reveals more information than a collection of variables of a multitude of policies.

What are the key dimensions of policies we aim at measuring? Measurement dimensions have a close link to social norms and values. The welfare state itself evolved from the recognition of social rights as a central value that a state is obliged to guarantee e.g., by applying social policies. Welfare state research has identified various typologies of welfare state regimes, which correspond to different priorities and alternative solutions of value conflicts. The most important values around which various measurement dimensions can be clustered relate to the concepts of agency, equality, security and rights (Neyer 2003).

(1) Social Rights: To what extent does a state consider material and social needs to be economic and social rights, and what steps does it take to guarantee these rights? The term “welfare state” is closely linked to Marshall’s (1950) concept of social citizenship based on the recognition of social rights. An influential way of specifying social citizen rights is linked to Esping—Andersen’s concept of de-commodification: the degree of the weakening of the cash-nexus by granting entitlements independent of market participation² (Esping Andersen 1999). The degree to which policies and social security systems are designed in recognition of social and economic rights is reflected in legal entitlements, eligibility, coverage, the linkage of benefits to individual contributions and the existence and level of minimum standards, e.g., minimum benefits or the quality standards of services. Some inference can also be drawn from the degree of public sector involvement in the provision of services.

(2) Equality: To what extent does the state reduce social and economic inequalities? What is the extent of such inequalities? What are they based on: gender, ethnic group, age, class, occupational sector, educational attainment? The concepts of equality include (i) equality of life chances, i.e., the distribution of opportunities, resources and capabilities; (ii) the cross-sectional differentiation of living conditions; and (iii) permanent social cleavages, i.e., class formation and the intergenerational transmission of life chances (Esping-Andersen 1999). Equality concepts need to be contrasted by the concept of equity, the latter which refers to fairness and justice. Equality has important gender, generational and class dimensions. Measures of the extent of equality are participation and enrolment rates (e.g., labor-market participation by sex and age) and distributions of e.g., income. Policy dimensions reflecting equality concepts include benefit eligibility and coverage, public sector involvement in service provision (e.g., schools), the existence and mechanisms of

² Prerequisites of this concept are commodified agents, i.e., agents that are active in the labor market; this makes the concept unacceptable from a feminist perspective, leading to various attempts to reformulate the concept in order to account for the gender dimension.

measures to provide access to services and markets (e.g., housing, education), the (equal?) treatment of unmarried and same-sex partnerships, the special protection of institutions, such as the family, and affirmative actions to actively promote equality.

(3) Risks: This concept has to do with the likeliness of unfavorable events, such as unemployment and sickness, the consequences of such events, such as poverty and dependence, how these risks and consequences are related to the life-course events and relations studied in GGP, and the ways in which the state impacts these risks and consequences. Risks directly addressed in the database are poverty and unemployment (by age, sex, family form and other characteristics). Important policy dimensions are replacement rates including the underlying concept (e.g., poverty prevention vs. status maintenance), durations (of benefits; average durations of unemployment) and the treatment of unpaid care work by the pension system.

(4) Agency: To what extent does the state enable a person to enter into or exit from social and economic relationships? Agency refers to a set of choices, the ability to choose and to the incentive system that influences the choice (to be) made, including the individual's bargaining position within the family. The concept of agency is frequently combined with the concept of equality in terms of 'equality in the freedom to achieve'. The concept of agency is especially useful for the study of gender differentials³. Policies interfere with agency in various ways. Policies impact the economic burden associated with behaviors studied in GGP: rent or mortgage repayments, school fees, the cost of care services etc. The availability and opening hours of care and educational institutions impact the time commitment associated with family responsibilities and – together with affordability - the reconciliation of family and work. The set of choices is also influenced by the flexibility of policies (e.g., the deferability of parts of leave periods). An important component of agency refers to the incentive system. Especially the organization of paid and unpaid work between partners – including the decision of who takes up leave periods – is influenced by the tax and benefit system. Agency is also effected by legal regulations and restrictions.

2.0.0 The general living standard and economic situation

Beside norms, legal regulations and policies, we can expect the general living standard and economic situation of a country or region to effect life course decisions as well as intergenerational and gender relations. Measurement dimensions are the general level (income, GDP), participation in economic activity, income distribution, economic stability (inflation) and economic growth.

³ The term "gendered agency inequality" (quotation marks) was introduced by Korpi (2000)

3.0.0 Culture

Concerning the cultural context, the contextual database gives information on the regional population composition by religious affiliation, language and ethnical group.

4 Contextual domains

In the following, we describe the general focus and coverage of the contextual database by contextual domain. A list of all variables ordered by contextual domain is contained in the Appendix.

0.0 General demographic indicators

This database section consists of a brief selection of key demographic indicators. The behavioral focus lies on the classic demographic events of birth, marriage, divorce, migration and mortality; additional topics are abortion and single motherhood. According to the classification by Hox, most variables are “analytical variables” derived by aggregation describing means and distributions of individual events and characteristics. As part of the contextual database they can serve as indicators of (statistical) age norms (e.g., mean ages for events such as marriage and first birth) or statistical norms in terms of the prevalence of certain behaviors (e.g., marriage, divorce, abortion, migration). Most of the variables are collected on the national level in the form of time series starting 1970 and onwards, and on the regional level in order to capture important regional variations and very recent trends since 2000. The dominant measurement dimension is related to time in the form of individual age, e.g., the mean ages at demographic events and age distributions. Some of the variables, such as divorce rates, also relate to concepts of risks, divorce, single motherhood, illegitimate births, and abortions can also be related to the concept of agency.

Variables on demographic events – birth, marriage, migration and death – are usually available at high quality also on the sub-national level due to census and register data. Most of the national data are also available from international data bases

1.0 General economic indicators

This database section consists of a very brief selection of general economic indicators that are not directly linked to specific activity statuses (employment, retirement, unemployment etc.) or policies and therefore not included in the various other contextual domains. General economic circumstances, such as the level of economic development, growth rates and the economic stability of a country or region, impact most behaviors studied in our program. The behavioral focus of this group of variables is accordingly broad.

Economic indicators typically relate to the concept of money. A first group of variables consist of general measures of economic output and prices and their development over time - information that can be used to identify periods of economic growth or crisis and instability (inflation). These data are national level time-series. A second group of variables concerns household income distributions and poverty, capturing some aspects of the economic risks of certain population groups on the regional level.

Harmonized national time-series data are available from various international databases. Poverty measures on the regional level do exist for most countries, but there is a broad variety of definitions of poverty and poverty lines. As poverty concepts relate to both absolute and relative dimensions, a comparison between countries is difficult with most measures. As an exception to the general rule, we therefore allow for national definitions.

2.0 Labor market and employment regulations

Labor market characteristics and employment regulations are of key importance in the study of activity careers and their interaction with other life course domains. They impact many aspects of family and gender relations studied in the GGS. Career chances on the labor market have an influence on the transition to adulthood as well as on retirement decisions. In modern societies, the major socioeconomic stratification processes take place in the labor market. Labor-market participation, besides its importance to generate personal and household income, is also likely to “affect a person’s self-perception, identity, and effective scope in ways that may influence capabilities and freedom in many different areas of life [...] and likely to affect interaction patterns and bargaining positions within the family” (Korpi 2000, p139).

The variables of this section cover both concepts of time, e.g., in the form of work-time regulations and regulations concerning and promoting part-time work, and concepts of money, i.e., employment income. Not surprisingly, many concepts developed by welfare state researchers are linked to labor, most prominently Esping-Andersen’s concept of de-commodification. Individual agency is clearly influenced by chances on the labor market and by regulations that may influence the reconciliation of work with family obligations. Labor market policies also impact the generational distribution of risks. A high level of protection of people in the labor market may create an insider-outsider problem, directing labor market risks towards the young who as a result may have difficulties to find stable employment. Being the main source of income, data on wages by sex and age reveal useful information on cross-sectional, generational and gender equality.

The variables in the contextual database can be divided into various groups. We first study labor-market participation – outcome variables that may constitute statistical norms – by age, sex and family status (mothers by the age of the youngest child). These variables capture important equality aspects, which are complemented by general variables on the

labor market such as sectoral and public employment. Monetary equality aspects are captured by a set of variables on wages and wage distributions. Another group of variables focuses on employment stability and risks, measured in the permanency of job contracts and labor turnover. An important set of variables connected with the concepts of agency and reconciliation of work and family obligations concern work time regulations such as working hours, holidays and part-time employment. Regarding the latter, we include policy information on the promotion of part-time work, legal entitlement to part-time work and outcome variables on part-time employment, e.g., of mothers by the age of the youngest child. Another aspect of labor market flexibility linked to time is connected to standard hours, extra compensation for work during non-standard hours and measure to reduce work during non-standard hours, e.g. shop opening hours.

While most variables are collected on the national level, we aim at collecting participation rates (by gender, motherhood and sector) and average wages on a sub-national level. Given the wide range of policies that influence the labor market, policies are mostly captured on abstract levels by general structured (text) descriptions and total expenditure levels for labor-market policies. Single policy measures include work-time regulations and some minimum standards (e.g., holidays and minimum wages).

Some harmonized national time-series data are available from international databases, e.g., of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and OECD. The data collection on part-time work, work-time and holiday regulations as well as standard hours is mainly inspired by Gornick's family policy database. Data usually not available in the proposed form include labor-market participation by age of the youngest child and have to be calculated from national surveys.

3.0 Pension System

Pension systems historically belong to the oldest social security institutions, initially thought as insurance against reduced working power at high age and conceptually closely linked to health insurance systems. With the introduction of a legal retirement age independent of health status (very often combined with an early retirement age for health reasons), pension systems created new age norms for the transition into "the third age". Since the introduction of pension systems and legal retirement age norms, life expectancy has been increasing considerably, leading to increasing retirement duration.

In the context of the Generations and Gender Program, we are both interested in the current socio-economic circumstances of retired people and people close to retirement (the GGS collects detailed information on retirement intentions), but also in the way in which the pension systems may impact behaviors at much younger ages, such as labor market participation and the take-up of leave periods. Pension systems do not only have an important inter-generational dimension, sometimes characterized as generation contract,

but are also highly gendered systems. Eligibility for public pensions and the calculation of pension benefits is usually dependent on contribution histories and therefore on labor-market participation and income - and very different regulations e.g., for dependent spouses or how (and if) unpaid care work is accounted for. While gender inequalities in material terms disappeared in partnerships (Korpi 2000), gender agency inequality (e.g., in the distribution of paid and unpaid work) persist and often become manifest in material terms in case of partnership dissolution: lone mothers, widows and divorced women are at higher risk of poverty in most societies – before and after retirement.

Welfare state research is especially rich in research on pension systems (Esping Andersen 1990ff, Korpi & Palme 1998 etc.) and many typologies of welfare state regimes coincide with typologies of pension systems. Korpi and Palme (1998) have developed a typology of social insurance institutions based on three aspects: (1) criteria for benefit eligibility, (2) principles used for determining benefit levels, and (3) structures for governing social insurance institutions. Based on this typology, they identified four main models, (1) the targeted model (minimum or flat-rate benefits on the basis of need – corresponding to the liberal welfare state regime), (2) the state corporatist model (various different schemes by occupational groups, earning related benefits - corresponding to the conservative welfare state regime), the (3) basic security model (flat rate benefits, eligibility based on citizenship or payment of contributions) and the (4) encompassing model, combining models 2 and 3 (the latter two corresponding to the universalistic welfare state regime, historically starting from the basic security model). Economic literature on pension systems usually distinguish between non-funded pay as you go (defined benefit) systems and funded (defined contribution) systems, with a wide variety within these systems, ranging from tax financed flat-rate pensions without a (or with only a loose) link to individual contribution histories to individual pension accounts.

Detailed comparative information on national pension systems is contained in various international databases, including the Social Security Around the World database. (-> link). As to the contextual database, we concentrate on a few key characteristics of national pension systems and their change over time. The variables can be divided into a group related to time and timing and a second related to monetary aspects. We distinguish between two important aspects of timing: (i) timing norms captured by the legal and average retirement age, (ii) the link between contribution periods and benefits and how family and child-care (parental leave, elderly care) is accounted for. Monetary aspects include current average and minimum pensions and the expected replacement rate of obligatory pension schemes.

4.0 Parental leave institutions

We use the term parental leave institutions to sum up maternity, paternity, parental and care leave systems, i.e., leave and benefits related to confinement and the possibility of parents to care for their children in the first months or few years.

The first of the wide range of possible measures that was introduced in most countries as early as in the first half of the past century was maternity leave as part of the social insurance system for employed women. Recommendations for a minimum of 12 weeks maternity leave by the International Labor Organization (ILO) date back to 1919. In 1952, during a second convention, ILO suggested 14 weeks of maternity leave with full wage replacement, which became the minimum standard for maternity leave regulations for EU countries (supplemented by minimum standards for care leave periods).

Following the 1952 suggestion, various countries went very different ways as to the introduction and design of additional parental and care leave measures. Many countries considerably increased leave periods to up to three years and fathers also became eligible to take up (part of) parental leave (which followed maternity leave in many countries), sometimes actively supported by the introduction of periods reserved for fathers only. This increase in the of length of leave was often accompanied by a switch of the compensation system after the initial weeks of maternity leave from income-related insurance schemes to flat-rate benefits, sometimes also extended to universal systems (i.e., flat-rate payments independent of previous employment). The latter constitutes a typical pattern in conservative welfare states. Being independent of labor-market attachment and due to the negative incentives of the flat-rate system for the earner of higher income (usually men) to take up leave, it is considered to supports the male-breadwinner model (Ferrarini 2003). Therefore, universalistic welfare states that emphasize dual earner support usually maintain income-related schemes (combined with a minimum flat rate) of shorter periods (around 1 year), combined with heavy investments in institutional childcare.

Some countries also introduced (usually very short periods of) paternal leave that can be taken in parallel by both parents, thereby allowing them to spend time out of labor together. In many countries, leave periods in addition to maternity leave are unpaid, in others, the duration of job protection and the period of benefits does not coincide.

In order to allow for a better match of the care needs of children with leave periods, some countries increased the flexibility of the leave system regarding time due to the introduction of deferrable periods, allowing parents to take part of the leave e.g., at the school entering age of their child. With an increasing emphasis on the compensation for care, regardless of whether this care is provided by parents or in other care arrangements, leave benefits can also be understood as care benefits, implying no or fewer restrictions on labor-market participation. Accordingly, some countries introduced care benefits that can be combined with employment up to certain hours or income levels, or which are payable

if no subsidized childcare facilities are used. Other benefits that are not necessarily subject to restrictions of this kind but sometimes used to influence maternal behavior, e.g., by requiring regular health check-ups, are maternity grants.

Parental leave institutions set norms and create incentives regarding how care-work is organized between parents, and between parents and other formal or informal childcare providers and institutions. The combination of job protection periods and benefit schemes interact with the career and income risk of spending some time out of employment caring for a child and how care-work is shared between partners. Together with the availability, affordability and quality of childcare facilities it influences the gendered agency of parents and has therefore a strong effect on the risks and consequences of parenthood.

Parental leave institutions are an examples of policy measures that comprise the whole variety of welfare state dimensions: income and job risks by temporarily leaving the labor market, gendered agency influenced by the flexibility of schemes and gendered incentives (who should take up the leave), underlying equality concepts as well as rights, e.g., to return to a job after leave. Taking into account the assumed importance of leave policies, we aimed at developing a detailed comparative scheme of the measures that capture many important dimensions of policies and suit the wide set of policy designs found in different countries. We distinguish between job protection periods and benefit periods, the latter being either of a predominantly earning-related type (flat-rate payments may exist for people with no previous earnings), a flat-rate type or (very frequently) a combination of both. Most of the policy variables therefore have to be collected for all three components if applicable and include:

- Maximum time for mother: the maximum leave period that can be taken the mother before and after delivery
- Sharing time: the amount of time of the different schemes that can be taken by the father
- Time reserved for fathers: extra time (in addition to maximum time for mother) that can only be taken by fathers
- Paternal leave: leave periods of the various types that can be taken by fathers in parallel to the mother's leave
- Money: the replacement rate, minimum (or flat-rate) and maximum benefit of paid leave schemes
- Eligibility: restrictions of the eligibility to the different schemes, e.g., birth order, previous employment, time without employment since last birth, employment restrictions, non-use of subsidized childcare services
- Flexibility: deferability (amount, until), extendibility with part-time work, possibility of higher benefits if shorter leave is taken

- Take-up: percentage of mothers and fathers taking leave of various types

To complement these policy descriptions, we also collect information on the policy outcome in form of take-up rates and times, and quantify the percentage of parents eligible to the benefits.

The selection of variables was partly inspired by existing family policy databases, especially Gauthier's "Comparative Maternity, Parental, and Childcare Database" and Gornick's Family Policy Database. Comparative data for the EU including its new member states are contained in the MISSOC database. All data are time-series data on the national level and need to be collected alongside this program, as most existing international databases only give a cross-sectional view or have a very limited historical depth.

5.0 Childcare policies and institutions

Together with care leave institutions, childcare policies strongly influence the choices that parents have in the organization of childcare. The need for childcare facilities in order to reconcile work with family life was also recognized by the European Union, which set "Barcelona Summit" targets for the availability of care institutions to 33% of children below 3 years and 90% of children from age 3 to school age for 2010. Currently, enrollment rates in childcare facilities for children below age 3 vary between 3% (Greece) and over 60% (Denmark) in the EU15 countries, reflecting the large variety of how early age childcare is organized in different countries.

The organization of childcare is closely linked to welfare state regimes. The universalistic approach emphasizes the legal entitlement for fulltime care services that are usually provided by the state and fulfil high standards of quality, e.g., regarding training requirements of staff. Conservative states rather invest in generous leave systems that rely on the family (mostly women) as main care provider. A third type of policy mix consists of heavy public investments in both areas (cash support and childcare services) not aiming to create incentives towards certain types of the organization (and therefore possibly cementing existing pattern) of care but providing a broader range of options, or more "freedom of choice". On the other side of the possible spectrum are countries with very low levels of public investments in childcare, that may be distinguished by countries with high female labor-market participation and an emphasis on market solutions (the liberal welfare state regime) and countries with very low female labor-market participation with a strong reliance on families (i.e., women) as main care providers.

The key dimensions of the analysis of childcare policies covered in the contextual database include:

- the availability of care institutions of different types (including part-time versus fulltime) by means of a (text) description of the national and regional systems and typical arrangements (over time),
- costs and how they are shared between parents and the public,
- the quality of childcare institutions measured by the child-staff ratio and staff qualification requirements,
- the existence of legal entitlements for institutional care: age range and hours (fulltime versus part-time),
- enrollment rates by age and institution type,
- timing norms and time regulations including (pre)school entry ages and typical school hours.

Especially in countries with no legal entitlement for institutional childcare, the availability may vary considerably by region and municipality type, and this makes it necessary to collect variables on childcare on a sub-national level in most countries.

6.0 Military and alternative civilian service system

Countries differ considerably by the organization of their national defense system, with many countries having obligatory military service, usually with an option for alternative civilian service of the same duration or sometimes longer. Defense systems are highly gendered systems, especially compulsory services, usually only including men. Depending on the duration and flexibility of timing, military and civilian service interact with other life course careers, e.g., they may interrupt educational and job careers and delay other life course events, such as entering a job career, moving in with a partner and entering parenthood. As military and civilian service regulations may include exceptions or special treatments for people with family responsibilities or in special job positions or professions, the system also may interact with related life-course decisions in order to avoid individual service provision. Defense systems and military service are typical national matters. Regional differences are therefore limited to the supply side in non-compulsory service systems and countries with professional armies, where career decisions may show considerable regional variations according to alternative labor-market opportunities. The organization of military and civilian service was and is subject of substantial change over time in many countries, and this enables the study of the policy impact of related regulations. In many countries with compulsory service, a considerable percentage of people opt for the alternative of civilian service. Depending on the nature of this service, civilian servants may be important providers of care services and therefore providers of welfare in addition to the state, family, market and voluntary sector usually listed in the concept of welfare pluralism.

The data collection of the contextual database mainly focuses on age norms (service age and service durations) of compulsory military and civilian services. Some variables capture the agency regarding compulsory military and alternative civilian service, e.g., restrictions for alternative civilian service, the flexibility of the timing and the existence or exclusion of females in armed forces.

7.0 Unemployment

As a mass phenomenon, unemployment first emerged alongside the industrial revolution. In the preceding years, e.g., in the UK until 18XX, unemployment was considered vagabondage and in case of recurrence subject to legal persecution up to execution. While unemployment is still not fully de-stigmatized in some societies (e.g., Japan), with the increasing recognition of social rights and the emergence of welfare state, policies now focus on confronting social exclusion and poverty arising from unemployment and on the prevention of unemployment e.g., by active labor-market policies. Unemployment and unemployment risks effect many of the life-course behaviors studied in GGP. Unstable jobs and economic stress delay the transition to adulthood and may reduce fertility; on the other hand, unemployment spells and crises seen as temporal phenomena can also increase fertility, with parenthood being both a parallel and alternative career. (The latter was observed in Finland (Vikat 2004)).

Unemployment is closely related to many welfare state dimensions. As a risk, it affects different population groups differently by age, sex, profession, education and employer (e.g., public employees may enjoy full protection from unemployment risks). Equality concepts are also to be found in different designs of unemployment systems, which are based on need (means-tested programs) or status (replacement of former income). Inequalities can also be found regarding agency: certain population groups may have different levels of job security and access to labor markets, the latter also entailing discrimination of women, mothers, ethnic minorities and foreigners.

In the Contextual Database we mainly focus on three aspects of unemployment: (1) unemployment rates by individual characteristics such as age, sex and education; (2) measures on the duration of unemployment; and (3) the main characteristics of the unemployment insurance system in terms of time, benefit level and entitlement conditions. As the problem of unemployment can display considerable regional variations, we aim at collecting unemployment data at the lowest level possible, both regarding data availability and the possibility to link data with individual record in the GGS.

8.0 The tax and benefit system

Tax-benefit systems influence labor market incentives, as they define the impact of alternative labor market behaviors on disposable individual and family income. The design of tax systems – especially the taxation of individuals vs. couples, - also influences the extent to which paid employment and unpaid household activities and care work are shared between partners. Couple taxation decreases the marginal tax rate of the higher earning (frequently male) partner, while making employment for the other partner less attractive. Tax allowances for single earner families and children as well as child benefit change income positions according to the family situation, and this applies also to the systems of individual taxation. Besides the horizontal redistribution of incomes between employees in different family configurations, tax systems to different degrees also redistribute incomes vertically between different income groups and between people at different stages of their economic life-cycle.

As to the Contextual Database, we aim at characterizing the main features of tax-benefit systems and mayor changes over time by means of structured text description (which allows us to identify different periods) and some key indicators, such as the marginal income tax rate, the VAT rate, social security contribution rates and the general level of social expenditure. A policy measure described in more detail is child benefit.

Policy databases frequently concentrate on a comparison of benefits without considering the tax burden. Accounting for both factors implies the calculation of individual taxes and benefits e.g., for type cases typical of families and individuals. This is done e.g., in the OECD “Taxing Wages Database”, which provides internationally comparative data on direct taxes levied on employees and their employers in the 30 Member countries of the OECD. The database details the amount of taxes and benefits per program for various household types, and the taxes differ by income level and household composition. The same approach has been applied to the SCIP (Social Citizen Indicator Program) database developed by the Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI). The approach has some problems, though, suffice it to mention the identification of typical or “representative” case types, making the empirical validity of the approach rather problematic, especially when comparing countries of very different general income levels. As to the Contextual Database, we aim at using this approach nevertheless in order to obtain general indicators of (1) whether, and if so, to which extent children affect the net household income; and (2) the degree to which the tax-benefit system subsidizes a male breadwinner model⁴.

⁴ Details still have to be discussed. As SCIP extends its regional scope to the transition countries of Southern and Eastern Europe, we may be able to use the existing data for most countries.

9.0 The housing market and housing policy

Housing market characteristics, such as house prices as well as mortgage and rent levels and the availability of housing of different dwelling types, in conjunction with housing policies impact the transition processes to adulthood, such as moving out from the parental home and co-residence with the partner and – directly or indirectly – the timing of fertility. Housing policies in the former centrally planned economies serve as a good example to demonstrate the direct impact of housing policies on the timing of fertility: they provided privileged access to housing for parents and therefore promoted relatively early fertility. Housing policies impact the housing market both on the supply side, e.g., due to the direct provision of public housing, and the demand side, e.g., due to cash benefits and state-aided housing finance instruments. Additional instruments are price and rent regulations, and these may result in very segmented housing markets, with rent levels for otherwise comparable housing units varying considerably, e.g., by the year in which contracts were concluded.

Housing policies have a strong life-cycle dimension, as most benefits are received in the early phases of the active life-cycle and repaid later in life via taxes or individual repayment schemes of state loans. In this respect, housing policies compensate for unequal relative housing costs over the life-cycle: Housing expenditure is usually highest in life-course phases that are characterized by low life-cycle incomes at the beginning of a job career, very often combined with a high degree of family obligations. Housing costs are highest at the beginning of tenancy or ownership in absolute terms, too, as traditional mortgage and rent instruments are usually front-loaded due to nominally fixed repayments and rents (or rents indexed at rates not considering economic growth). Rent controls often increase this effect, leading to highest rents for young contracts while protecting old rent contracts, with the additional effect of reducing mobility. Housing policies also facilitate access to housing for certain population groups by regulating access to public housing and by providing (subsidized) loans or securing loans to households which are credit rationed, i.e., households that do not have the credit ratings required by banks.

Intergenerational transfers within families are frequently linked to housing directly by passing housing wealth on to the young generation or indirectly by financially supporting the young. In this respect, housing policies also have a cross-sectional re-distributive effect towards households that can not count on these transfers (with the possible impact of crowding out private intergenerational family transfers of resources). Some countries have high rates and a strong tradition of owner-constructed housing, with work-power informally provided by friends and neighbors.

Housing market characteristics usually have a considerable regional variation; housing policies are frequently defined on a regional rather than national level and subject to frequent change. This, together with the general complexity of the subject, makes it rather difficult to find comparative measures and policy descriptions. As to the Contextual

Database, we concentrate on three groups of variables. Norms (and possible economic constraints) can be captured by looking at the distribution of living arrangements by age group of people with and without cohabiting partner. A second group of variables considers dwelling types and ownership forms of the housing stock and new dwellings. A third aspect regards the financial burden associated with housing; it can be captured by standard rent prices. An alternative would relate housing costs to household income. Housing policies are mostly captured on the abstract level by general structured (text) descriptions and total public expenditure for housing.

10.0 Legal regulations of personal relations and family responsibilities

This database domain concentrates on four areas of legal regulations that (a) define family responsibilities and (b) directly restrict, prohibit and regulate important behaviors and personal relations studied in GGP or by setting strong (e.g., tax) incentives.

The first area comprises legal restrictions on abortions, which vary considerably over time and between countries. The second considers the legal treatment of partnerships. We want to know, if partnership registration changes individual tax and benefit positions and if the state distinguishes between married and unmarried cohabitation and between two- and same-sex partnerships. The third area concerns divorce restrictions, such as waiting times and the custody of children. Additionally, we are interested in the presence of legal obligations to care for parents.

11.0 Education system

Education plays a crucial role in demographic behavior, especially as to the timing of life-course events, and is closely linked to the concepts of human agency and autonomy. Most other life careers (i.e., household formation, marriage and parenting) usually start after leaving school. Education system create important age norms owing to differences in the duration of compulsory schooling and durations of typical educational tracks. In economic terms, educational attainment is a key determinant of human capital and strongly influences economic success, but also general agency – the freedom to achieve - and autonomy, reflected in changing gender relations and family behavior. Historically, access to education was highly gendered; today educational gender differences – e.g., measured by the share of men and women with tertiary education – no longer exist in many societies. In many industrialized countries, it is nowadays the gendered educational specialization rather than differences in the level and duration of education that – among other factors - leads to gender differences in labor market prospects. In many countries we also observe overall educational expansion, with a greater number of people acquiring higher education, and this trend is followed by every subsequent birth cohort, therefore leading to considerable generational differences in the educational composition of the population.

Educational attainment is an indicator of differences between individuals on many dimensions: It may be a measure of talent, income potential, social status and class as well as individual autonomy, i.e., independence of partners and perhaps also of general norms in society (Hoem et. al., 2001). Regarding the latter, education systems reflect basic concepts of society towards equality and social (educational) rights. Besides the cross-sectional differentiation of living conditions, the concepts of equality also include equality of life chances, i.e., the distribution of opportunities, resources and capabilities – all of them closely linked to educational attainment and access to education. Equality concepts also refer to permanent social cleavages, i.e., class formation and the intergenerational transmission of life chances, produced by education. Despite general educational expansion in many countries, considerable differences in educational opportunities regarding the individual regional and social background persist in most of them. In a comparative study of changes in educational stratification in 13 industrialized countries, Shavit & Blossfeld (1993) show that inequalities in educational opportunities have been remarkably stable since the early twentieth century. Research on Germany by Henz (1997) indicates that school careers, particularly transition rates following the completion of elementary schooling, are highly selective. Similar results have been found for Austria (Spielauer 2004b).

Education systems differ considerably in many aspects, as to (1) the school entrance age and the procedure of school enrolment, (2) the costs to parents and pupils/students, (3) the variety of educational tracks, (4) standards and variations in the quality of teaching, training and general supply and (5) access regulations. The differences reflect different welfare state regimes. For instance, the liberal regime type promotes equal opportunities predominantly by the very early institutionalization of education owing to preschool education and an early school entry age. The UK serves as a typical example; here compulsory school starts a year earlier than in Continental Europe. While such a system focuses on equal school starting conditions, higher education is typically left to private initiative and individual merit (e.g., as basis for student grants). No focus on pre- and early school education is found in conservative regimes, which usually differ to a large degree in that first school choices are taken at a very early age, leading to high intergenerational persistence of educational careers and attainments. Universalistic welfare states typically focus on educational rights. An exemplary policy is the Swedish right to obtain a secondary school diploma, a right that is also granted to adults by entitlements to paid leave to obtain this qualification.

The educational system heavily impacts the parental commitment in terms of time and monetary resources spent and is therefore linked to underlying family models. Conservative welfare state regimes are frequently associated with the male breadwinner model and a highly differentiated public part-time school system usually provided at no or low cost and at high quality. Liberal welfare state regimes heavily rely on private markets, requiring high private educational investments in terms of money rather than parental time.

As to the Contextual Database, we aim at capturing various dimensions of education systems and outcomes as described above. The data can be divided into six parts. The first group of variables concerns various timing norms, including the school entry age, the duration of common and compulsory schooling as well as standard school hours (part-time vs. fulltime) and school days. The second is outcome-related: it considers enrollment rates and educational attainments. As a quality measure, we include a variable on students per teacher. Another group of variables focuses on university students and standard living arrangements, the extent to which they combine their studies with paid employment and the percentage of students receiving grants. The fifth group concerns education costs and expenditure and the way in which they are shared between the public and families. Public involvement in education is also measured as the share of public educational institutions by the number of students. The database also contains a structured text description of the main features of and changes in the education system.

12.0 Health and elderly care

The GGP collects detailed information on the personal health status, illness and chronic conditions, limitations of daily activities and care relations (given and received personal care and emotional support) of all household members, including parents and children and irrespective of co-residence. Relations with parents and children are captured on many dimensions, including meeting intensity, spatial distance, and relationship satisfaction. The GGP also collects information on the living arrangements of parents and value orientations on care responsibilities.

Contextual variables include crude measures on health risks that cannot be obtained from GGP data: life expectancy, healthy life expectancy as well as general, maternal and infant mortality. We also aim at describing the main features of the health system by the level of public and private health expenditure, the coverage of insurance systems, and by means of a structured (text) description of its organization and historic evolution.

As to elderly care, we focus on statistical norms, policies supporting informal care, and institutions. While general living arrangements by age are already contained in the contextual domain on housing, some additional information is given on the percentage of elderly living in institutions and elderly receiving formal home care. As to health care policies, we collect information on public spending on elderly care and the existence and key features of selected measures, namely care allowances, pension benefits for care givers, and supportive measures for working care givers (e.g., paid and unpaid care leave). In difference to childcare benefits, care allowances are provided to people of need of care or alternatively directly to care providers - a distinction that affects the agency of elderly and their bargaining power in the organization of care. Besides the financial incentives for the provision of informal care, there exist legal obligations in some countries to care for

parents. Information on these obligations and related financial responsibilities is contained in the contextual domain “legal regulations of personal relations”.

13.0 Political system and culture

The study of the political system reveals the dominant social values and normative concepts, which in multi-party systems are also reflected in the different programs and priorities of political parties. The development of welfare states involves and reflects the efforts and struggles of competing interest groups to gain political influence and to lobby policy makers to their course. The presence and power of certain groups reflect dominant value systems. Korpi (2000, 148p) distinguishes between three major political tendencies, namely confessional parties, secular conservative-centrist parties and left parties. Confessional parties are characterized by a high priority on the traditional family, which is seen as the moral basis of society and, compared to secular conservative parties, by a higher acceptance of redistribute market interventions in order to combat poverty. This list of major political tendencies can be extended, e.g., by rightwing populist movements; and the term “left parties” can also include a distinction between social democratic and socialist/communist parties, especially as the Generations and Gender Program covers former centrally planned economies, this in contrast to mainstream welfare state research

Typical measures of the strength of political tendencies include the percentage of government portfolios held and the percentage of duration inside and outside government and parliament. The Contextual Database gives the information needed to calculate such measures by providing descriptions of the main political parties and their representation in government (coalitions) over time.

Concerning the cultural context, the contextual database gives information on the regional population composition by religious affiliation, language and ethnical group.

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5 Appendix: List of variables

0.0 1. General demographic indicators

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) Fertility	TFR	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	d) rate	x												x	x				
a) Fertility	TFR	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	d) rate	x													x	x			
a) Fertility	Births	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	a) first, all	a) number	x													x	x			
a) Fertility	Births	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	a) first, all	a) number	x													x	x			
a) Fertility	Legitimate births	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	a) number	x							x						x	x			
a) Fertility	Legitimate births	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	a) number	x							x						x	x			
a) Fertility	Mean age at birth	a) female	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	a) first, all	b) age	x											x		x	x			
a) Fertility	Mean age at birth	a) female	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	a) first, all	b) age	x											x		x	x			
a) Fertility	Age specific fertility rates	x) not appl.	b) 5-year 15-49	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	d) rate	x													x	x			
a) Fertility	Cohort mean age at birth	a) female	a) single cohorts	b) national	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) age	x												x	x	x			
a) Fertility	Completed fertility	a) female	a) single cohorts	b) national	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	d) rate	x													x	x			
a) Fertility	Number of children	a) female	a) single cohorts	a) provincial	x) not appl.	d) childless, 1, 2, 3+ children	percent	x							x						x	x			
a) Fertility	Legal abortions	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	a) number	x														x			
b) Marriage	Mean age at marriage	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	a) first, all	b) age	x		x					x					x	x				
b) Marriage	Mean age at marriage	b) female, male	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	a) first, all	b) age	x							x						x	x			
b) Marriage	Marriage	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	a) first, all	a) number	x													x	x			
b) Marriage	Marriage	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	a) first, all	a) number	x													x	x			
b) Marriage	Female first marriage rate by age group	a) female	c) 5-year 15-45+	b) national	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	d) rate	x												x	x	x			
b) Marriage	Marital status by age	b) female, male	e) 5-year 15-85+	a) provincial	b) 2005	c) single, married, div., wid.	c) percent	x												x	x				
b) Marriage	Cohort mean age at marriage	a) female	a) single cohorts	b) national	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) age	x												x	x	x			
b) Marriage	Cohort ever married at 50	a) female	a) single cohorts	b) national	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	c) Percent	x							x						x	x			
b) Marriage	Marriages by nationality	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	b) 2005	b) countryspecific list	c) percent	x													x	x			
c) Single Parer	Single parents by age of youngest child	b) female, male	f) youngest 0-4, 5-9, 10-14	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	c) percent		x						x	x	x			x	x				
c) Single Parer	Single parents by age of youngest child	b) female, male	f) youngest 0-4, 5-9, 10-14	a) provincial	b) 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent	x							x	x	x			x	x				
d) Divorce	Divorces	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	a) number	x													x	x			
d) Divorce	Divorces	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	a) number	x													x	x			
d) Divorce	Total divorce rate	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	d) rate	x													x	x			
d) Divorce	Total divorce rate	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	d) rate	x													x	x			
d) Divorce	Mean marriage duration	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	e) years		x											x	x				
e) General	Total population	b) female, male	d) 5-year 0-85+	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	a) number															x			
e) General	Mean age	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	b) age																x		
f) Risk	Life expectancy at specific ages	b) female, male	g) 0, 1, 15, 45, 65	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	e) years														x	x			
g) Migration	Net migration rate per 10.000	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	d) rate																x		
g) Migration	Net migration rate per 10.000 by province	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	d) rate																	x	

1.0 General economic indicators

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) Money	Real GDP/capita	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	h) money units										x		x			x			
a) Money	CPI	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	a) number										x	x	x			x			
b) Distribution	Gini coefficient of household income	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interval	x) not appl.	a) number										x		x			x			
b) Distribution	Household income	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	h) deciles	h) money units										x		x			x			
c) Risk	Definition of poverty	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	b) 2005	x) not appl.	i) text										x		x				x		
c) Risk	Poverty line	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	x) not appl.	h) money units										x		x				x		
c) Risk	Children in poor households	f) all	h) 0-14	a) provincial	b) 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent										x	x	x			x			
c) Risk	Mothers in poor households	d) mothers	h) 0-14	a) provincial	b) 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent										x	x	x	x		x			
c) Risk	Active age people in poor hh	b) female, male	i) 15-64	a) provincial	b) 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent										x	x	x	x		x			
c) Risk	Elderly in poor households	b) female, male	j) 65+	a) provincial	b) 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent										x	x	x	x	x	x			

2.0 Labor market and employment regulations

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) Enrolment	Participation	c) female, male, all	i) 15-64	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	c) percent				x				x	x	x			x	x	x			
a) Enrolment	Participation by age	c) female, male, all	k) 5-year 15-65+	a) provincial	b) 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent			x					x	x	x			x	x	x			
a) Enrolment	Participation of Mothers by age of youngese)	mothers par1, par2f)	youngest 0-4, 5-9, 10-14	a) provincial	b) 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent			x	x				x	x	x			x	x				
b) Distribution	Sectoral Employment ISIC	c) female, male, all	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	i) ISIC	c) percent			x					x					x	x				
b) Distribution	Sectoral Employment ISIC by age	c) female, male, all	k) 5-year 15-65+	a) provincial	b) 2005	i) ISIC	c) percent			x					x					x	x				
b) Distribution	Public Employment	c) female, male, all	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	l) private, public	c) percent			x					x	x				x	x			x	
b) Distribution	Public Employment by age	c) female, male, all	k) 5-year 15-65+	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	l) private, public	c) percent			x					x	x				x	x			x	
b) Distribution	Employment by sex and detailed occupation)	female, male, all	m) all, <35, >=35	b) national	d) 10-year interv	k) ISCO	c) percent			x					x					x	x				
c) Mobility	Employment by permanency of the (main)	c) female, male, all	l) 15-24, 25-54, 55-64, 65+	b) national	d) 10-year interv	m) permanent, temp, unemp	c) percent			x					x					x	x				
c) Mobility	Average Monthly Recruitment Rates	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	c) percent			x						x									
c) Mobility	Average Monthly Resignation Rates	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	c) percent			x						x									
d) Time	Distribution of employed persons by usual	c) female, male, all	k) 5-year 15-65+	b) national	d) 10-year interv	n) <19h, 20-29h, 30-34h, 35c	c) percent			x					x					x	x				
d) Time	Part-time Employment	c) female, male, all	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	c) percent			x					x					x	x				
d) Time	Part-time employment of mothers	d) mothers	f) youngest 0-4, 5-9, 10-14	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent			x	x				x					x	x				
d) Time	Normal working hours	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	m) hours			x					x	x	x							x	
d) Time	Maximum working hours	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	m) hours			x					x	x	x							x	
d) Time	Minimum vacation days	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	g) days			x					x	x	x							x	
d) Time	Average vacation days	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	g) days			x					x	x	x								
d) Time	Right to part-time	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x	x				x	x	x							x	
d) Time	Measures to increase part-time	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x	x				x	x	x								x
d) Time	Measures reducing nonstandard hours	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x	x				x	x	x								x
d) Time	Measures to compensate for nonstandard	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x	x				x	x	x								x
e) Money	Wages by economic activity	c) female, male, all	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	i) ISIC	h) money units			x										x	x				
e) Money	Minimum Wage	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	h) money units			x					x	x				x					
e) Money	Average Wage	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	aa) nominal, purchasing pow	h) money units			x					x					x					
e) Money	Average wages by age	c) female, male, all	k) 5-year 15-65+	b) national	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	h) money units			x					x					x	x	x			
e) Money	Income Distribution	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	h) deciles	c) percent			x					x					x					
f) Expenditures	Public expenditures in active labor market	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	c) percent			x						x				x					x

3.0 Pension System

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) General	General description of pension system	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text				x			x	x										x
b) Time	Legal retirement age	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	o) minimal, normal	b) age			x				x	x			x		x				x	
b) Time	Average retirement age	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	b) age			x				x				x		x			x		
b) Time	Link contribution - benefits	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x				x	x	x	x	x						x	x
b) Time	Consequences of caring on pensions	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	p) case types	i) text			x				x	x	x	x	x		x				x	x
c) Money	Current average pension	b) female, male	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	x) not appl.	h) money units			x				x					x	x	x	x			
c) Money	Minimum pension per type (own, social, su)	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	b) countryspecific list	h) money units			x				x	x				x						
c) Money	Expected replacement rate of obligatory sc	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	x) not appl.	p) case types	c) percent			x									x		x				x
c) Money	Pension spending % GDP	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interval	private, public	c) percent				x								x		x				x

4.0 Parental leave institutions

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) Time	Time before delivery	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	f) weeks	x		x	x			x				x					x	x	
a) Time	Total time if taken by one partner	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	f) weeks	x		x	x			x	x	x		x		x			x	x	
a) Time	Leave for sick child	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	g) days			x	x			x		x		x		x			x	x	
b) Sharing	Time that can be shared	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	f) weeks	x		x	x			x	x	x		x		x			x	x	
b) Sharing	Extra time reserved for second partner	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	f) weeks	x		x	x			x	x	x		x		x			x	x	
b) Sharing	Time of parallel leave	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	f) weeks	x		x	x			x	x	x		x		x			x	x	
c) Money	Replacement rate	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	f) replacement	c) percent	x		x	x			x	x	x		x		x			x	x	
c) Money	Flatrate or Minimum	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	g) replace, flat	h) money U	x		x	x					x		x		x			x	x	
c) Money	Maximum	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	f) replacement	h) money U	x		x	x					x		x		x			x	x	
d) Eligibility	Eligibility regulations: birth order, means test	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	i) text	x		x	x			x						x			x	x	
d) Eligibility	Eligibility rate of women giving birth	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	c) percent	x		x	x			x						x			x	x	
e) Flexibility	Number of deferrable weeks	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	f) weeks	x		x	x			x	x								x	x	
e) Flexibility	Deferrable until which age of child	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	e) years	x		x	x			x	x	x							x	x	
e) Flexibility	Extendable with part-time	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	g) replace, flat	j) yes/no	x		x	x			x	x	x		x		x			x	x	
e) Flexibility	Shorter period with higher benefits	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	g) replace, flat	j) yes/no	x		x	x			x	x	x		x		x			x	x	
e) Flexibility	Combinable with employment	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	g) replace, flat	k) no/hour	x		x	x			x	x	x		x		x			x	x	
f) Enrolment	Take-up rates	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	c) percent	x		x	x				x								x	x	
f) Enrolment	Average take-up time	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	e) protect, replace, flat	f) weeks	x		x	x				x			x					x	x	

5.0 Childcare policies and institutions

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) General	Spectrum of childcare institutions and services	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text				x				x										x
b) Entitlement	Legal entitlement for institutional care - from	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	b) age			x				x	x	x								x	x
b) Entitlement	Legal entitlement for institutional care - to	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	b) age			x				x	x	x								x	x
b) Entitlement	Legal entitlement for institutional care fulltime	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	j) yes/no			x				x	x	x								x	x
c) Time	Preschool: entry age	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	b) age			x								x						x	
c) Time	School entry age	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	b) age			x								x						x	
c) Time	Typical hours	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	e) events	b) countryspecific list	m) hours			x								x						x	
d) Enrolment	Enrollment rates in publicly subsidized or private	x) not appl.	n) 1st, 2nd&3rd, 4th-schoolEntr	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	b) countryspecific list	c) percent			x														x	
e) Quality	Child Staff ratio	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	b) countryspecific list	a) number			x														x	
e) Quality	Staff qualification requirement	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	b) countryspecific list	i) text			x														x	
f) Expenditures	Public and private expenditures for childcare	x) not appl.	n) 1st, 2nd&3rd, 4th-schoolEntr	b) national	d) 10-year interval	private, public	c) percent				x								x						x

6.0 Military and alternative civilian service system

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) General	Description of organization of military / alternative	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text				x					x									x
b) Time	Conscription age	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	q) minimum, regular, average	b) age			x								x						x	
b) Time	Duration of military service	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	o) minimal, normal	f) weeks			x								x						x	
b) Time	Duration of alternative service	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	o) minimal, normal	f) weeks			x								x						x	
c) Agency	Population exempt from service	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x					x	x				x				x	
c) Agency	Percentage of population exempt	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	b) 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent			x					x								x		
c) Agency	Availability and restrictions for alternative service	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x					x	x							x		
c) Agency	Reconcilableness with family obligations: service	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text	x		x	x				x					x					x
c) Agency	Flexibility of timing: duration can be split	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	j) yes/no	x		x	x				x			x		x					x
d) Enrolment	Population in military or alternative service	b) female, male	o) single years 18-32	b) national	d) 10-year interval	military, alternative	c) percent			x													x		
d) Enrolment	Females in armed forces	a) female	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interval	obligatory, professional	c) percent	x		x					x					x			x		
e) Expenditure	Military expenditures	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interval	% GDP, % Public Spending	c) percent												x						x

7.0 Unemployment

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) General	Unemployment system	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text				x					x							x	x	
a) General	Unemployment problem and rates	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x															
b) Risk	Unemployment by age	b) female, male	k) 5-year 15-65+	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	c) percent		x	x				x		x				x	x	x			
b) Risk	Unemployment by age	b) female, male	k) 5-year 15-65+	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	c) percent		x	x															
b) Risk	Unemployment	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	c) percent		x					x		x				x		x			
b) Risk	Unemployment by occupation	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	ISCO	c) percent		x					x		x				x		x			
b) Risk	Unemployment by Education	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	ISCED	c) percent		x					x		x				x		x			
b) Risk	Unemployment by activity	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	ISIC	c) percent		x					x		x				x		x			
c) Time	Long-term unemployment	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	t) >1 year, >2 years	c) percent		x					x		x	x			x		x			
c) Time	Long-term unemployment	b) female, male	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	t) >1 year, >2 years	c) percent		x					x		x	x			x		x			
c) Time	Benefit duration	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	p) case types	f) weeks		x				x										x	x	
c) Time	Average time in unemployment	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	f) weeks		x							x	x					x			
d) Money	Benefit Range	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	u) min, max	h) money units		x											x				x	
d) Money	Replacement rate	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	c) percent		x							x				x				x	
d) Money	Means-test including partner?	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	j) yes/no		x				x		x					x	x		x	x	
e) Expenditure	Public expenditure on unemployment % G	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	j) %GDP, %Public	c) percent													x					

8.0 The tax benefit system

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) General	General description of income tax system	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text				x				x				x	x					x
a) General	General notes on tax-benefit system	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x					x				x	x					x
b) Money	Average production worker: income, ss, ta	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	p) case types	h) money units	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x					x
b) Money	Marginal income tax rate	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	c) percent				x				x				x					x	
b) Money	VAT	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	q) minimum, regular, averag	c) percent								x				x					x	
b) Money	Child benefits	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	u) min, max	h) money U	x			x	x			x				x						x
b) Money	Social security contribution (average rate)	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	v) employee, employer	c) percent				x								x						x
b) Money	Social expenditures	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	j) %GDP, %Public	c) percent				x								x						x

9.0 Housing market and housing policy

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics	
a) General	Housing situation, market and prices	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text						x												x	
a) General	Housing policies	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text						x		x											x
b) Arrangemen	Living & dwelling arrangement - persons wb) female, male		e) 5-year 15-85+	b) national	d) 10-year interv	w) without parents & childrena)	number													x	x	x				
b) Arrangemen	Living & dwelling arrangement - persons wb) female, male		e) 5-year 15-85+	b) national	d) 10-year interv	w) without parents & childrena)	number													x	x	x				
b) Arrangemen	Living & dwelling arrangement - persons wb) female, male		e) 5-year 15-85+	a) provincial	b) 2005	w) without parents & childrena)	number													x	x	x				
b) Arrangemen	Living & dwelling arrangement - persons wb) female, male		e) 5-year 15-85+	a) provincial	b) 2005	w) without parents & childrena)	number													x	x	x				
b) Arrangemen	Average dwelling size	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	p) case types	n) sqm															x				
c) Stock & con	Construction	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	b) countryspecific list	c) percent						x													x
c) Stock & con	Stock	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	b) countryspecific list	c) percent						x													x
d) Money	Rent price index per m ²	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	o) index						x									x				
d) Money	House price index per m ²	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	o) index						x									x				
d) Money	Typical sqm prices	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	b) countryspecific list	h) money units						x									x				
d) Money	Typical sqm rents - average	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	b) countryspecific list	h) money units						x									x				
d) Money	Typical sqm rents - new contracts	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	b) countryspecific list	h) money units						x									x				
e) Expenditure	Public expenditures on housing	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	a) single years	j) %GDP, %Public	c) percent						x									x				x

10.0 Legal regulations of personal relations and family responsibilities

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics	
a) Abortion	Legal restrictions of abortions	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text	x						x	x									x		
a) Abortion	Social security coverage of abortions	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text	x						x	x					x				x		
b) Marriage	Impact of marriage on taxes and benefits	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text		x					x	x						x				x	
b) Marriage	same sex marriages and registered partne	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text		x					x	x	x					x				x	
c) Divorce	Restrictions (i.e. waiting periods) and finan	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x				x	x								x			
c) Divorce	Guardianships % female	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	c) percent			x				x							x		x		x	
d) Care	Obligated persons regarding care in case	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text					x		x	x						x	x		x	x	x

11.0 Education system

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) General	Description of main educational tracks	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text				x														x
a) General	Private schools (% students)	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	ISCED	c) percent			x				x	x								x		x
b) Enrolment	enrolment rates	b) female, male	q) single years 5-29	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	r) ISCED	c) percent			x				x						x		x			
b) Enrolment	educational attainment	b) female, male	e) 5-year 15-85+	a) provincial	b) 2005	r) ISCED	c) percent			x				x						x	x	x			
b) Enrolment	enrolment in after school care	x) not appl.	r) pr-primary, primary, lower sec	a) provincial	c) 2000 & 2005	r) ISCED	c) percent			x												x			
c) Time	school entry age	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	b) age			x								x					x	x	
c) Time	compulsory school duration	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	e) years			x								x					x	x	
c) Time	common education (years before first impo	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	e) years			x					x			x					x	x	
c) Time	average school leaving age by level	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	r) ISCED	b) age			x								x				x			
c) Time	school days	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	r) ISCED	g) days			x								x					x		
c) Time	school hours	x) not appl.	r) pr-primary, primary, lower sec	b) national	e) events	r) ISCED	m) hours			x								x					x		
c) Time	after school care	x) not appl.	r) pr-primary, primary, lower sec	a) provincial	e) events	r) ISCED	m) hours			x					x		x								
d) Quality	Students per teacher	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	ISCED	a) number			x													x		
e) Univ. Stude	Living arrangement	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	z) parental home, institution,	c) percent			x										x		x			
e) Univ. Stude	Employment	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	z) parental home, institution,	c) percent			x					x					x	x	x	x		x
e) Univ. Stude	Students receiving grants	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	c) percent			x					x					x	x				
e) Univ. Stude	Average grants	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	c) 2000 & 2005	x) not appl.	h) money units			x										x					
f) Expenditures	Education expenditures % GDP	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	ISCED	c) percent			x										x					x
f) Expenditures	Public educational expenditures % GDP	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	ISCED	c) percent			x										x					x
f) Expenditures	School fees (average) - public schools	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	b) 2005	r) ISCED	h) money units			x					x					x					x
f) Expenditures	School fees (average) - private schools	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	b) 2005	r) ISCED	h) money units			x					x					x					x
f) Expenditures	School and University finance	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text			x				x						x					x

12.0 Health

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) General	System description	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text																		x
b) Risk	Life expectancy	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	e) years								x		x						x		
b) Risk	Healthy life expectancy	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	e) years								x		x						x		
b) Risk	Maternal mortality	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	d) rate	x									x								
b) Risk	Infant mortality per 1000 live births	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	d) rate										x								
b) Risk	Healthy life expectancy at age 60	b) female, male	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	e) years								x		x						x		
c) Enrolment	Population covered	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	c) percent															x			
d) Infrastructur	Physicians per 10000	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	a) number																		x
d) Infrastructur	Hospital beds per 10000	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	x) not appl.	a) number																		x
e) Expenditure	Health Expenditures % GDP	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	public, total	c) percent												x						x

13.0 Elderly care

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) System	Allowances	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text				x	x							x		x				x
a) System	Pension benefits for care giver	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text				x	x							x	x	x				x
a) System	Supportive measures for working care give	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	x) not appl.	i) text				x	x						x	x		x				x
b) Arrangemen	Elderly living in Institutions	b) female, male	p) 5-year 60-85+	b) national	a) single years	x) not appl.	c) percent					x									x	x			x
b) Arrangemen	Elderly receiving home care	b) female, male	p) 5-year 60-85+	b) national	a) single years	y) private, formal, private& foc	c) percent				x										x	x			x
c) Expenditure	Public expenditure for elderly care	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	d) 10-year interv	b) countryspecific list	h) money units					x							x		x				x

14.0 Political system

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) General	Governmental coalitions	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	b) countryspecific list	l) lead/yes/	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
a) General	Governmental coalitions by province	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	b) countryspecific list	l) lead/yes/	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
a) General	Main political parties	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	b) national	e) events	b) countryspecific list	i) text	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x

15.0 Culture

Topic	Variable	Who	Age	Where	When	What	Value	Birth	Partnership Formation	Partnership Dissolution	Activity	Care	Transition to adulthood	Right	Equality	Agency	Risk	Time	Money	Gender	Generation	Statistical Norm	Legal Norm and Regulation	Welfare State Policy	Culture & Politics
a) Religion	Religious composition	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	b) countryspecific list	c) percent	x	x	x	x	x	x		x								x		x
b) Language	Language composition	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	b) countryspecific list	c) percent								x								x		x
c) Ethnic	Ethnic composition	x) not appl.	x) not appl.	a) provincial	b) 2005	b) countryspecific list	c) percent	x	x	x	x	x	x		x								x		x