

The Generations and Gender Contextual Database.

In this paper we describe the Generations and Gender Contextual Database (CDB). The database is an integral part of the international Generations and Gender Program (GGP) coordinated by the Population Activities Unit (PAU) of the United Nation's Economic Commission of Europe. It is a comparative collection of around 200 contextual variables on the national and regional level complementing the individual-level data collection of the Generations and Gender Panel Survey which constitutes the main component of the program. The CDB provides an instrument to go beyond the analysis of single countries, considering how differences in context shape demographic processes, and offering the opportunity to study in a comparative way the interaction between the micro and macro dimension.

The database is organized around 16 central topics closely linked to the program. Variables describe variations of context over time and among regions which are believed to have an impact on the behaviors and relations which constitute the key dependent variables of the survey: fertility, partnership, transition to adulthood, economic activity as well as the intergenerational and gender relations between people expressed e.g. in care relations or the organization of paid and unpaid work. Data include statistical norms, legal norms and regulations, measures of welfare state policies and institutions as well as general economic and cultural indicators. Access to the CDB is free for the scientific community via internet as data become available.