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European Association for Population Studies Working Group on Demographic Change and Care of Older People/Institut National D'Études Démographiques: European networks and projects

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A workshop was conducted by the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) Working Group on Demographic Change and Care of Older People/Institut National D'Études Démographiques (INED) on 'Demographic and Social Change: Implications for Support and Well-Being of Older People in Europe', organised by Emily Grundy, Patrick Festy and Cecilia Tomassini and held at INED in Paris on 1–3 September 2004. At a previous meeting of EAPS in Warsaw in 2003, organised by the Working Group on Demographic Change and Care of Older People, it was discovered that there were numerous groups throughout Europe conducting research in this area. Consequently the aim of the workshop was to bring together those groups identified at the meeting and to learn more about their research. In addition to some individual research presentations, a special meeting was held to exchange information about the various European networks and research projects investigating demographic change and support for older persons. The aim of the meeting was to (a) exchange information on the work being currently carried out in Europe on various aspects of social support for older people, (b) discuss data sets used and/or data collected, (c) disseminate research findings and (d) discuss future directions. Presentations were made by the following groups (presented in alphabetical order; Table 1):

The aim of the ActivAge research project is to identify and analyse the socio-institutional, economic and political realities facing the implementation of active ageing policies in Europe. The project seeks to chart active ageing policies and to identify and explore barriers for implementing and improving active ageing in Europe. A series of national reports on active ageing policies in each of the participating countries (as well as a synthesis report) is available from the website, and there will be a forthcoming article on the project in the

Journal of European Social Policy (<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journal.aspx?pid=105641>).

One of the key aims of the Comparative Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLESA) was to create a harmonised data set based on six ongoing longitudinal studies (Italy, The Netherlands, Israel, Spain, Finland, Sweden). This data set contains information on key domains of quality of life (i.e. hospitalisation, institutionalisation, and mortality; health services; functional status; social networks). In addition, the project was extended to examine health services for older persons in three newly associated states of the European Union (the Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania). The harmonised data set will become publicly available.

The Population Policy Acceptance Study (DIALOG) research project involves the collection of cross-sectional survey data on Europe's practices, attitudes and opinions on demographic change, fertility behaviour, inter-generational exchange of resources and population related policies. The Population Policy Acceptance Surveys have been conducted, and the data will become publicly available at the beginning of 2006.

The European Study of Adult Well-Being (ESAW) was designed as part of the Global Ageing Initiative begun by the Indiana University Center on Aging and Aged (<http://www.indiana.edu/~caa/GARNet/main.html>). The aim of the project is to collect and analyse data on five key components of ageing well (i.e. physical health and functional status, self-resources, life activity, material security, social support). Surveys were conducted with national samples of 1,800–2,500 non-institutionalised individuals aged 50–90 years. There are numerous reports and publications on the European project which can be found on the website: <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/esaw/summaries.htm>.

The aim of Services for Supporting Family Carers of Elderly People in Europe (EUROFAMCARE) is to collect data from national samples of 1,000 family carers in six participating countries, to compare them with the opinions provided by service providers (about 250 will be contacted in total), and to discuss findings with policy

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Table 1 Summary of European networks/projects concerning various aspects of support for older persons in Europe

ActivAge	Funder	Data (existing or collected)	Countries	Time period	Website
	EU Fifth Framework Research Programme	Analysis of policy documents, expert interviews, use of existing data, panel-led consultation	Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, United Kingdom	January 2003–December 2005	http://www.iccr-international.org/actavge/
CLESA	EU Fifth Framework Research Programme	Creation of harmonised database from 6 ongoing longitudinal studies	Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Israel, The Netherlands, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Sweden	February 2001–April 2004	http://www.clesaproject.org/
DIALOG	EU Fifth Framework Research Programme	Collection of cross-sectional survey data	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland	January 2003–December 2005	http://www.bib-demographie.de/ppa/IndexDialogStart.htm
ESAW	EU Fifth Framework Research Programme	Collection of cross-sectional survey data	Austria, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom	January 2002–December 2003	http://www.bangor.ac.uk/esaw/
EUROFAMCARE	EU Fifth Framework Research Programme	Review of national-level sources on family carers and policies, collection of cross-sectional survey data on family carers	Italy, Germany, Greece, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom	January 2003–December 2005	http://www.uke.uni-hamburg.de/institute/medizinsoziologie/ims2/gerontologie/eurofamcare/
European Study of Long-Term Care Expenditure	European Commission	Use of existing data from national household surveys, censuses, and official data on health and social services	Italy, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom	January 2002–January 2003	
Euro-REVES	EU Health Monitoring Programme	Use of existing data from national health surveys	Denmark, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, UK	Long-standing	http://www.reves.net
FAMSUP	European Science Foundation Scientific Network	FAMSUP database comprised of data from nationally representative surveys, censuses, and official publications provided by FAMSUP members	Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States	January 2002–December 2004	http://www.lshrm.ac.uk/cps/famsup/
FELICIE	EU Fifth Framework Research Programme	Based on existing data from national and European-level censuses, registers, vital statistics and surveys	Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom	January 2003–December 2005	http://www.felicie.org/Anglais/indexEN.asp
OASIS	EU Fifth Framework Research Programme	Collection of cross-sectional survey data	Germany, Israel, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom	February 2000–January 2003	http://oasis.haifa.ac.il
SHARE	EU Fifth Framework Research Programme	Collection of household survey data	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden Switzerland	January 2002–December 2004	http://www.share-project.org
AMANDA	EU Fifth Framework Research Programme	Analysis of SHARE data	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden Switzerland	January 2003–December 2005	http://www.share-project.org

makers and service providers in order to improve service provision. The project is in its intermediate phase, and national background reports on the services available for supporting family carers of elderly people in Europe are available on the website: <http://www.uke.uni-hamburg.de/institute/medizinsoziologie/ims2/gerontologie/eurofamcare/presentations.html>. In addition, a useful publication from Eurostat for those interested in comparable statistics on dependent older adults in Europe can be found on the following website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/equ_opp/reconcil/other_dependants_2003_en.pdf.

The key aims of the European Study of Long-Term Care Expenditure are to (a) investigate factors likely to affect future public and private expenditure on long-term care and (b) use comparable macro-simulation models to examine the sensitivity of long-term care projections. The full report on the project can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-prot/healthcare/ltc_study_en.pdf. The project is considered a pilot study for future research. The project members are currently preparing various articles for publication.

The European arm of the International Network on Health Expectancy and the Disability Process (Euro-REVES) was set up to provide comparable health indicators across the whole of Europe that would address inequalities in the health of European populations. Although the focus of the Euro-REVES network was to promote the use of health expectancy as a population health indicator and provide comparisons of this indicator across Europe, it was soon recognised that comparability depended on harmonising not only underlying measures of health and the designs of the studies collecting the health information but also the analytical methods. In May 2004 Euro-REVES entered a new stage of the process with the European Health Expectancy Monitoring Unit (EHEMU) funded under the new European Public Health Programme (2003–2008). EHEMU will provide a central facility for the coordinated analysis and synthesis of life and health expectancies in Europe. The conjoint analysis of health expectancies with life expectancy will add the quality dimension to the quantity of life lived by the European populations, providing evidence of inequalities between European Union Member States in terms of health gaps and highlighting potential targets for public health strategies both nationally and at a pan-European level. Health expectancy is one of the new structural indicators for the European Union sustainable development policy.

The aim of the Family Support for Older People: Determinants and Consequences FAMSUP scientific network is to compare family support for older people across selected European countries and the United States and identify demographic and policy influences on the provision of this support. The network has resulted in several key outputs: (a) the creation of a meta dataset from nationally representative surveys, censuses, and official publications (e.g. Eurostat's New Cronos Database, Eurobarometer Surveys, Council of Europe

publications, 2002 European Social Value Survey) and (b) publications in press and under submission (e.g. Tomassini et al. 2004).

The key aim of the research project Future Elderly Living Conditions in Europe (FELICIE) is to project the future need for care for older people in Europe and associated population changes. The project had hoped to rely on European databases, i.e. Eurostat's New Cronos database and the European Household Panel Surveys (ECHP) but had found problems with the New Cronos data (this was also mentioned by the FAMSUP network). The project members also had to wait 19 months for access to the ECHP. The lack of feedback from the European Commission was also commented on. There have been several submitted papers from the project.

The Old Age and Autonomy: The Role of Service Systems and Intergenerational Family Solidarity (OA-SIS) research project aims to collect cross-sectional survey data from representative urban samples of 1,200 older individuals in each participant country focusing on formal and informal care and quality of life. In addition, in depth interviews with ten elderly parent-adult child dyads were also conducted in each country. The project's final report and a list of publications can be found on its website.

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) research project involves the collection of interdisciplinary household surveys based on respondents aged 50 years or over in 11 participating countries. The survey is based on the United States Health and Retirement Survey (HRS) and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). Fieldwork has been completed and data will soon be available from the Central Archive for Empirical Social Research, University of Cologne, in Cologne, Germany (<http://www.gesis.org/en/za/>). Preliminary results are due to be published in early 2005 and further funding was obtained for the analysis of SHARE data (Advanced Multidisciplinary Analysis of New Data on Ageing, AMANDA) from the European Union. Further funding is being sought to continue the survey as a bi-annual panel study.

Discussion at the workshop concerned the numerous similarities across the European projects. Members of the working group decided that it is important to keep informed of each other's activities, and to that end information on each of the projects as well as the project presentations will be kept on the EAPS website <http://www.eaps.nl/>. In addition, given the diverse survey instruments that are being used across the projects the establishment of standard question modules was considered to be a critical issue. For example, Eurostat's European Health Survey System has already created a database of certified standard and recommended reference instruments on health; Eurostat is also involved in developing the European Core Health Interview Survey (<http://www.iph.fgov.be/hishes/login.cfm>). The European Social Survey (ESS) is another example of a European-wide standard survey instrument (funded by

the European Union's Fifth Framework Programme and the European Science Foundation). A call for proposals for the rotating module of the ESS is placed in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and circulated via the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the National Science Foundations.

In addition, members were urged to look at the following website where the on-line consultation to influence the next European Union Framework Programme can be found: <http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice/forms/dispatch.jsp?form=330&lang=EN>.

Finally, it was recognised that there are many further related groups and networks that were not present at the

workshop. Participants agreed to use a snowball approach to gather further information. This would be posted on the EAPS website (<http://www.eaps.nl/>). Members of other groups are invited to make contact with the Chair of the EAPS working group, Emily Grundy, at: Emily.grundy@lshtm.ac.uk.

Reference

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