



Briefing paper n° 1

Generational approach to the social patterns of relation to work

N° 028408 (CIT5)

Context of the research

SPReW is a research project funded under the 6th framework programme of the European Union, within priority 7 (Citizens and governance in the knowledge-based society). It is a two years project started the 1st of June 2006.

The overall objective of this project is to examine the factors leading to solidarity or tensions in intergenerational relations, in the specific area of work and correlated fields. It intends to provide a better and updated understanding of the relation that diverse generations have with work, and to analyse the policy challenges and implications of these changes.

The project involves researchers from six countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal) and stakeholders (French Ministry of Labour; European Trade Union Confederation).

Key issues

The key objectives of the project are:

- to draw out social patterns of relation to work for different generations, including the gender and ethnic dimensions;
- to study articulations with other societal fields (family formation and lifestyles, intergenerational relations, social cohesion);
- to develop awareness of public authorities and social actors on the generational dimensions in the relation to work and employment;
- to draw out guidelines for youth policies and ageing policies in this area

Concretely, the project aims at achieving four scientific objectives.

A comprehensive understanding of the various aspects of the relation to work of the younger and older generations

The project implement an integrated approach to the various aspects and dimensions of the relation to work of the younger and older generations, covering analysis and hypotheses in different fields: relation to work components (precariousness, mobility, entry routes into the labour market, knowledge transmission); intergenerational relations; family structure and construction; social cohesion (inclusion, exclusion, social capital). The gender approach is a permanent transversal dimension as well as the ethnic dimension.

An empirical investigation of the societal consequences of a changing relation to work

The project focus on both targeted qualitative and quantitative empirical information, to be collected in six countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal). This empirical approach focus on four fields, which are strongly connected:

- the field of *work*: relation to precariousness, relation to mobility, entry routes into the labour market, career paths, knowledge transmission, perception of organisational and technological changes;
- the field of *intergenerational relations*: factors of solidarity and tensions between generations (at work and outside work);
- the field of *family and lifestyles*: family formation, birth rates, work / family balance;
- the field of *social cohesion*: inclusion, exclusion, social capital and networks.

Empirical data collection also includes a selection and comparison of *good policy practices* in the field of youth policies, employment policies, and ageing policies, taking into account differentiated attitudes and generational aspects.

Policy implications of the findings in different related societal fields

The project will draw out a set of policy implications and conduct a comparison of different youth policies, and policies targeted to the management of intergenerational relations at national and European level, in order to assess to what extent these existing policies currently answer to the policy implications.

As a next step, a set of pathways and recommendations will be elaborated for a better management of age and intergenerational relations in these policy areas.

These draft pathways and recommendations will be discussed within six dialogue workshops at national level in each of the participating countries and one at the European level. Dialogue workshops associate policy makers, concerned social actors and the researchers. Their main purpose is to carry out a participatory evaluation and validation of the relevance of the proposed conclusions and recommendations. Afterwards the final conclusions and recommendations will be finalised.

Dissemination of results, good practices and recommendations towards policy makers and social actors

The project will disseminate results to the interested scientific community but also wider to potential users of results. The project will use both classical dissemination tools (reports, web site, publication of papers) and participatory dissemination tools (dialogue workshops at national and European levels). Briefing papers, press release, and synthesis documents, accessible for a wide audience, will be available.

Further information

Generational approach to the social patterns of relation to work (SPReW)

New briefing papers with interim results and final results	November 2006; May 2007; November 2007; May 2008
Conclusions and recommendations	April 2008
Final synthesis report	May 2008
Press release	May 2008

Other reports concerning different stages of the research (state of the art and hypothesis, quantitative approach, qualitative approach, policy analysis...) will be available during the life cycle of the project.

Updated information about the project will be available at the following web address:

<http://www.ftu-namur.org/SPREW/>

Research institutions and contact persons

Coordinator

1. **Fondation Travail-Université (FTU),
Work & technology research centre – Namur, Belgium**
Rue de l'Arsenal, 5 – B-5000 Namur, phone +32-81-725122, fax +32-81-725128
Contact person: Patricia Vendramin (pvendramin@ftu-namur.org)

Partners

2. **Centro de Investigação e de Intervenção Social (CIS), ISCTE – Lisbon, Portugal**
Avenida das Forças Armadas – P-1649 Lisboa 026, phone +351-21-7903079
Scientific contact: Paula Castro (paula.castro@iscte.pt)
3. **Fondazione Regionale Pietro Seveso (FRPS) – Milan, Italy**
Viale Vittorio Veneto, 24 – I-20124 Milano, phone +39-02-29013198
Scientific contact: Anna Ponzellini (ponzmi@tin.it)
4. **University of Bremen - Bremen, Germany**
Institut Arbeit und Wirtschaft (IAW),
Parkhallee, 39 – D-28209 Bremen, phone +49-421-2183472
Scientific contact: Rainer Zoll (zoll@uni-bremen.de); Götz Richter (grichter@zeitpraxis.de)
5. **Institute for Political Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA PTI) – Budapest, Hungary**
PF 694/115 Budapest H-1399, Országház u. 30, 1014 Budapest, Hungary, phone +36-1-2246728
Scientific contact: Julia Vajda (h13073vaj@ella.hu)
6. **Social Development Agency (SDA),
European Trade Union Confederation – Brussels, Belgium**
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5 – B- 1210 Brussels, phone +32-2-2240462
Scientific contact: Claudio Stanzani (cstanzani@etuc.org)
7. **Direction de l'Animation de la Recherche, des Etudes et des Statistiques (DARES),
Ministère de l'emploi, du travail et de la cohésion sociale – Paris, France**
Quai André Citroën, 39-43 – F-75015 Paris, phone +33-1-44382254
Scientific contact: Hélène Garner (helene.garner@dares.travail.gouv.fr)
8. **Centre d'Etude de l'Emploi – Paris, France**
Le Descartes 1, 29, promenade Michel Simon, F-93166 Noisy le Grand Cedex, phone +33-1-45926888
Scientific contact: Dominique Méda (Dominique.meda@mail.enpc.fr)