“Design of a comparative longitudinal cohort survey on child and youth well-being in Europe.”

RESEARCH PROJECT

Objectives

The activities for this project are functional to the European Cohort Development Project (ECDP). The ECDP aims to create a European Research Infrastructure that will provide, over the next 25 years, comparative longitudinal survey data on child and young adult well-being. The successful candidate will contribute, in collaboration with international partners, to develop methodological tools, templates and protocols for sampling, questionnaire design, fieldwork and data archiving processes.

Project background

The European Cohort Development Project (ECDP) will build the methodological and infrastructural platform for the first Europe wide cohort survey on child and young adult well-being, named EuroCohort. There is at present no equivalent data source available to plan effective policies on the matter, and the need for a robust evidence base for policy making has been established by the recent MYWeB project. A comparative longitudinal survey of child well-being in Europe offers policy-makers at a European and Member State level a number of new possibilities for policy formulation. The European Union (EU) already recognizes the importance of high quality survey data to inform policy development through its investment, for example, in SHARE (The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe), in the European Social Survey (ESS) and in the Gender and Generations Programme (GGP). This range of survey sources are already available and regularly used to highlight similarities and differences among Member States. The existence of complementary socio-economic surveys, in addition to the requirement that EU Member States undertake a Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), strengthens the evidence base for future policymaking. In recent years, child well-being has become a priority for the European political agenda, in particular concerning the disparities between Western and Eastern European countries. The MYWeB project concluded that the best tool to understand and monitor the phenomenon is a pan-European longitudinal survey study. The ECDP project directly builds upon the MYWeB project, and is structured in 10 working packages (WP), with specific objectives ranging from the definition of the business case and governance structure for EuroCohort, to the development of a scientifically robust research design.
**Description of work**

Within the ECDP project, the unit of the Department of Statistics of the University of Bologna will participate to WP8, jointly led by The Manchester Metropolitan University, The University of Essex and CLOSER. In WP8, the involved partners will define and document the survey elements in details: the sample design, with particular attention to the treatment of national peculiarities, the instrument design, with the questionnaire content, the data collection procedures, the data management, storage and use protocols.

The successful candidate is expected to contribute to the following tasks:

1. Finalize the cohort parameters, such as age of cohort members, length of fieldwork phase, start and end of each wave
2. Define acceptable random sampling strategies and develop guidance on their implementation in different situations
3. Finalize the parameters of survey design and implementation, the modes, fieldwork procedures, reminders, response enhancement techniques, quality control, etc.
4. Finalize questionnaire content for parents/carers, health professionals, teachers, children
5. Develop template for data documentation
6. Develop template for survey support documentation
7. Identify suitable hardware and software for data management, storage and archiving

Dedicated teams working with substantial joint membership will accomplish each of these tasks. The successful candidate will constantly cooperate with international counterparts of other European partners. For this reason, the candidate should master oral and written English language, have previous experience in international research projects, and demonstrate strong communication and coordination skills.

**Grant objectives and research plan**

The grant is expected to start in early 2018 and last for 12 months (with possible prolongation). The candidate will contribute to the many tasks of the project, with a special focus on the cross-national agreement in sample design and the impact of immigrants and ethnic minorities. The candidate will be regularly required to produce documentation and reports on the state of the work.

The research plan develops as follows:

- **Month 1-2:** review of relevant background literature on European survey design standards
- **Month 3-7:** definition of sampling guidelines and procedure for EuroCohort sample design
- **Month 8-10:** definition of protocols for data collection, management and use
- **Month 11-12:** definition of questionnaire content, and a template for questionnaire translation
References


MYWEB. 2016. *MYWEB (Measuring Youth Well Being) - Final Report*.
