

Call for applications: Fellowships on Generations and Gender Survey

Generations and Gender Programme in the Republic of Moldova.

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#GeneratiisiGen



- **Purpose:** UNFPA jointly with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and NIDI are looking for academic and independent national or international researchers on demography, sociology, sexual and reproductive health and rights, economics, health and well-being, ageing, gender equality and other related research areas of GGS, who would conduct targeted analysis based on GGS data.
- **Requested expertise:** experience in the field on demography, sociology, sexual and reproductive health and rights, economics, health and well-being, ageing, gender equality and youth empowerment, quantitative data analysis etc.
- **Deadline for proposals' submission:** 22 October 2021 by emailing jobs.moldova@unfpa.org indicating "Call for Fellowships on Generations and Gender Survey" in the subject line.
- **Duration:** November 2021-September 2022
- **How to apply:** The applications should submit a detailed CV, including a list of publications; and a technical proposal for the research analysis (up to 3 pages).

1. BACKGROUND

Demographic changes in the Republic of Moldova are driven by the population decline, ageing, low fertility, migration of the working-age population and low life expectancy, which have implications on the overall development of the country. In response to these demographic changes, the Government of the Republic of Moldova is partnering with UNFPA to develop evidence-based and people-centered policies which strengthens demographic resilience. In 2019, the Moldovan Government signed a memorandum agreement with [UNFPA Moldova Country office](#), the [National Bureau of Statistics \(NBS\)](#) and the [Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute \(NIDI\)](#) regarding conducting [the Gender and Generation Survey](#) in Moldova to address the demographic changes based on robust evidences.

The Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) is an individual-level panel survey conducted so far in 24 countries, being a key data resource on issues of fertility decisions, work-life balance, transition to adulthood, and intergenerational exchanges with a longitudinal perspective (*please see the detailed research chapters of the GGS in Moldova – Annex 1*). It is a panel survey, which means that it aims to revisit the panel of respondents multiple times, at approximately three year intervals. The current iteration of the Moldova GGS is the first wave. The aim of the GGP is to deliver high quality data for scientific research on population dynamics and family change, relationships between generations, and changes in the social roles of women and men, accounting for economic, social and cultural contexts¹.

The GGS sample in Moldova was drawn by the National Bureau of Statistic based on a complex listing process by using, for the first time, geospatial related technology and digital software. Moldova's experience and lessons learned on building the sampling frame for the Generations and Gender Survey can be accessed [here](#).

The Generations and Gender Survey in Moldova started officially on 29 January 2020 by using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews data collection method. The fieldwork was conducted partially before the pandemic and a part of questionnaires were completed during the COVID-19. More than 10,000 respondents were interviewed from 153 urban and rural localities. Moldova's case study on conducting GGS can be accessed [here](#) as well as on the GGP global web-page at this link: [GGS Moldova](#).

The Moldovan questionnaire (Annex 2) covers more than 500 questions and represents a great potential for the analysis in the field of demography, SRH, fertility behavior, family structure etc. The recent publications developed on GGS can be accessed [here](#).

2. THE PURPOSE

UNFPA jointly with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and NIDI are looking for academic and independent national or international researchers on demography, sociology, sexual and reproductive health and rights, economics, health and well-being, ageing, gender equality and youth empowerment who would conduct targeted analysis based on GGS data. The researchers will be part of the GGS Fellows that supports national and international partners in better understanding the demographic changes and their short- and long- term impact on Moldovan society.

¹ <https://www.ggp-i.org/about/ggp2020/>

Fellows will be trained on how to access and use the GGS micro data during an online training that will be carried out by NIDI team in November this year. The researchers will be familiarized with the GGS methodology, questionnaire, GGP online portal and harmonized files to be used in the analysis. Based on this initial training, Fellows are expected to develop targeted analysis based on their proposed methodology and area of interest, by applying cross-national GGS data. The main results of the analysis are expected to be presented at several national and international events in order to showcase how the GGS data was used for tracking the demographic changes and provide evidences for policy development to strengthen demographic resilience in the Republic of Moldova.

Fellows are expected to provide detailed research methodology by applying the GGS data. If necessary, the researchers will conduct in-depth interviews to collect qualitative data and gather additional data on the area of research. In this sense, the consultant is responsible for development of guideline, identification of relevant actors, data collection and processing.

3. RESEARCH TOPICS

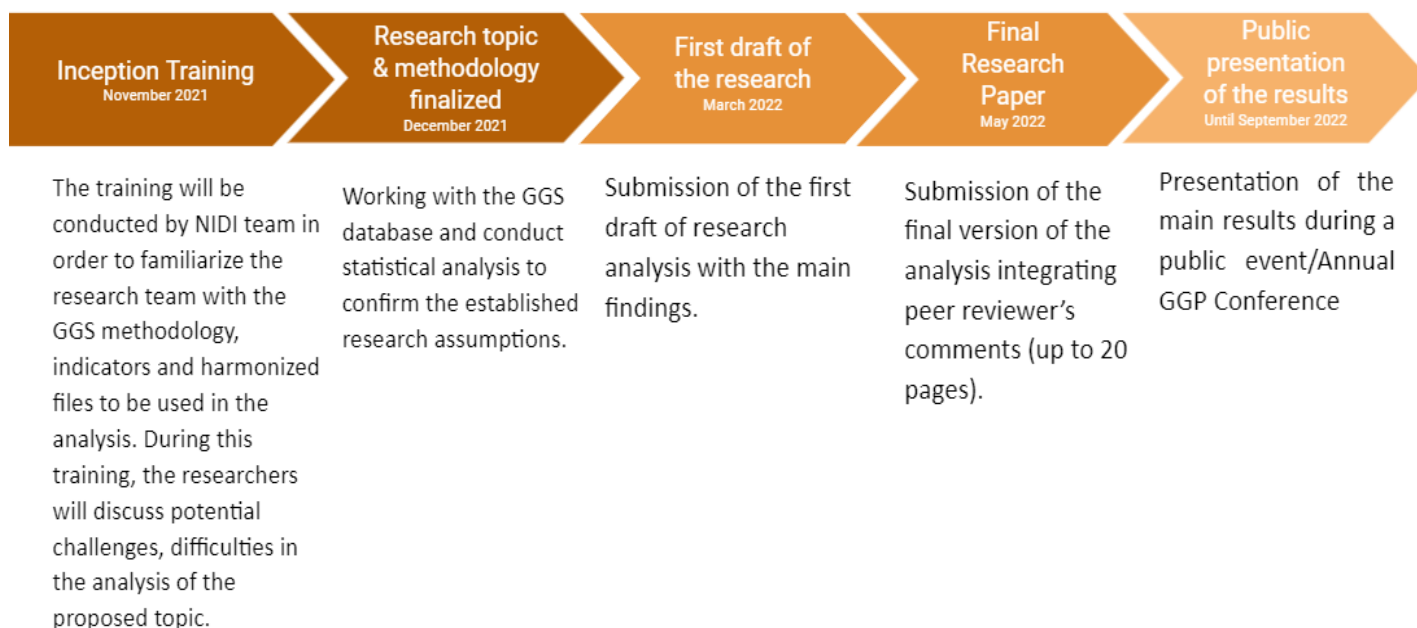
GGs Fellows are expected to propose research topics as part of methodology submitted in the application process. The applicants are welcomed to conduct national or cross-national comparative analysis by using Moldovan microdata compared to other countries that have already conducted GGS.

The research topics can be related to, but are not limited to:

- Demographic profile of the Republic of Moldova
- Household and family structure. Changes in family structure: a comparative analysis among generations (1942-2020)
- Desired fertility - family profile & socio-economic impediments
- Fertility Intentions in Moldova
- Adolescent fertility by exploring long-term patterns of adolescent childbearing in Moldova during 1942-2020 (retrospective approach). An example can be accessed [here](#).
- Unplanned pregnancy/Adolescent pregnancy and its consequences on reproductive health and infertility issues.
- Targeted Situation Analysis on Sexual and Reproductive Health for evidence –based policy development
- Analysis of infertility in the Republic of Moldova
- Marriage or cohabiting: distribution of family roles & childcare tasks
- Family systems and the timing and spacing of bearing children
- (Unplanned) children and life satisfaction
- Intentions to be childless
- Economic and social well-being of young people in Moldova
- Economic and social well-being of older population in Moldova
- Intergenerational solidarity – financial and emotional support to older population
- The effects of work-life balance in addressing demographic challenges

- Migration profile and intention to emigrate
- Trends from the couples / marriage / divorce, how many live together, but not official registered
- Work life balance, Satisfaction with employment status in correlation with Reason for stopping work
- Responsible parenting and fatherhood
- Distribution of unpaid care work
- Women in the labour market. Professions and gender. Women’s empowerment and freedom of choices, including reproductive choices
- Covid impact on economic situation of family with many children and desired fertility
- Gender stereotypes

4. ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES



5. HOW TO RESPONDE TO THE CALL

All academic and independent national and international researchers are welcome to respond to the call provided they have expertise in research on requested area of expertise attested by a publications record.

Experts interested in participating to this research project should email jobs.moldova@unfpa.org by 22 October 2021 indicating “Call for Fellowship on Generations and Gender Survey” in the subject line.

Documents to be submitted in the email should include:

- 1) A detailed CV, including a list of publications; and
- 2) A technical proposal for the research analysis (max 3 pages), which has to include: title of the analysis, how the research is linked to demographic situation of the country, content and main chapters, the main indicators the analysis will be focused on, research assumptions, statistical methods to be used for the analysis, how this analysis will contribute to policy development in

the area of demography.

Selection of researchers will be made on the basis of expertise, the relevance and quality of the proposed research.

UNFPA expects to select by November 2021 up to five national and five international Fellows to analyze the GGS microdata and develop a research paper on one of the thematic priority mentioned previously. The volume of the paper will not exceed 30 pages. The research paper will include: context analysis, research methodology, statistical analysis of the main indicators, main findings and policy recommendations. The analysis is expected to be produced during the period of November 2021-september 2022. The final papers will be presented during public events (TBD). Selected candidates will be offered an individual research grant, as follows:

- 3,000 USD for national fellows
- 5,000 USD for international fellows

To request more details about GGS questionnaire and dataset please contact Ms. Cristei Aliona, Project Officer of the Generations and Gender Programme in the Republic of Moldova by email cristei@unfpa.org

6. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

- Minimum 3 years of relevant professional experience in the field of demography, research and analysis, social development, gender equality, public policy or sociology.
- Good knowledge and understanding of demographic analysis, indicators, terms and social phenomena.
- Data driven analytical approach with excellent writing and reporting skills.
- Excellent computer skills (especially MS Office applications) and ability to use information technology as a tool and resource.
- Proven experience in using SPSS/STATA or other data processing software

7. PROPERTY RIGHTS

The authors' rights will be shared with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Ministry Labour and Social Protection. The applicants will inform the UNFPA if the paper will be submitted for the publication in the scientific journals. The following citation to be used to make reference to GGS Moldova: *"Republic of Moldova - Generations and Gender Survey (2020). Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, National Bureau of Statistics (survey sample), UNFPA, NIDI-GGP (as partner and distributor)"*.

Annex 1. GGS methodology

The Generations and Gender Survey uses an internationally recognized [methodology](#) that includes 10 Modules of questions as follows:

1. **Demographic characteristics** – This section captures the basic characteristics of the respondent, such as age, gender, education, employment and partnership status, mobility/migration and social integration (intention to move or migrate, where a respondent lived three years ago, reasons for moving, language most frequently spoken at home). Also, this section includes questions on general internet usage and the amount of time spent using the internet that helps to understand the importance of access to technology on modern day life. Question on how partners have met, online dating etc.
2. **Life History** – This section is the core of the GGS and includes questions about relationships and number of children respondents have had. In this sections, respondents were asked about the number of partners they have ever lived with as a couple or they have married. The survey collected information about number of biological, adopted or stepchildren. Also, there are questions about children outside of cohabitation, divorced partners, relation satisfaction with child etc. To better capture the complex reality of shared custody in case of separation or divorce, respondents are asked whether their children are living in the same household with them.
3. **Fertility** – This section includes a set of questions about fertility intention: number of children intended, ideal family size etc. Also, there are questions for measuring two SDG indicators on reproductive health and rights: unmet family planning needs (SDG Indicator 3.7.15) among single and partnered women and SDG 5.6.1 indicator. In addition, the questionnaire captures whether the respondents encountered problems conceiving in the last 12 months, reasons for infertility, and their fertility window. This information is especially interesting against the background of postponed parenthood.
4. **Generations** - This section aims to capture the inter-generational relationship. Respondents were asked if and when their parents married and divorced. By knowing if parents were married when the respondent was born and comparing it to the respondent's behavior, data on the intergenerational transmission of demographic behavior is captured.
5. **Health and Well-being** - In this section, respondents are asked about their physical and mental health. Another question measuring SDG 5.6.1 was added asking if the respondent makes healthcare decisions for himself (health care autonomy). There are questions for measuring psychological wellbeing and loneliness by using the 6-item loneliness scale developed by de Jong-Gierveld and van Tilburg. This section includes also a set of questions necessary for measuring AAI (social participation of older people, unmet medical need, access dentists, health conditions, sports participation etc.).
6. **Work** - This section includes questions such as the respondents field of employment, work satisfaction and working hours. Thera questions on commute time adds to the information on work-life balance. In order to study uncertainty and its effect on several demographical behaviours, such as the decision to become parents, the following questions were asked: The respondent is asked about whether he is in a permanent, fixed-term, or temporary contract to



assess stability of employment; We ask how likely it is for a job loss to occur in the next 12 months – for the respondent as well as their partner.

7. **Income** - In the income section, the financial situation of the respondent is assessed. To further study the issue of uncertainty, respondents are asked whether they think their financial situation will get better or worse in three years from now.
8. **Attitudes** - This section captures respondents' attitudes towards gender roles and diversity in family forms. Some questions are focused on measurements of general trust and the extent to which respondents plan their future in contrast to taking each day as it comes (planning scale). The latter might explain differences in how committed individuals are to their fertility intentions. The questionnaire also includes a new five-item scale on gender values.
9. **COVID impact** – assessed the respondents' perception regarding the impact of the pandemic on family, relationship with partner and children, work/work schedule, household responsibilities. Etc.