

REPRO Partners

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Schedule

The REPRO project started in February 2008 and has a duration of three years. In the first year, the main goals are preparatory work such as data harmonisation and collection as well as initial analyses. In 2009, the focus is on detailed comparative analyses for European countries mainly at the micro level. In 2010, evaluation of reproductive decision-making using the theory of planned behaviour, quantitative and qualitative approaches and macro-micro modelling will be finalised. The main results will be presented to the public in a press release in October 2010. A final public conference will be held in Vienna in December 2010 and followed by the publication of selected conference papers in an international peer-reviewed journal.

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Project Presentation

Objectives, important steps and structure of the REPRO project

Funded under the European Commission's
7th Framework Programme
Contract no. SSH-CT-2008-217173



REPRO

Reproductive decision-making in a macro-micro perspective

Background

During the past decades, fertility rates dropped in all European countries, although at different rates. Research results point to a gap between people's desires for children and their actual behaviour. Having children may partly be beyond their control due to social, economic, cultural, psychological and other circumstances in their personal lives or in society.

Main Objectives

The main objective of the REPRO project is to update existing data and to generate new scientific and policy-oriented knowledge on the factors that drive changes in birth rates and influence the reproductive decision-making of modern Europeans.

REPRO incorporates analyses at the macro, micro and macro-micro level.

1. At the macro level, it describes recent fertility trends observed across Europe and examines their association with selected macro-level social, economic and institutional indicators.
2. At the micro level, it uses the social-psychological theory of planned behaviour to analyse the process of reproductive decision-making.
3. The macro-micro approach integrates the findings reached at the macro and micro levels using comparable data sets on fertility intentions and behaviours that are available in most European countries along with multi-level statistical techniques.

Important Steps

1. Macro level: Construction of a database containing information on such contextual indicators as policy support. Launching the Human Fertility Database, which makes available detailed quality data on period and cohort fertility. These data serve as a basis for analysing the policy support offered to different types of households.
2. Micro level: The Generations and Gender Surveys constitute the main source for studying the process of fertility decision-making. In addition, panel data are used to analyse the factors that determine fertility intentions and their realisation. The analysis of qualitative interviews sheds further light on the development of individuals' fertility intentions and the opportunities to realise them.
3. Macro-micro level: Data from the European Social Survey and other comparative surveys are used to study cross-national differences in perceived norms concerning fertility-related behaviour, fertility intentions, timing and quantum.

Structure

REPRO is a three-year project (February 2008 to January 2011) funded under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. The partner institutions are located in Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The project is co-ordinated by the Vienna Institute of Demography of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The work is carried out in eight work packages (see diagram) and co-ordinated in six meetings of all participating partners at the following venues: Vienna (2 meetings), Paris, Milan, the Hague and Budapest.

REPRO Work Packages and their Interdependencies

