

Notes from WP3 meeting in Berlin

1. We went through the questionnaire (Final report) and clarified all the questions. We will add logos and reformulate few questions according to your comments. The final questionnaire will be sent on Monday 11 June but there are very few changes to be done so you can start with the research immediately. After Monday 11 June no changes in the questionnaire will be allowed.
2. Concerning information on living conditions of elderly (Section A part 2 of the first questionnaire) we asked you to provide info from your national statistical office based on the last census (often 2011). If the results are available later (until August), please wait with this part until the results are available. If the office is not sure when the results are available or if results are available after end of August, please, provide info based on the previous census (often 2000 or 2001). The last possibility is to use information from Eurostat but this information is not structured in the same way; so preference is to get information from your national statistical offices.
3. We also stressed the importance of the detailed assessment of the practices. Please, do maximum to get information not only on strengths but also weaknesses of selected practices because our report (and possibly a book) cannot be an advertisement! No practice is performing well in all the fields – sustainability, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, administrative simplicity, etc and there are always some gaps, barriers, inefficiencies, missing targets. The assessment is a standard approach in policy research. The description of practice without its assessment will be useless for us when making the final comparisons. Of course, there is a very important subjective element present in the assessment but this cannot be overcome by any other “objective” approach. The notion of normativity is a general problem of all social science methods and this should not be an obstacle for you to conduct a fair and independent assessment. Theorizing about the role of values in social science is wide, complex and therefore irrelevant at this stage of our research. The same concerns “political sensitiveness” – from my own research experience I know that people will take our project more seriously if you do not ask them only the questions about how good they are but also where they feel they missed the target. There will be interest in our project results only if our output is not only another leaflet with advertisements! I know that it might be difficult but please do maximum to fill in all parts of the questionnaire that are relevant for the particular practice!
4. We agreed that you may provide more details (especially on management of the practice) for one of the five practices that you feel that may be transferable and/or is close to your pilot action. However, this does not mean to provide less information on other practices than we have agreed!! All practices must be described and assessed in detail (by filling all information in the questionnaire that are relevant) but you may provide even more for one practice you really feel that is transferable or close to pilot – especially management of practice should be described in detail.
5. You will be soon informed about new web pages for WP3 – there you will find all presentations, instructions, the manual and questionnaires.
6. This time it is necessary to meet set deadlines!!!! Otherwise we will not be able to present anything in Prague and, moreover, the delay would seriously endanger the whole project (because people are employed on fixed-term contracts and we need to finish the output according to the schedule).
7. For those who did not send final version of Preliminary reports – please, do it as soon as possible. The same applies for secondary data analysis – please, fill in the missing information in tables for your respective countries as soon as possible!

8. Finally – the research strategy has been discussed in Poznan, then by mails, in Trieste, then there were two rounds of commenting the draft of the questionnaire. There was a lot of time devoted by my team to prepare a good research with the prospect that the research can be used for a valuable output. It does not seem to be fair for us and other partners if one partner criticizes the research design at current stage of the research. Please, concentrate on fair and independent research work now!