

EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)

Research Networking Programme "European Historical Population Samples Network (EHPS-Net)", 2011-2016

Meeting EHPS-Net, 20 September 2016, KU Leuven, Raadzaal Faculty of Social Sciences, Parkstraat 45, Leuven, Belgium

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

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CHAIR MORNING SESSION: KOEN MATTHIJS

Opening by the Chair of EHPS-net, Kees Mandemakers

At 9.00 Kees Mandemakers opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. Kees explained that although the current meeting is the closing meeting of EHPS-Net as being financed by ESF, EHPS-Net will continue its work. Goal of the current meeting is to present an overview of the achievements of the various working groups within the network, to get input and comments from the participants of the meeting and to discuss the plans for the future.

Presentation and discussion Working Group 1 - Development Portal

[See the report and the PowerPoint presentation](#)

Chair WG 1: Kees Mandemakers; Members WG 1: Annika Westberg, Gunnar Thorvaldsen and Dalia Leinartė Marcinkeviciene

Kees Mandemakers gave a short presentation on the EHPS-Net website, being the heart of the EHPS-Net project.

The four main entries 'Databases', 'Repository', 'Collaboratory' and 'E-Journal' structure the activities of EHPS-Net. The website is built over the last five years and is now nearly finished. At the database section extensive information of over 30 databases can be found. The repository section is the only one which is not public yet. The extraction software to be put into the repository had to be tested thoroughly and there was some delay. Several programs are nearly finished and will soon be presented on the website. The collaboratory functions both as an archive and a discussion board. As an example of the latter, Kees mentioned the discussion on 'Lifeless reported children' of the last few weeks. A notification system was introduced to notify the members of the collaboratory about a new topic or post. These notifications can be switched on and off in 'My profile'. At the e-journal section methodological and research articles can be found.

Kees introduced Diogo Paiva and Francisco Anguita, who will be working at the HSN on the LONGPOP project. Part of the LONGPOP program is 'Evaluating and Documenting IDS Databases' and 'Extraction Software' respectively. This implies that the work on these subjects will be continued after the end of the ESF funding.

Gunnar Thorvaldsen asked Kees if there are strong reasons to keep the collaboratory accessible to members only. Kees said that this was decided in order to make the discussants in the topics feel more free to express their thoughts and also for technical reasons. He added that those members who forgot

their password, can easily apply for a new one. Gunnar said that it might also be the case that in public the comments will be more thought over. Kees will discuss the technical part of the security with the developer of the website.

Gunnar noticed that there are no links to research projects on the database section. Kees remarked that this should be done on the website of the database itself. Gunnar brought forward the possibility of several databases doing a joint project. Kees would think of a solution for this.

Presentation and discussion Working Group 2 - E-journal Editorial Board

See the report and the PowerPoint presentation

Chair WG 2: Koen Matthijs; Members WG 2: Mikolaj Szoltysek, Lionel Kesztenbaum, Marko Lamberg, Michel Oris and Paul Puschmann

Paul Puschmann started his presentation with a short introduction on the e-journal. The journal was launched in 2014. The journal publishes substantive research articles (demographic studies as well as more classic studies) and methodological contributions. The four editors are based in Leuven, the editorial board consists of seven members, and there are currently 32 members in the scientific review board. At the moment, the journal is financed by the European Science Foundation, the Scientific Research Network Historical Demography, FWO Flanders and the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam.

After a manuscript is submitted, it is first reviewed by the editorial board. After this first selection, the manuscript is reviewed (double-blind peer review) by members of the scientific review board and/or other experts. The copy editor then checks the language and consistency (costs covered by the journal), after which the managing director works on the lay-out. When the article is ready for publication it is sent to Amsterdam, loaded into the IISH-repository and posted on the website as a new article of the e-journal. If an article is not (yet) eligible for the journal, improvements or other journals are suggested. Currently, twelve articles and one editorial are published; two special issues (following the Day of Historical Demography in Nijmegen and the upcoming ESHD conference) and about ten articles are in the pipeline.

The journal follows the Golden Road to open access. Articles are being indexed on the EHPS-Net website, which is on the IISH server, and through secondary platforms. About two weeks ago, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) let the editors know that the journal is eligible after some minor changes have been carried through. The journal is increasingly visible, e.g. through Google Scholar, Academia and Researchgate and citation of the articles is growing.

Although turnover is now good, Paul asked the audience to keep on publishing in the journal and to recommend the journal to colleagues. In promoting, Paul suggested to emphasise that papers are treated efficiently and respectfully, that content that cannot be published elsewhere (e.g. tables and software are published), that peer-review is done by leading experts, that publishing and the language check are for free, etc.

The official way to submit an article is by way of the EHPS-Net website, but it is possible to contact the editors first.

The editors stipulated that the future for the journal looks bright: historical demography is a growing field, IDS has become the standard and EHPS-Net and the ESHD is very successful. The editors will keep on working on indexing and trying to increase the number of writers and readers.

George Alter asked Paul what happens when the funding of ESF ends. Paul said that going to a publisher would be an option. The publisher of Journal of Migration History might be interested; they have a subscription model. Publisher ACCO might be interested as well. Another option would be Leuven University Press; at the university funding is available for open access projects. Paul said that the journal will look for options as soon as possible. Kees Mandemakers added that the funding of the journal is on the agenda of the EHPS-Net steering committee meeting, 21 September in Leuven. For the next future, ESF funding is still available, but the future of the journal and the EHPS-Net in general will definitely be discussed at this meeting.

Paul said that on the long term the open access model might be reconsidered. George proposed a combination of (moderate) author fees and subscription. Jan Kok asked what the incentive would be for the author. George added that author fees are sometimes being paid by the university. Kees said that it is probably not difficult to get funding from universities for an open access journal.

Angélique Janssens brought up the objection that in her view the scenario presented is very optimistic. George replied that the journal can be run at very low cost and that there are different possibilities to keep the journal open access.

Paul suggested to make a distinction in the level of the fees according the country of origin in case an author pay system would be introduced. Author fees won't be high, but probably still too high for authors from Eastern Europe or African countries.

Angélique complimented the editors with their achievements. She noticed, however, that the editorial board consists only of men. Paul invited Angélique to join and Koen Matthijs promised to work on this issue.

Kevin Schürer suggested to economize by narrowing the scope of the journal to historical demographic studies only. Kees said that each article can be combined with datasets. George added that making research data and programs available is becoming the standard. When data is already public, reference to the dataset and just adding the program code is sufficient. George offered to help the editors to write a policy on this.

In response to questions from Angélique Koen said that turnover time for an article is 3 months, and that the length mainly depends on the review process. The rejection rate is at least 40%. Joana Maria Pujades Mora wanted to know on how many manuscripts these figures are based upon. Paul said there are 40 different manuscripts now. In response to a question from Elisabeth Engberg, Paul said that also in future the editors will probably be able to keep up the 3 months turnover time.

Alexander Buczynski suggested to relocate the journal in order to get funding; in Croatia there might be more possibilities for this.

Presentation and discussion Working Group 8 – Standards for documentation about databases

[See the report and the PowerPoint presentation](#)

Chair WG 8: Nanna Floor Clausen; Members WG 8: Gunnar Thorvaldsen, Richard Paping and Helder Adegar Fonseca

Nanna Floor Clausen presented the current state of affairs of working group 8. May 2014 the working group organised a workshop to discuss the requirements for the database documentation. The group worked out a new questionnaire, based on the previous version. A technical writer was hired to post the information from the new questionnaires on the website. Nanna gave a short demonstration of the database section on the EHPS-Net website on the basis of the Odense database. She pointed out that on the EHPS-Net website only documentation, and not the data itself, can be found. There are however, if available, links to the data. Objective is to give the users a good impression. At the moment, about thirty databases are represented. Main task for the future is to keep the information updated and to add new databases when they become available.

Patricia Kelly Hall complimented Nanna with the achievements of the working group. She says that the overview on the website makes it quite easy to discover what is available. Nanna said that because of the nature of the databases, it is only possible to make a global description.

Kevin suggested to create a variable list within the catalogue. Nanna replied that this was discussed by the working group, but they decided that their goal would be only to present the documentation about the databases. George Alter said that it would still be worthwhile to catalogue the information, so that other catalogues can pick up it up more easily. Nanna said that the pdf's could be put in DDI and George agreed with her. Kees said that it will be difficult to make a good standard, although the information is structured. Kees added that filling in the questionnaire was an eye opener for some databases owners as they had to think about what they really have.

George supported Kevin in that the databases should be discovered in other databases. He suggested Kees to talk to DANS, who used DDI. Nanna said that part of the information is picked up by Google. George said that XML is picked up and Kees added that subpages are not easy to find. Kees said that at the moment, there are no means to work on this, but the information is in the databases and it's relatively easy to change the code. Kevin proposed to make a DDI compatible subset.

In reply to a question of Elisabeth Engberg Nanna said that at the moment it is not possible for database owners to change the information on the EHPS-Net website themselves. Kees added that the website does not pretend to have updated information, it just presents a catalogue of databases and not final documentation. If a database owner wants to change or add something a new questionnaire can be filled in. It is also possible to send an email to Marja Koster (mak@iisg.nl).

In reaction to a question from Georg Fertig Nanna said that there are a lot of questions in the questionnaire about the way the data are linked. Georg wondered if the authors give satisfying answers and Nanna confirms this. Kees added that these questions are in general the most difficult ones to answer.

Georg Fertig said that there are many genealogical databases (also online) that are currently not used for research that need to be documented. Nanna asked if these databases are good enough for research. Kees said that Auke Rijpma, based at Utrecht University, has developed software to test genealogical databases to see if they can be used for research and that there are some standards developed for databases. For existing German datasets, for example from Peter Lundgreen or Jürgen Kocka, he suggested to contact GESIS.

Nanna says that it's not a problem that some of these databases are small; although they comprise a small area they could be constructed from many different sources. It is difficult however to distinguish a good genealogical database from an unusable one. Georg suggested to include a database on the website if the database is used in a scientific way.

Finally George concluded that, although there is much that can be done to make the database section more discoverable, the working group achieved a lot by making the current overview. He complimented the group with their work on this. Gunnar Thorvaldsen added that NAPP is much less work in the sense that EHPS-Net had to start from scratch.

Presentation and discussion Working Groups 3 (IDS Clearing Committee), 4 (Extraction Software for IDS) and 10 (Extended IDS) on IDS

See the report and the PowerPoint presentation

Chair WG 3/4/10: Anders Brändström; Members WG 3/4/10: George Alter, Annika Westberg, Kees Mandemakers, Nanna Floor Clausen, Tommy Bengtsson and Ölóf Garðarsdóttir.

Anders Brändström gave an overview over the activities of the working groups 4, 3 and 10. Working group 4 works on extraction software for IDS, on scripts that could be easily added for relatively simple tasks (fertility, mortality, etc.) or that could be used as such. Almost at the beginning of the network, it appeared that working group 4 and 3 had the same members and that it would be more time effective to merge the two groups. Working group 3 is the clearing committee of IDS; functioning as the guardians of IDS, to keep it clean and on a common structure. If necessary this working group decides which variable should be included as new ones. When Luciana Quaranta developed extended IDS it was decided to form a separate working group for this, working group 10. The working group had one meeting, but found it more useful to work together with the working groups 3/4. Anders has been chair of this group since the beginning and the composition of the group has been very stable; Nanna left the group in 2014 to take over working group 8. Over time, Chris Dibben, Hilde Leikny Sommerseth and Wim De Mulder, later replaced by Paul Puschmann, joined the meetings of the working group.

During the last five years, several scripts were developed. George Alter developed scripts for fertility which worked perfectly. The group in Umeå worked on mortality and these scripts also work fine. George still has the scripts for marital status on his list, as well a revision of the scripts on fertility.

Anders pointed to two excellent articles in the EHPS-Net e-journal by Luciana Quaranta on extended IDS.

George wrote an IDS transposer package for family reconstitutions. George added that it can be used on population registers as well. The transposer can be found on the ICPSR website: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/idsTransposer/idsTransposer>.

Furthermore, the group made documentation rules for extraction software to streamline the information on extraction software. Anders encouraged all participants to the meeting to make their own software, to test it, and to let it be posted on the EHPS-Net website. The group wants to create a test database, so that software can be tested easily.

The latest version of IDS is 4.1. The group is working on a new version, 4.2, including some smaller changes within existing types and values, but mostly including major additions.

Kees Mandemakers set up a discussion on still births on the EHPS-Net collaboratory.

The group organised round tables at all ESSHC and SSHA conferences since 2011.

Together with the working groups 6 and 7, the working group set up a trilogy of courses: in Cluj, Lund and Umeå, with extra curriculums in Amsterdam and Nijmegen. Some students did all three courses and were really satisfied. One of the outcomes of the group meeting in Lund in September 2015 was to

do a study with several databases in IDS using the same extraction software. This common study, about the effect of grandmothers on infant mortality will be presented at the ESHD conference, on Thursday 22 September.

At the meeting in Alghero it was decided to use R as the official software of analysis instead of Stata. The reason for the switch to R had to do with the fact that Stata is rather expensive, especially for students in eastern Europe. As a result, old scripts on fertility and mortality have to be reworked.

The group expects to present the R version of a module on extended IDS at the SSHC conference in Chicago, in November 2016. Until now they encountered one big issue that needs to be taken care of, but Anders expects that there might be more.

The extraction program for migration is put on hold. It is quite tricky to produce as it works across nations and databases and at the moment Kees doesn't have the time to work on it.

An R program for occupational structure is being developed. Certain points in time are picked (fathers occupation close to birth of the research person, first occupation of the research person, occupation at marriage, occupation at birth of first of last child, etc.). The best occupation is the highest, according to the rate in the HISCAM coding system and this is usually the occupation at death.

George asked Anders if the program will work on IDS or chironical files. Anders didn't know, as Göran Broström has been working on the program. Kees said that ideally it would work directly on the values in IDS, but it is possible to have it both ways. Anders will discuss this with Göran.

Anders concluded that, beside the continuous work to keep the system in good working order, there is still a lot to do. He was happy to see that the collaboratory is functioning very well.

For the future, Anders said that the network should focus on their key activities. The scientific output is of high level and the network needs to be able to show that IDS is now widely used in research. The e-journal is central and Anders stressed that the network must ensure that the journal has enough funding to survive. An important way of exposing EHPS-Net is by arranging workshops. The schools should be continued. This is probably relatively easy, as most countries provide financing for this. In October 2016 an EHPS-Net workshop on genetics and epigenetics will be organised in Copenhagen. Anders pointed out that it is important to increase the interest of people working in health in historical databases. And finally, Anders emphasised that the network needs to attract money from Horizon 2020. It is difficult to find calls that are specific for EHPS-Net, so it could be considered to bring in expertise in other calls, specifically in the field of epigenetics. A good overview over the knowledge of the network and exploration if this knowledge is of value for epigenetic research are essential.

Gunnar Thorvaldsen announced that funding will be available to bring together researchers. Information is not yet available on the internet.

Angélique Janssens told about her current project, connecting life courses with people still alive today, using DNA (http://www.angeliquejanssens.com/images/Web_text_Project_summary.pdf).

George stressed the importance of involving technical people. The expert workshop on the translation of population register data into IDS in Lund, September 2015 was very successful thanks to the presence of technical people. As a result, a number of new databases can now be put in IDS. The webinar *Creating IDS Made Easy with IDS Transposer* was seen over 85 times on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HY1hFiwc5AU&feature=youtu.be>).

Jan Kok said that he is not happy that the working group had to put work on hold. He suggested that the researchers of LONGPOP would work on the migration software. Kees agreed and will continue to work on this tackling a few problems. Anders and Jan proposed to create a thread on the collaboratory and to organise a brain storm session. Kees agreed to take action following these lines.

Kees announced that 28-30 November a Winter School on extraction software will take place in Amsterdam. Teachers are Luciana Quaranta, Göran Broström, Anders Brändström and Kees Mandemakers. The school will be at the IISH in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Maximum number of students is 20. The program is nearly ready to be published and sent around.

CHAIR AFTERNOON SESSION: KEES MANDEMAKERS

Presentation and discussion Working Group 7 - Education

See the report and the PowerPoint presentation

Chair WG 7: Ioan Bolovan; Members WG 7: Luminita Dumanescu, Alexander Buczynski, Maria Börjesson, Peter Teibenbacher, Maria Fagerlind, Ólöf Garðarsdóttir, Shtelian Sterionov, Péter Öri, Saskia Hin and Renzo Derosas.

Ioan Bolovan presented the achievements of this working group. Working group 7 was set up in January 2012 at the steering committee meeting in Amsterdam to coordinate the summer schools and to exchange ideas about the curriculum. The working group was initially chaired by Alexander Buczynski, from 2014 on Ioan chaired the group. Main task of the working group was to set up a network of courses for a varied level of participants. An overview of this can be found on the EHPS-Net website: <http://www.ehps-net.eu/content/ehps-net-courses-historical-demography>.

The introductory course is held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, yearly, since 2013. This course provides a basic understanding of demographic processes in historical change and in a global view and offers both theoretical lectures as practical exercises.

In 2014 and 2015 summer schools in Lund were organised. These courses are meant for the more advanced students, focusing on historical demographic research using register type data in 2014 and on GIS in 2015.

In January 2015 a winter school was organised in Amsterdam on constructing IDS compliant datasets for analysis based on existent historical population databases.

In 2015 and 2016 summer schools in Nijmegen, also on the more advanced level, were organised, offering a theoretical introduction into the life course approach and its central concepts and providing skills to analyse dynamic life course data from large historical databases.

In 2015 a summer school in Umeå was organised, on the advanced level, on advanced statistical methods and focusing on the concept of progression, in both historical demography and in statistics.

In 2015 in Lund an expert workshop was organised, focusing on the translation of population registers into IDS.

At the meetings of the working group the content of the courses was harmonised to ensure that no overlap exists between the courses and to develop a coherent and progressive structure. For each course, different prerequisites were formulated. For the basic course in Cluj o.a. a Skype interview was introduced to ensure a good knowledge of English, for the course in Nijmegen o.a. proven interest in quantitative research, etc. All courses are aimed primarily at PhD students, MA students or early career researchers. Courses are set up in such a way that they allow students to transition from beginner-level courses to the more advanced ones during their studies. In this way the courses offer a substitute for the courses organised by ICPSR in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

At the course in Cluj, ready-made datasets are used for practicals; in the more advanced workshops and courses students work on their own datasets.

Since 2015 R and R Studio are used as statistical package instead of Stata, Access is used at the more elementary courses.

All courses were evaluated well to very good by the students.

Ioan concluded that the main goal of the working group - students can participate progressively in all courses - was achieved, resulting in a stable and wide-reaching network of young demographers. Not only expertise in historical demography was ensured, but also the development of IDS-compatible historical population databases.

For the future, the working group proposes to create an online survey that would enable a thorough evaluation of the contribution made by this working group.

George Alter suggested to set up an email list or a Facebook group, so that the students can keep in touch. George used to send his former students messages with new opportunities. Especially in the light of the new project LONGPOP this would be very useful. Angélique Janssens said that the very moment the Association for Young Historical Demographers has its first meeting (<http://www.younghistoricaldemographers.com/>) in Leuven. Patricia Kelly Hall proposed a blog for young researchers, so they can help each other. Jan Kok said that the group has a Facebook page for this purpose. Ioan suggested Kees Mandemakers to provide a link to the website of the young demographers.

In reaction to the remark of Ioan about the online survey, Kees suggested to publish it on the EHPS-Net collaboratory.

Presentation (with special attention to digitally born archives/registers) and discussion Working Group 6 - New databases

See the report and the PowerPoint presentation

Chair WG 6: Gunnar Thorvaldsen; Members WG 6: Alexander Buczynski, Peter Teibenbacher, Shtelian Sterionov, Ioan Bolovan and Mikolaj Szoltysek

Gunnar Thorvaldsen presented the state of the art of this working group. The aim of the group was to create overviews of European nominative source materials, to help launch new longitudinal databases and to provide advice on how these can be developed for research purposes.

Due to limited funding opportunities, funding was received mainly for databases in Eastern Europe: the Historical Population Database of Transylvania (<http://hpd.granturi.ubbcluj.ro/> and <http://eeagrants.org/project-portal/project/RO14-0023>), the International Demography Unit at the Ural Federal University in Ekaterinburg, working with church records 1890-1917 (<http://idun.urfu.ru/en/>). The Norwegian Historical Population Register got a major grant to combine censuses and church records 1801-1964 (<http://rhd.uit.no/nhdc/hpr.html>). The latter project now has the opportunity to cooperate, for the older periods, with genealogists. The newer periods are moving along a bit slower and the software is not working as planned.

A special issue of *History of the Family* "Three Centuries of Northern Censuses" 2016/1

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rhof20/21/1?nav=toCList> appeared, launched and discussed in Vienna in 2014 with EHPS-Net support.

The working group organised workshops in Zagreb (2013), Vienna (special attention to censuses; 2014), Ekaterinburg (on repositories and church records; 2015), Umeå (on longitudinal databases; 2016) and, upcoming, in October 2016, the workshop 'Linking old and modern data on historical life courses for 20th century health research'. This workshop is held in Copenhagen partly to support the Danish plans to launch two longitudinal databases (one national 20th century along the same lines as the Historical Population Register in Norway from Statistics Denmark and the other for Copenhagen extending into the 19th century).

Elisabeth Engberg supported the idea of this kind of cooperation.

Siegfried Gruber mentioned that there is so much data around, sometimes also data transcribed for other purposes, which should not be overlooked. Gunnar suggested to ask MOSAIC for funding. Georg Fertig said that MOSAIC is not interested in longitudinal databases. Gunnar proposed to use the term 'bi-itudunal' to emphasis the in-between status of these databases. Kees Mandemakers added that censuses can't be considered dynamic, as they rather represent data at different points in time.

Kees ask Gunner and the audience if there are any new databases to be expected. Jan Kok mentioned the Historical Database Surinam, based on yearly censuses of slaves in Surinam. He added that European colonial databases are still a world to discover. Antti Häkinnen said that he received some funding of the Academy of Finland to improve his data; in two years the project will be finished; the project involves 350 families at the beginning of the 18th century, a sample from a quite large area which is followed into the 20th century. Gunnar asked about the privacy problems he encounters. Antti said that quite a lot of projects have started in Finland, but most have problems due to privacy issues. Kees proposed to discuss this at the upcoming meeting in Copenhagen.

Georg emphasised that there are still many more databases which could be put in use. He asked Gunnar to make an inventory of these. As an example he mentioned a doctoral student of him who combines a genealogical database with existing material putting into scientific use.

Kees agreed with Georg and said that existing databases could be refreshed and updated.

Presentation and discussion Working Group 9 - GIS

See the report and the PowerPoint presentation

Chair WG 9: Diego Ramiro; Members WG 9: Michel Oris, Chris Dibben, Patrick Svensson and Alessio Fornasin

Diego Ramiro reported on the state of affairs of his working group. He presented a graph showing their approach in identifying methodologies and standards for the storage, integration, analyses and

visualisation of the data with multiple spatio-temporal representations. To tackle the issues six workshops were organised on various topics.

At the meeting in 2012 in Madrid the main strategy was established. The workshop in Lund, 'Integrating time, space and individual life stories', in 2013, focused on how to integrate demographic data with time, dealing with issues such as how to locate fuzzy geographical information on a map, how to represent information through time, etc.

At the workshop in 2014 in Vienna focus was on large urban environments. Several projects on this subject were discussed.

At the workshop in Edinburgh in 2015 the group moved from data integration and storing towards research use of the data. Main focus of this workshop was how to identify automatic systems to geocode historical events.

The latest workshop of the group was in Valencia in 2016, focusing on grid methodologies. This methodology can integrate historical economic and demographic information with historical and modern geographic information on a common geographical framework with contemporary grid-bases statistics. Especially Eurostat provides an easy and attractive solution.

For the future, Diego pointed out 3 items: 1) Create semiautomatic methodologies for creating digital cartographies and spatial data infrastructures, provide computer science techniques for automatically geocoding historical events and records and at the same time the need for comparing different methods to geo reference the population. It should be kept in mind though, that for some projects a simple approach would be sufficient, 2) Introduce other approaches, especially the introduction of environmental and socioeconomic information and techniques used on environmental studies, 3) Increase the cooperation with other groups, for example in the USA and Canada.

Kees Mandemakers asked about the state of affairs of the time stamp GIS tools. Diego said that this has been discussed in Lund and that the group has decided to use the time stamp of the standard IDS system. The Eurostat grid-system included time stamps in their system. Luciana Quaranta added that an article has been written about this subject (appeared in the e-journal).

Diego said that some of the people who started in the new LONGPOP project will work on GIS and will carry on working on the issues the group identified.

Kees asked Diego to explain the LONGPOP project to the audience. Diego referred to the website of the project: www.LONGPOP-itn.eu. Three of the LONGPOP early stage researchers, one from Leuven and two from Amsterdam, are attending the current meeting. Diego explained that there has been very crucial changes in the field in the last few years in that historical data are combined with modern data and in the introduction of big data. This project aims to train early stage researchers in these changes. The 15 different LONGPOP projects will all start before November. The projects deals with all kinds of topics, among which IDS and GIS. Training and workshops will be organised, the first one being on big data. Training is usually open for everyone in order to gain as much expertise as possible. On 24 September in Leuven the project members will discuss how to shape the training within the LONGPOP project. Diego said that the 15 early stage researchers will be given the opportunity to move around in the network, to benefit from the available expertise and to use the existing databases.

In reply to a questions from Nanna Floor Clausen Diego said that there were around 120 applications; the one on big data could not be fulfilled and has to be reopened. Because of the rules set by the funding agency, some people couldn't be hired. Kees added that because of the rule that the researchers should work in a country that is not their own, many have housing problems. Diego said in addition that of the researchers from outside of Europe, many had visa issues.

Kees thanked Diego for all his work; GIS is a very complicated subject as was the start of the LONGPOP project.

Presentation by Alexander Buczynski – Croatian database

After the coffee break, Alexander Buczynski gave a short presentation on the Croatian Database (croatian-frontier.com). The database is a descendent of the EHPS-Net project: both started at the same time. It was very difficult to get funding. One of the prerequisites was that the website should be both scientific and popular and Alexander found it difficult to meet this requirement.

The Croatian soldiers guarding the villages of the Habsburg Monarchy from the Ottoman Empire were stationed in small villages and stayed there for several years. Social-economic and other data from archival materials (parish records, muster rolls, registers, censuses, land registers, cadastres in Croatian and foreign archives) give a very interesting and detailed picture.

Presentation and discussion Working Group 5 - Looking into European and national call structures, developing proposals for historical micro data infrastructure and Future of EHPS-Net

See the report and the PowerPoint presentation

Chair WG 5: Kees Mandemakers; Members WG 5: Koen Matthijs, Anders Brändström, Mikolaj Szoltysek and Diego Ramiro Fariñas

Kees Mandemakers presented the state of affairs of working group 5. This working group was first chaired by Joshua Goldstein. After he left for the USA, Kees took over. The group communicated by way of email. The group identified two types of applications: to continue the network and to strengthen it.

In 2012, at the meeting in Budapest, it was decided to make a pre-application for European investment funds. This application was judged with 'high potential'. Unfortunately the call structure of Horizon 2020, published December 2013, didn't mention the contents and ideas of this proposal. Koen Matthijs and Kees talked to Maria Theofilatou of the EU RI commission and this resulted in a grant proposal written by Koen Matthijs and Saskia Hin, *European Longitudinal Population Research Infrastructure* (ELPRI). The proposal was rejected, although judged with relatively high scores.

Another grant proposal, by Diego Ramiro within the Marie Curie program, *Methodologies and Data mining techniques for the analysis of Big Data based on Longitudinal Population and Epidemiological Registers* (LONGPOP) succeeded. The grant involves 3,6 million euro, nine universities/organisation participate and 15 early stage researchers will be put to work. This project continues parts of the EHPS-Net program and in general strengthens EHPS-Net.

Apart from this large project, there were some local successes, among which the Historical Population Database of Transylvania and the Norwegian Historical Population Register.

Work on a Cost Action proposal (with Ioan Bolovan from Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj as PI) is still in progress.

Kees said that the *Handbook of International Historical Microdata for Population Research* by Patricia Kelly Hall, Robert McCaa and Gunnar Thorvaldsen, published in 2001, needs revision. This will be one of the tasks of the LONGPOP researchers working at the IISH in Amsterdam.

Kees unfolded his 'Plan B' for continuation of the network. This involves a low budget model, sufficient to maintain the key activities of the network (website, e-journal, schools, secretarial support). For this 30.000-50.000 euro per year is needed. This can partly be covered by contributions of partners and by small applications. It is now possible to involve important partners in Germany, UK, Spain, Italy, etc. of which the national scientific organisation didn't commit themselves to EHPS-Net. It is even possible to look outside Europe and involve China, USA, Canada, etc.

Anders Brändström said that Sweden has openings to find funding, but countries differ a lot in this respect. He stressed that research and infrastructure are two parts that have to run parallel. Anders thinks that for the future of the network supporting the development of new databases is not the best strategy to survive, and that the network should focus on a smaller scale and a technical point of view. Kees agreed that the network should concentrate on a few key activities.

Kevin Schürer proposed to 'dance with the devil' and join an existing ERIC. He suggested Kees to talk to people who develop ERIC's. At the moment existing ERIC's are encouraged to work together. Kees said that he is receptive to join CESSDA, DARIAH or both. Kevin advised Kees to have an informal discussion with Matthew Woollard, a CESSDA key player and historian. If that doesn't work out, he might turn to the contemporary network SHARE. George advised Kees to talk to Peter Doorn of DANS. He is also optimistic about collaboration with SHARE. He agreed with Kevin that EU funding is available for ERIC's to work together. Kevin confirmed that funding is often given to several ERIC's to share. George said that in general to get funding for infrastructure is difficult and that ERIC's are a real exception. On Thursday 22 September Luciana Quaranta organises a session at the ESHD conference and she might apply for a research project. Kees said he already discussed participation in DARIAH with Peter Doorn and later with Henk Wals, the representative of DARIAH in the Netherlands, and these talks didn't really work out well. He emphasised that finding the right network to cooperate with is much more challenging than writing the actual proposal. Jan Kok proposed to keep the network alive through

a Cost Action. Ioan Bolovan said that this is on his to-do-list, but he currently doesn't have the time to work on it; from January he has time for this.

George said that cooperation might be possible with a research group which has their headquarters in Ghana, working on demographic surveillance. The group does censuses up to five times per year in Africa and Asia and thus creates population registers. Patricia Kelly Hall added that IPUMS has data on Africa available.

Closing by Kees Mandemakers

Kees Mandemakers closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their presence and participation. He thanked Koen Matthijs and his team in Leuven and Marja for their help and support with the organisation of the meeting and all working group chairs for their detailed reports.

Actions

Working Group 1

Action: Discuss the technical part of the security of the collaboratory with the developer of the website – Kees Mandemakers (October 2016)

Action: Finish work on the repository – Kees Mandemakers (October 2016)

Working Group 2

Action: Invite women to the editorial board – Koen Matthijs (October 2016)

Action: Keep on working on visibility and indexing – Koen Matthijs (October 2016 and on)

Action: Investigate possibilities for funding after ESF funding ends – Koen Matthijs (October 2016 and on)

Working Groups 3/4/10

Action: Create a threat on the collaboratory on migration software and organise a brain storm session – Kees Mandemakers (October 2016)

Action: Create a test database – Anders Brändström (October 2016 and on)

Action: Keep on working on scripts for extraction software – all (October 2016 and on)

Action: Discuss IDS issues of software on occupational structure with Göran Broström – Anders Brändström (October 2016 and on)

Working Group 6

Action: Discuss privacy issues at the meeting of the working groups 5/6 on 17-18 November 2016 in Copenhagen – Kees Mandemakers (October 2016)

Action: Make an inventory of databases – Gunnar Thorvaldsen (October 2016 and on)

Working Group 7

Action: Create an online survey – Ioan Bolovan (October 2016 and on)

Action: Provide a link on the EHPS-Net website to the website of the young demographers – Kees Mandemakers (October 2016)

Working Group 8

Action: Investigate to catalogue the information on the website – Nanna Floor Clausen (October 2016 and on)

Action: Contact GESIS about standards for databases – Nanna Floor Clausen (October 2016 and on)