

GENACIS Fifth Semi-Annual Working Meeting
University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
May 28 – May 30, 2004

Friday, May 28, 2004

Welcome and introduction (Chair: Sharon Wilsnack)

Sharon Wilsnack welcomed the GENACIS group and expressed her thanks to the SIPA team for their outstanding contribution to the GENACIS project, and particularly their hard work that resulted in the distribution in April of work decks that included 28 surveys. She also thanked the Berlin team for their assistance organizing the meeting. Sharon, Kim Bloomfield and Isidore Obot then gave updates on the status of each of the three funding components (EU, WHO and R21).

EU: Kim announced that the EU final report draft chapters on drinking contexts and societal-level indicators would be presented shortly in plenary. Regarding the mid-term review, which was conducted by two external reviewers at the November 2003 semi-annual meeting, Kim reported that both reviewers gave positive evaluations of the project. The project officer declined to attend the meeting and subsequently announced that he would request additional information from the reviewers, which he has not yet done. The mid-term report will not be circulated to the entire EU project group until the project officer has made this request and this information can be attached to the report. The November 2004 semi-annual GENACIS meeting in Berlin will be the final meeting of the EU project.

WHO: Isidore Obot announced the availability of funding for two more countries, one of which is Uruguay. The WHO group met for the entire previous day to discuss the monograph of country reports that will be published during the next year. Also, the WHO Global Study on Alcohol should appear in the next few months. Finally, he had some good news: judging by a recent resolution passed by the WHO, it looks like alcohol research will receive new priority, so the future may be a bit brighter.

GENACIS: Sharon Wilsnack informed the group that the R01 grant application to NIAAA will be submitted by mid-August 2004. The grant will request five years of support to continue to analyse the GENACIS data. She requested that people who are involved as first authors on a paper should submit to her by end of June 2004 a progress report to be used in the R01 grant application. She also mentioned that Maristela Monteiro is hoping to receive funding through PAHO for conducting additional GENACIS surveys in Latin America.

Creation of measures within GENACIS analyses:

Kim addressed an issue that will become increasingly relevant as analyses progress: how to document and use measures created for GENACIS analyses (e.g., the education variables created by Ulrike Grittner and Stephanie Kramer for analyses of social inequality and alcohol consumption). So that other GENACIS members can properly use these variables and give credit to those who created them, the authors should draft a working paper with the documentation of how the variable is defined and constructed. This will be posted on the UND website and should be cited if the measure is used for other analyses. Authors who create a measure should send it to Kim and Sharon who will forward it to the steering committee. When the measure is approved, it will be documented in Lausanne and each country for which the measure was developed will receive an identification code. Measures which have been developed will be announced in the newsletter. Any member using that measure will cite either the working papers or subsequent publications describing the measure.

Sharon presented the GENACIS logo designed by Ulrike Grittner and Jürgen Eckloff and announced a logo contest for the “official” GENACIS logo. Entries should be submitted by June 21 to Sharon. A jury of impartial judges will select the best entry and award the prize of a fine wine or non-alcoholic alternative from the country of the winner’s choice.

Presentation of preliminary EU final report chapter draft on drinking contexts (Salme Ahlström)

Analyses of drinking contexts were conducted using 11 of the project countries. Salme Ahlström presented tables showing the frequency of drinking in various contexts (at a party, private settings, workplace, restaurant), time of drinking and drinking companions (alone, with partner, etc.). Further tables gave information on gender ratios and frequency of contexts by age group. To help explain the results Salme referred to the following factors: (1) degree of societal integration of drinking, (2) differing cohort effects, (3) gender similarity as exemplified in low male-to-female ratios in the Nordic countries and higher ratios in the Czech Republic and Hungary.

From the tables it was clear that not all the EU countries had collected all the relevant data. Also, several questions arose concerning the accuracy of data for specific countries. The response categories were a specific point in question, as these vary between countries. Ronald Knibbe asked how "drinking after 5 p.m." was calculated for the Netherlands since this question is not in that survey. A broader discussion addressed the general formulation of contexts, e.g., how to define "alone". Issues such as whether drinking alone had become less common among women were discussed, and whether response bias may be involved in the relatively infrequent reporting of this context.

Presentation of preliminary EU final report chapter draft on societal level indicators (Giora Rahav)

Giora Rahav presented an overview of his progress. He first described the indicators he used. Giora reported that he was able to conduct analyses using 9 of 29 GENACIS countries. He found that women's and men's drinking correlate similarly with societal-level factors within countries. Thus, he focused on gender differences and presented (1) the correlations between gender differences and country characteristics, and (2) drinking and consequences by gender. He observed that the more affluent the country, the smaller the gender difference in drinking patterns and also noted that, similar to Salme's findings, Hungary's data appeared to be an outlier.

Saturday, May 29, 2004

Meetings of the paper groups.

Sunday, May 30, 2004

Deadlines

Participants were reminded to turn in their paper status sheets; work area leaders should submit updated lists of paper topics and authors to Stephanie Kramer by June 21 and paper leaders should send Sharon updates on their progress for the R01 grant submission by July 15.

Gerhard Gmel presented the status list of data centralization by country. Kim urged all members to submit the survey design questionnaire to Gerhard. Gerhard listed several countries where information is still lacking:

- Australia
- Czech Republic
- France
- India
- Kazakhstan
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Russia
- USA.

Partners were also asked to double-check the data for their respective countries in the three main EU workpackage papers: drinking patterns (Pia Mäkela), alcohol-related problems (Ronald Knibbe) and alcohol-related violence (Karin Helmersson Bergmark). Pia's paper will be sent out soon after KBS and comments should be sent to her by June 18.

The logo contest was announced once again (see page 1).

Work area reports

Each work area leader re-capped the paper group discussions from the past two days. *For a full list of papers, please refer to the article list.*

Drinking patterns (Pia Mäkelä and Tom Greenfield)

Most papers in this work area were discussed at the GENACIS meeting. Several new papers were also developed, among them, three new papers on abstinence. Positive experiences of drinking in the European context (Karen Helmersson-Bergmark et al.) was divided into 2-3 papers. Among the drinking context papers, additional papers were also proposed, including an analysis of drinking alone, led by Moira Plant.

Alcohol-related problems (Ronald Knibbe and Isidore Obot, not present)

There were paper group meetings on the following topics, among others: the Hazardous Drinking Score, the AUDIT, informal social controls and “lucky drinker”. The Hazardous Drinking Score group has generated at least six paper ideas, including a paper on gender differences in the HDS at the country level, on which Giora Rahav and Jürgen Rehm are working. Further papers were also generated concerning the AUDIT, among them the predictive power of the AUDIT drinking indicators (Gerhard Gmel) and the cultural sensitivity of the AUDIT (Kim Bloomfield). Finally, from the informal controls group, at least three more papers were discussed, dealing with stages leading to treatment (advice to cut-down, spouse pressure) and pressure to drink more.

Alcohol-related violence (Karin Helmersson-Bergmark, Kate Graham)

This group still has the same papers as in the article list. Two paper groups met formally and others had informal meetings during the GENACIS meeting.

Social inequalities (Kim Bloomfield, Gerhard Gmel, Andrée Demers)

The group still has the same papers as in the article list. The first four papers were discussed during the GENACIS meeting.

Societal-level predictors (Giora Rahav and Richard Wilsnack)

The group discussed three papers: a descriptive paper based on the wet/dry drinking culture dichotomy (Giora Rahav and Richard Wilsnack); a paper on gender differences (Giora Rahav and Richard Wilsnack); and a paper on inequality and welfare policy as moderators between consumption and problems (Zofia Mielecka and Therese Reitan with Robin Room as a consultant).

Sexuality and intimacy (Marja Holmila and Louise Nadeau, not present)

The group still has the same papers as in the article list. Only one of the groups listed met during the GENACIS meeting, although all groups are progressing well.

Health and life style (Moira Plant and Nancy Vogeltanz-Holm, not present)

The group has six papers in total. The health and lifestyle work deck will be completed shortly so that preliminary analyses can begin.

Country profiles (Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl and Allaman Allamani)

Four country reports have been produced (including Austria, Italy, Germany, and Finland) and will be combined into a draft chapter for the EU final report. Irmgard requested that other members submit their country reports as soon as possible.

Deadlines for the work area leaders:

Kim reminded the work area leaders of upcoming deadlines:

- 1) Collect paper status sheets and submit your updated paper list to Stephanie by 21 June.
- 2) Indicate which papers will be ready to present in Berlin – the date for pre-circulation will be October 22, 2004.

Guidelines for authorship

Sharon reminded the group of the guidelines for authorship which were written two years ago and can be downloaded from the website: www.medicine.nodak.edu/IRGGA .

She explained that authorship refers to making an *active contribution* to a paper, such as commenting on drafts of the paper, finding errors, etc. Some co-authors who may be concerned about making a written contribution in English can still make a contribution by providing a short description of how these data reflect the drinking culture in their country or by explaining the cultural context of findings relevant to their country. If a country's data are analysed in a paper but the person from that country is not an author, then he or she will be acknowledged in the "with" list.

Upcoming meetings and miscellaneous

Sharon announced the dates for the Berlin November meeting: November 12 – 16 2004.

The upcoming Tuesday IRGGA meeting will be another forum to update IRGGA members attending KBS but not the GENACIS workshop on the status of the GENACIS project. More important, methodological issues that should be addressed in GENACIS publications will be discussed. Tom Greenfield and Andrée Demers will prepare a presentation to be given at the meeting and will subsequently draft a document about how to address these issues. Sharon suggested that Tom produce a handout for the presentation.

Gerhard reminded everyone that due to restrictions on the French data, only the analysts in Berlin may analyse the French data set. As an alternative for future analyses, the French data from ECAS could possibly be used. Sharon reminded the group that the SIPA website can now be accessed without a password and that the acknowledgement statement there should be used in any reports or publications that use the GENACIS data.

Allaman raised the question as to what happens to GENACIS after the November 2004 meeting. Sharon responded that, as mentioned earlier, a small group is working on submitting a new R01 application to NIAAA for continued funding to analyze the centralized data.

-Adjourn -

GENACIS Working Meeting Attendance List

Name	Country
Ahlstrom, Salme	Finland
Allamani, Allaman	Italy
Beck, Francois	France
Benegal, Vivek	India
Bye, Elin	Norway
Bloomfield, Kim	Denmark
Csemy, Ladislav	Czech Republic
Demers, Andrée	Canada
Dohnsoo, Kim	USA
Drabble, Laurie	USA
Eckloff, Jürgen	Germany
Eisenbach-Stangl, Irmgard	Austria
Elekes, Zsuzsanna	Hungary
Fleming, Jillian	Australia
Fröhner, Friederike	Germany
Gmel, Gerhard	Switzerland
Graham, Kate	Canada
Greenfield, Tom	USA
Grittner, Ulrike	Germany
Hager, Isabella	Austria
Hegedus, Andrea	USA
Helmersson-Bergmark, Karin	Sweden
Hettige, Siri	Sri Lanka
Holmila, Marja	Finland
Ibanga, Akanidomo	Nigeria
Kairouz, Sylvia	Canada
Kerr-Correa, Florence	Brazil
Knibbe, Ronald	The Netherlands
Kramer, Stephanie	Germany
Kraus, Ludwig	Germany
Kristjanson, Arlinda	USA
Kubicka, Ludek	Czech Republic
Kündig, Hervé	Switzerland
Kuntsche, Sandra	Switzerland
Mäkelä, Pia	Finland
Magri, Raquel	Uruguay
Mielecka-Kubien, Zofia	Poland
Munné, Myriam	Argentina
Mustonen, Heli	Finland
Nayak, Madhabika	USA
Nordvik, Monica	Sweden
Obot, Isidore	WHO
Ólafsdóttir, Hildigunnur	Iceland
Plant, Martin	England, UK
Plant, Moira	England, UK
Rahav, Giora	Israel
Raitasalo, Kirsimarja	Finland
Reitan, Therese	Ireland
Romero, Martha	Mexico
Room, Robin	Sweden
Selin, Klara	Sweden
Shimizu, Shinji	Japan

Tumwesigye, Nazarius Mbona	Uganda
Wilsnack, Richard	USA
Wilsnack, Sharon	USA
Zorira, Julia	Russia