



Summary of the discussions in Frankfurt and further steps

Finalizing the questionnaires

The first part of the meeting was devoted to completing the questionnaires. Each PI presented the findings from piloting the questionnaires, followed by a discussion. Several main conclusions were raised:

- The language, culture, context, and children's everyday life differ from country to country. Nevertheless, it seems that a common ground of 'Childhood' is shared by all children.
- The majority of the items and response scales in the questionnaire work well with the three age groups and in all of the countries. Nonetheless, the questionnaire is more challenging for children aged eight.
- Changes that need to be done in the English-general questionnaires were identified. In addition, there is a need for a 'deep translation' that takes into account the language, culture and the context of children's lives in each country. Thus, items, in which a modification to the context, language, and culture of each country is needed, were also acknowledged. Please see the attached document ("Remarks on the final version of the questionnaires") for details about the changes made and comments on the questionnaire.
- For the ability to conduct cross-country comparative analysis in the future it is extremely important to recognize the context of each country and the modifications made in the questionnaire.

Next step: The questionnaires in the original language and back translation should be completed and sent to Tamar **no later than September 1st**. It should be accompanied by a detailed report. This report should include details about all modified items, deleted items (if any) and items added (if any). Each of these changes needs to be explained.

Sampling

Dr. Renate Moller gave a lecture on sampling and provided many useful guidelines for high-quality sampling. It is very important to keep, as much as possible, the representative of the sample. Each country has its own characteristics to be considered in the sample (rural/urban, state-run/part-funded/private schools, different languages, different ethnic groups, and etc.).



To support and assure the quality of the sampling, it was decided that Jonathan Bradshaw, Gwyther Rees, Bong Joo Lee and Renate Moller will serve as 'sampling referees'. Namely, they will advise and review each country sample strategy. Thus, the sample strategy should be sent to Tamar **no later than July 26st**. Comments and review will be then given to the PI by this 'sample group'.

During data collection it is important to document the schools and the children who participated in the survey. Please find attachment a template for information on each of the participating schools. Furthermore, Gwyther will send shortly guidelines for calculation of sample weight.

Dissemination and conceptual thinking

During the discussions two main issues were raised that deserve further emphasis: dissemination and conceptual thinking

Dissemination is of great importance to the project. While each PI is responsible for the dissemination of the project in their country, broad dissemination is also needed. Dissemination of the project and the findings should take place in several levels: academic level, level of decision makers and among children. To this end it was decided to establish a small **dissemination thinking group**. PIs wishing to take part in this group please contact Tamar. The purpose of this group is to think of ways to disseminate the project, and, to begin with, write a preliminary plan for academic publications.

Additionally, if you have information or ideas about a conference or another distribution channel that may serve our propose, please forward it to Tamar, in order to share it with all of the PIs.

Publication of articles is more than welcome. We ask to inform Tamar of any publication. In addition, if a data from another country is used, it is necessary to inform Tamar before writing the article in order to allow other researchers to join the writing.

During the discussions the importance and the project's potential of developing theoretical and conceptual thinking was raised. Here too, it was decided to establish a small **conceptual thinking group**. PIs wishing to take part in this group are welcome to contact Tamar.

Next meeting: The next project meeting will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in the spring of 2014.

Note about the budget: It is extremely important to keep a record of all expenses. All expenses must be accompanied by receipts, which later will be passed to Sabine.