

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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Topic (ii) Gender equality indicators

The situation of Gender Statistics in Albania

Submitted by Committee for Equal Opportunities of Albania¹

Contributed Paper

1. Institutional machinery for achieving gender equality

The Council of Ministers upgraded the Department of Women and Family in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to the Council of Ministers level in July 1998, appointing a Committee for Women and Family to report directly to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This committee was re-nominated into the Committee for Equal Opportunities in March 2001. The Government approved the Platform for Action in order to improve the status of women in Albania in June 1999. It was based on the Beijing Platform for Action and on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The responsibilities of the Committee for Equal Opportunities are the implementation of governmental policies for women and family issues, the co-ordination of programs for the promotion of gender equality, the implementation and evaluation of governmental programs, the proposal of new legislation and/or amendments to existing legislation on children's and women rights in compliance with international standards, the support and co-ordination of NGOs activities in the field of women's and family's rights.

2. Gender statistics and gender perspectives

The Committee for Equal Opportunities produced a database with detailed information about the activity of women in the economic, social, judicial and political fields.

What is being done? - In the framework of the UNDP project "Promotion of social and economic status of women in Albania", in 1999 work was started to create a database on gender statistics, as this was necessary to make policies and plans.

- The Documentation and Information Centre of the Committee for Equal Opportunities was set up where a database on gender statistics will be included. This is to be used not only by the staff of the Committee and representatives of governmental institutions but also by other users: all NGOs representatives interested in this field, researchers, students, media, international organization, foreign researchers, etc.
- A working group was established in collaboration with an IT expert to determine the programme with relevant formats.
- After setting-up the computer programme, the collaboration with INSTAT was considered indispensable because it was the main source of gathering data on gender statistics. Taking into

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consideration that INSTAT in some specific fields such as statistics on decision making, judicial, crimes, drugs, trafficking in human beings, violence against women, etc. did not have valid data, work has been done to establish direct links with relevant institutions providing the information mentioned above; we are continuing work on this.

- Based on the information gathered and processed regularly year by year, the Committee for Equal Opportunities has at its disposal a database which covers the following fields:
 - Population
 - Women in decision making
 - Employment and unemployment
 - Health
 - Education
 - Living conditions
 - Violence against women
 - Drugs
 - Trafficking in human beings

The publication “Women and men in Albania” available for the years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 is the result of the work carried out by INSTAT in co-operation with the Committee for Equal Opportunities with the aim being to increase the number of topics covered for specific fields. The last publications contained analyses of several fields prepared by INSTAT and the Committee respectively of the labour market and women in decision-making. The last publication of “Women and men in Albania” contained improved gender statistics compared to the earlier ones.

For example:

Decision-making – in the last publication, not only parliament and government were considered but also the gender statistics of justice institutions, local government, political parties, universities, and the media.

Family - divorces by education level are included as well as the number of children, age of married couples, and the ratio of divorces per 100 marriages.

Crime and violence –the number of convicts by sex, age and education are presented.

Each Ministry has a statistical department but not all of the statistical data are published. Therefore one of the main duties of the Committee has been to establish links between the relevant institutions in order to enrich the information and its publication. So, we have closely co-operated with:

1. The Ministry of Justice and the General Department of Prisons to determine the number of convicts by their age, level of education, and sex. We are expecting to include in the publication “Women and men in Albania 2002” also statistical data regarding the type of crimes and years in prison.
2. The Ministry of Education and Universities in Albania to determine the number of woman in leading positions.
3. The Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization and the Central Election Commission to determine the positions occupied by women at the level of local government.

The transition period has brought to Albanian society not only exacerbated economic-social issues but also new phenomena such as: trafficking in human beings, family/domestic violence, illegal immigration, the SST, etc. Regarding these new phenomena we have faced difficulties gathering valid official information.

The Committee for Equal Opportunities and NGOs do a considerable amount of work to reduce violence against women in the family but still official statistical data is missing. A feasibility study at the national level was planned to be undertaken in the future by INSTAT, the Committee for Equal Opportunities and NGOs (Network Against the Violence on Women), but this has not yet been carried out because of lack of funds.

Statistical data has been provided by the Ministry of Public Order related to trafficking in human beings, but this data does not correctly express the real situation in Albania. A Governmental Committee against the trafficking in human beings has been established and the National Strategy for combating it has been approved. We have close contacts with the Committee and in a very short period the Ministry of Public Order and Policy of the State will publish the study "Trafficking in human beings for the period 1992 – 2002", aiming to present the exact number of trafficked people, trafficked women for exploitation of prostitution and the number of trafficked children for criminal purposes.

The last registration of population in Albania was carried out by INSTAT by the end of the year 2001. It will be a most important source of information. In particular, the structure of the population by age, sex, birth rate, mortality, internal and external migration, minorities, economic status, family structure are better registered than previously. The information gathered from the registration of the population is in the phase of being processed and it will be published very soon.

3. Policies

Referring to statistical data in decision-making, it shows that the number of women in leading positions is low, particularly in the last parliamentary election of 24 June 2001 (5.7% are women). Consequently, the Committee for Equal Opportunities in co – operation with NGOs within the framework of a 2-years project "Women can do it" have prepared an amendment to improve the existing electoral law. Together with the Sub-Parliamentary Commission for Women and Youth we have presented this amendment to the Bipartisan Commission for improvement. This amendment requires that 30% of the total number of candidates for Members of Parliament should be women. Through this women's participation in leading positions is hoped to be legislated.

Actually in Albania's two main political parties it had been agreed to have 25% (for PD party) and 30% (for PS party) of women to be in leading forums. This has been implemented.

4. Sources of gender statistics and users

- INSTAT – Main source for gender statistics.
- Department of Statistics in Ministries, Institutions and Local Government (Prefectures, Municipalities, Communes). Through a national statistical program approved by the law for statistics in March 1993, every year on a regular basis gender statistics are gathered. Apart from these statistics, there are statistics that need to be gathered long-term such as for the parliamentary and local election once every 4 years. The relevant institution after the election process publishes the manual of election, which contains also statistical information. This is considered by the Committee for Equal Opportunities to be another source for gender statistics in decision-making.
- The Network of Focal Points that the Committee for Equal Opportunities has set up at Ministry, Prefecture and Municipality level. These focal points are trained in gender issues on the framework of projects financed by several donors, and they are collaborating to include gender policies in their work and in gathering gender statistics.

Over the last ten years women's participation has increased in other sectors like media and business. In connection to the first above-mentioned sector the Committee for Equal Opportunities has carried out a survey regarding the position of women in the media. Among a large number of newspapers were selected 9 main newspapers and the results were published in the publication "Women and men in Albania 2000". In the future we are expecting to expand this survey to other newspapers, magazines and the electronic media (TV and radio stations). In connection with the business sector, our work is based on administrative data and at the same time in co-operation with INSTAT we are planning to undertake an ongoing survey gathering statistics on the types of business developed in Albania and women's position therein.

Through the work of the Committee for Equal Opportunities, the number of users has increased. There are a lot of requests for the publication "Women and men in Albania" not only from governmental

institutions and NGOs but also from researchers, students, representatives of the media and international organizations which are regularly visitors of the Documentation and Information Centre of the Committee for Equal Opportunities. We have attempted to present the database with the gender statistics in our web site www.wcf.org.al. We are trying to improve it even though the lack of funds at our disposal and taking into consideration the actual situation in Albania where access to the Internet increased but not to the same extent as in developed countries.