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Time use surveys

The Time Use survey in Serbia, 2010/2011

Note by Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia¹

1. The last two decades have brought economic and political disintegration of the society and the economy of the Republic of Serbia. Majority of the population was under the negative influence of crisis in many aspects. Half of the total population in Serbia is women, but that it is not reflected in the economic, social and educational structure of the population. On the other hand, women mostly participate in unpaid housework and care of the family members. There are some thoughts that unpaid female work in the households succeeded to keep household and family together and maintained to replace economic engagements and fulfil missing resources.

2. The Time use survey (TUS) offers a detailed portrait of how individuals spend their time, illustrating which activities people are engaged in and for how long. The time use statistic is a quantitative summary of how individuals “spend” or allocate their time over a specified period – typically over the 24 hours of a day and over the seven days of a week.

3. The collected data represent a valuable source of data that should help in the development and implementation of relevant social policies related to labour, culture, youth, etc., and it is also important to the perspective of gender equality. Hence, TUS contains data on the participation of women and men in basic activities and comprehensive set of data relevant to measuring paid and unpaid work.

4. In 2009, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) undertakes to conduct pilot and main Time Use survey. Pilot survey was conducted during the summer 2009, with

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the financial support of the European Union (EU) through the project of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

5. On the other hand, Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) provided methodological and financial support for the conducting main Time Use survey in Serbia, which was in a fully compliance with the Harmonized European Time use survey (HETUS).

6. Main objectives of the Time Use survey in Serbia are as follows:

- a) Main characteristics of women's and men's time use;
- b) Average time for paid and unpaid work by sex;
- c) The time women and men spend on economic activities;
- d) Differences in time use between employed and unemployed;
- e) Differences in time use of weekdays and weekend days;
- f) Differences in time use regarding the type of settlement...

I. Survey sample and the organisation of the fieldwork

7. Conducting the survey lasted the entire year and covered each day in a week (weekday and weekend day), and it was planned through 26 two-week fieldwork activities all over the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Fieldwork schedule was very demanding regarding the dates for conducting the survey and territorial arrangements that were prepared for 15 regional statistical departments. That was a very complex organizational and demanding challenge that should be respected.

8. The sample selection covered 234 enumeration areas, and it was predicted visiting 10 households in each enumeration area. TUS has been started on 15th February 2010 and covered a full 12-month period. The survey was designed to achieve a representative sample of the population living in households in Serbia with the sample size of 2340 households and approximately 6200 individuals. Two stages stratified sample was used. The first-stage units were enumeration areas, and the second-stage units were households.

9. Each household had two survey days, one weekday (from Monday to Friday) and one weekend day, Saturday or Sunday. All individuals in the selected households, aged 15 or older, were requested to provide information by fulfilling the diaries for the selected days and dates. TUS data collection was done using the personally interviewing method (face-to-face) for household and individual questionnaires. On the other hand, the diaries were left behind to be fulfilled by everyone aged 15 years and more for the pre-selected days. If there was no possibility to fulfil diary on the particular day, it was an opportunity to postpone it. The diary should be completed in one, two or three weeks on the same day as it was prescribed.

10. During the fieldwork, interviewers successively submitted material to their controllers, and if the material was correct, they left it to the controllers. The controllers had the obligation of coding two questions in the Individual Questionnaire - a question that is related to the main activity of the local unit and the occupation of the individual. Code for the main activity of the local unit was allocated according to NACE Rev. 2, two digits, and for the occupation ISCO-88, three digits. Then controllers, after the arrangement and completing of the materials for the particular regional statistical department, submitted all the questionnaires completely filled out to the headquarters of SORS.

11. Collecting of the entire material from the regional statistical departments was done according to the previously agreed dynamics. Gathering of the material was done successively, and it was subjected to the supervisors for one more visual and content control regarding to the methodology and contingent issues. After that phase, coders of activities in the diaries were taking over their duties. Coding of each particular activity from the diaries

was the very important phase of work, the success of which impacts the results of the complete survey. Namely, the coding of activities is impossible without a broader insight of the family structure, an educational and economic state of an individual and without insight of the individual activities during the day.

II. Survey Instruments

12. In 2000, EUROSTAT developed HETUS (Harmonized European Time Use Surveys) application and developed the accompanying classification of time use activities. Guidelines HETUS 2000 represents a turning point in the process of European harmonization in the domain of time use surveys.

13. The new, updated version of the guidelines from the year 2008 is based on two principles: comparability with previous guidelines and the principle of simplification rules. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide the methodological basis for countries that intend to conduct a Time use survey (TUS), which will ensure that results are comparable between different countries, thus greatly increasing the value of the data.

14. Survey instruments implemented in the Republic of Serbia were:

- a) Household questionnaire (TUS-1)
- b) Individual questionnaire – 15+ (TUS-2)
- c) Diary – 15+ (TUS-3)
- d) Weekly schedule – employed persons (TUS-4).

15. Gender machinery in Serbia suggested including two questions in the individual questionnaire, about who take decisions on: (1) spending the money that respondent earned and (2) health issues, supplies of the household, visits of the cousins, etc. Also, there were included questions that concern a type of property of company where individual is engaged and smoking habits (health section).

16. Respondents record their activities in time diaries, using their own words. The diary instrument records four recording domains for each particular activity:

- a) Main activity: “What did you do?”,
- b) Parallel or secondary activity: “Did you do anything else? If so, what?”,
- c) Who with: “Were you alone or together with somebody you know, if so, who?”,
- d) Location (incl. mode of transport).

17. The Blaise software was used for the entering and recording data and SPSS for data processing. After finishing coding and data entry phase and verification, several databases were formed, data were cleaned and checked, new variables were created (age categories, economic activity, status in employment, life cycle, etc.).

18. Three main measures were obtained based on data from the survey:

- a) **Average time**: All time for all persons in the study - spent on the activity / the number of persons in the study;
- b) **Proportion of ”doers”**: The number persons that spent some time doing the activity / the number of persons (Participation rate);
- c) **Average time for ”doers”**: All time – for all persons in the study - spent on the activity / the number of persons that spent some time doing the activity.

19. Time use activities are categorized into six basic groups for the simplified classification:

- a) Paid work includes time spent on main and second job and related activities, breaks and travel during working hours, and on a job seeking;
- b) Unpaid work includes housework, child and adult care, gardening and pet care, construction and repairs, shopping and services, another household management and travel related to these activities;
- c) Study includes time spent on a study at school or university, and during a free time and travel related to these activities;
- d) Personal care includes sleep during night or daytime, waiting for sleep, passive lying in bed because of sickness, as well as eating, drinking, washing, dressing, another or unspecified personal care and travel related to these activities;
- e) Free time includes volunteer work and meetings, helping other households, socializing and entertainment, sports and outdoor activities, hobbies and games, reading, watching TV, resting or doing nothing and travel related to these activities;
- f) Other activities include all other kinds of activities like filling in the time use diary, unspecified leisure time and other unspecified time use.

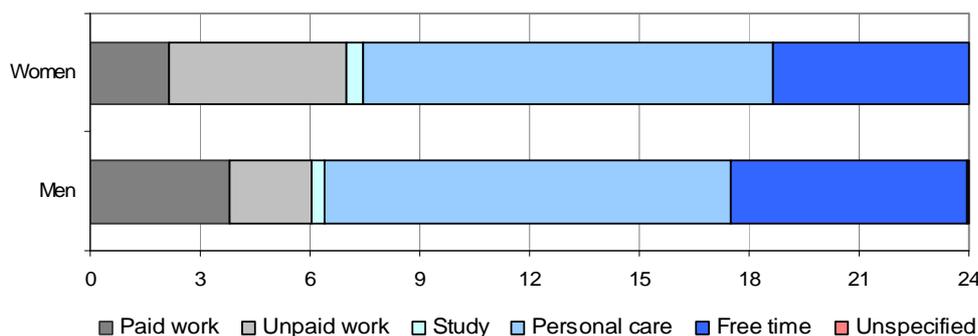
III. Results of Time use survey in Serbia

20. Time use of women and men and differences among them is most important issue that should be enabled by Time use survey. Time is very important dimension of everyday human life. There are so many different ways to spend or to waste it, to earn money during the same time or to learn something, to let it go, time could be planned. Time is something that we all have to spend it and must be aware of it.

21. However, how women and men in Serbia spend their time? What are the activities for which the greatest differences are, and what are the activities there are no such differences? Who works in the house and who do not? Who earn the money for the life, and who work without the salary? What is the total amount of the time that we spend on some activities?

Graph 1

Average time spent on activities by sex, all days. Serbian population 15+ years. 2010/11, hours



22. This graph confirms the saying that the picture speaks more than words. Graph shows how women and men in the Republic of Serbia distribute the time during the day. There are differences between sexes between the main groups of activities. At the first glance, we can see that there is larger participation of men in paid work than women, and that lasts longer and more intensely during the day, and during the night. First of all, the most important activity is paid work if we look as an activity where the biggest differences between sexes are. Namely, male population aged 15 years and more are almost double engaged in the paid work than the women (03:47 hours v.v. 02:09). The paid work was

considered for whole population, not only for the employed persons. Paid work includes working time in main and second job, lunch breaks, travel relating to employment and other related activities.

23. On the other hand, unpaid work or housework is considered as another distinguished activity related to sex. As it is shown in graph 1, women work more than a double time in the house (02:16 hours for men v.v. 04:51 for women). Housework includes food, textile and household management, household upkeep, gardening and pet care, construction and repair, shopping and services, child care, other activities related to the household or members and travel related to mentioned housework.

24. It is important to stress that the population spends a huge amount of the time on a housework that is not paid at all, but it has a big contribution in the total realized value of the human work.

25. This graph also shows that women and men spend almost the quarter of daily time on the work no matter is it paid or unpaid. For men, it is a little bit higher than six hours (06:03), but for women is more than that: seven hours exactly (07:00). All in all, the proportion of paid and unpaid work is different for men and women in favor to women and unpaid work.

26. Study is one of the presented activities that don't last too long. However, it is a little bit longer for women than for men. Women have the advantage of 6 minutes in the spending the time for a study: 25 minutes for the women comparing to the 19 minutes for men.

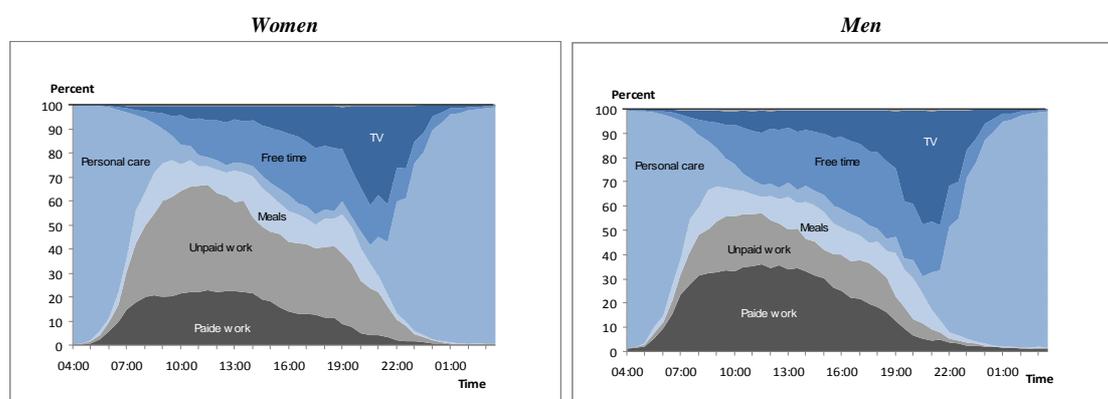
27. Almost half of the day is spent on the following particular activities named as personal care: sleeping, eating, washing, dressing and some other personal care. There is no big difference in time usage between sexes – only 8 minutes.

28. On the other hand, there is a remarkable difference between sexes in spending time on the free-time – one hour and eleven minutes. Free time implies voluntary work and meetings, social life and entertainment, sport and outdoor activities, hobbies and computing, mass media and travel related to the mentioned activities.

29. Tempogram presents the distribution of the selected activities at different hours of the day. It shows the time schedule and duration of spending time of women and men in Serbia. Paid work and study are presented as one category of activity – paid work. On the other hand, free time is subdivided into watching TV and other free time. The left graph shows how women distribute their 24 hours during the day, and the right graph how men do.

Tempogram 1.

Daily rhythm, by sex, all days. Serbian population 15+ years. 2010/11



30. Woman's day starts later than the man's for paid work, but it starts earlier for the unpaid work. For women, unpaid work dominates during the whole day, especially between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., like paid work for men. But, women's unpaid work last longer during evening.

31. Comparing paid work and unpaid, domestic work, male population is for 65% more engaged in paid work than female, but female population is more than double in unpaid work. It is interesting that paid male work present $\frac{3}{4}$ of female unpaid work! Furthermore, as it is seen, female paid work is a little bit higher than male unpaid work.

32. The highest percentage of women, 23%, does paid work at 11:30, while unpaid work at 11:00 is performed by 44% of women. From the graph, we can see that paid work has a drastic increase in the morning hours for women (07:00), and that it is held on a similar level for the next eight hours (until 15:00). As for the unpaid work, it begins to be performed earlier than the paid work. Employed women, after arriving home from a workplace, continue to do their unpaid work. Unpaid work of women last longer during the day, has small fluctuations during the day, and during the period from 8:30 to 21:30 between 25% and 30% of female population reported some form of unpaid work. On the other hand, at the same time as women, at 11:30, more than a third (36%) man's population do some paid work. Speaking about the unpaid work of man, their highest participation is at 10:00, and it is 23%, same as for women for paid work.

33. As it is seen, there is no usual meal time for Serbian population – meals are spread all over the day. The same is with the sleeping time. It is very interesting that free time and watching TV is also widespread, especially during the evening. Women watch TV less than men and they stop doing it earlier during the evening.

34. Percentage of women engaged in leisure activities slowly increases during the evening. Women mostly use their free time in the period from 18:00 to 20:30, and after 22:00, their participation in these activities rapidly declines. As watching TV is pronounced, it is interesting that almost every third woman watches TV between 22:00 and 23:00. Between 20:30 and 21:30 almost half of the male population watches TV in Serbia.

IV. Conclusion

35. All in all, female unpaid work should be treated as a significant contribution to the general state and development of each particular society. It should be valued as an economic contribution and included in the calculation of the national accounts. From the gender perspective, the Time use survey is a precious source of information on gender statistics and fills a number of gaps in the statistical system.

36. Furthermore, all activities implemented in TUS project contributed to the capacity building of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Besides that, it is very significant progress in methodological and organizational issues of the SORS staff and development of the comparable statistics and gender statistics. In addition, TUS experience positively influences to the quality management in the SORS.
