

28 February 2014

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Group of Experts on Gender Statistics

Work Session on Gender Statistics

Geneva, 19-21 March 2014

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Time use surveys

Time Use in Moldova

Note by the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova¹

Summary

In 2009, the National Bureau of Statistics conducted a time-use survey in Moldova. This paper presents the key methodological elements and main results of the survey, which highlight gender differences in time use in Moldova.

I. Introduction

1. In 2009, according to the *National Program on Ensuring Gender Equality 2010-2015*, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) undertakes to conduct Time Use Survey (TUS) in Moldova. Survey was organized and carried out with the support of the UN Project *Strengthening the National Statistical System*. The NBS has benefited as well from the assistance provided by the Romanian National Statistical Institute and the EU-funded Project *Strengthening Moldova's Capacity to Manage Labour and Return Migration*, implemented by the Swedish Public Employment Service.

2. In this paper are presented some key methodological element and the main results of the national Time use survey, which highlight the gender differences in time use in Moldova.

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II. Time use survey methodology

A. Purpose

3. The purpose of Time Use Survey was to present information on how people spend their time: what are they doing, how much time they spend for some or other activities, where, when and with whom. From the perspective of gender equality, the survey had the purpose to outline the role and position of women and men in the family and social life. The survey methodology was developed according to:

- Guide to Producing statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work, UN, New York, 2005;
- Harmonised European Time use surveys (HETUS), 2008, guidelines.

B. Population and sample

4. *Surveyed population.* The survey covered the territory of the country, except for the territory from the left side of River Nistru and municipality Bender. It covered the residents living in private households. The survey did not cover the persons living permanently in common dwelling institutions (orphanages, asylums for elderly, hospitals, penitentiaries, military barracks, etc).

5. *Age.* The survey covered the members of the selected households who were aged 10 years and over.

6. *Time dimension.* The main measurement unit was decided to be the 24 hours day: complete registration of all persons' activities (with intervals of 10 minutes) starting with 04.00 until 04.00, next day.

7. *Sample.* The survey was carried out during 12 calendar months on a country representative sample. The structure and dimension of the sample allows disaggregating the data by regions, areas of residence, sex, age groups, and working days/weekends.

8. The first sample stage represented the selection of territorial units, thus ensuring the stratification by regions, type and size of locality. The second stage was the selection of households inside the localities selected at the first stage, and the decision of a reporting day for every selected household. The third stage was the self-weighted selection of one household member in those households which were selected at the second stage. Any household member aged 10 years and over, that was not temporarily missing from the household at the moment of the first interview had the non-zero probability to be selected. The criterion of the closest birthday after the reporting day (the day proposed to respondent to fill in his Diary) was used in order to ensure the random selection of the household member.

9. *Sample size.* A number of 15600 households were selected for the survey, of which 10642 accepted to take part in the survey. The response rate was of 68.2%.

10. *The survey (data collection)* was conducted during the period June 1st, 2011-May 31st, 2012. The surveying of households was uniformly distributed over this period, thus ensuring continuous surveying during the year (365 days). A certain number of households are surveyed every day, during 12 months, including holidays (the religious holidays as well) and leaves. Consequently, every household is attributed a reporting day and thus its reporting week. As a result, the household selected in the sample and the selected respondent (by the method described above) participate only one time during 12 months. Neither the interviewer nor the respondent can change the reporting day.

C. Information collection method

11. Two methods were used for information collection: a) interview, face to face – interviewer and the respondent, and b) respondent fills in the Diary independently.

D. Survey tools

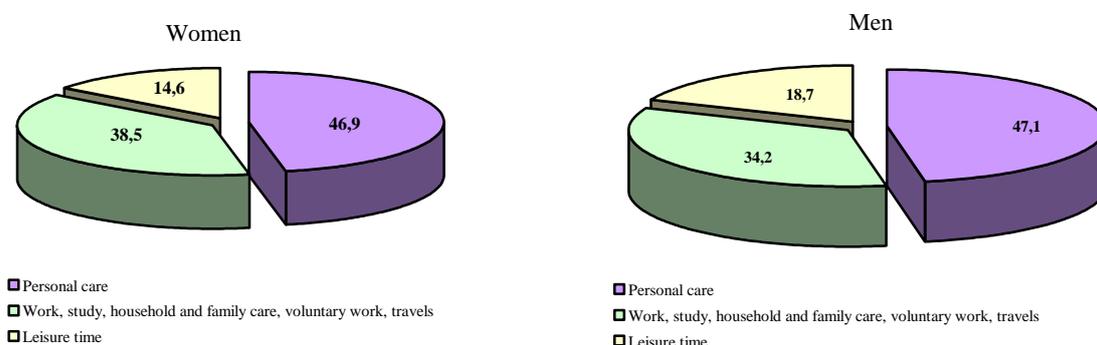
12. Data were registered in the following forms:
- List of selected households;
 - Household questionnaire (information about: dwelling and living conditions, persons, living in the selected household, child care, pets, income);
 - Individual questionnaire for the selected respondent aged 15 years and above (information about: respondent status, employees, persons seeking a job, relation with labour market, respondent's health state, time perception, etc.);
 - Individual diary for adults and children (10 years and over) was filled in by (selected) respondents themselves: with 10 minutes time slots (144 time slots), were registered all activities performed during 24 hours, starting with 04.00 until 04.00, either during weekdays or weekend days or holidays.
13. Diary pages were broken down in four columns, which register:
1. All main activities performed by the respondent;
 2. Activities performed simultaneously/in parallel with the main activity;
 3. Location/Transport mode where the activity is performed;
 4. Other persons present in that location.
14. All columns had space for codes.
15. Beyond this, there were prepared *Interviewer guidelines*, *NBS letter addressed to households and the Classification of activities for time use statistics* (according to the Activity Coding List recommended by HETUS: 0 - Personal care, 1 - Employment, 2 - Study, 3 - Household and family care, 4 - Voluntary work and meetings, 5 - Social life and entertainment, 6 - Sports and outdoor activities, 7 - Hobbies and computing, 8 - Mass Media, 9 - Travel and unspecified time use).

III. Survey results

A. Summary

16. The population of the Republic of Moldova aged 10 years and above use almost half of their daily time (47%) for *personal care activities* (11 hours 18 minutes); 36.5% of one day duration (8 hours 45 minutes) is dedicated to *work, study, household and family care, voluntary work, and travels*, and 16.5% - is spent for leisure (3 hours 57 minutes). There are some differences for two out of the three categories of activities (Figure 1).

Figure 1
Time use structure (24 hours), by groups of activities and sex, percentage



17. The daily activities of the country inhabitants are distributed by sex and according to the length of time spent as follows (Table 1).

Table 1
Average time spent on main activities for persons aged 10 years and above by sex, hours and minutes per day

Main activities	Total	Women	Men
	24 hours		
Personal care	11 hours, 18 minutes	11 hours, 15 minutes	11 hours, 20 minutes
Employment (work)	2 hours, 51 minutes	2 hours, 31 minutes	3 hours, 16 minutes
Study	38 minutes	36 minutes	40 minutes
Household and family care	3 hours, 45 minutes	4 hours, 40 minutes	2 hours, 38 minutes
Voluntary work and meetings	20 minutes	22 minutes	19 minutes
Social life and entertainment	58 minutes	54 minutes	1 hour, 4 minutes
Sports and outdoor activities	22 minutes	19 minutes	26 minutes
Hobbies and computing	29 minutes	22 minutes	39 minutes
Mass media	2 hours, 8 minutes	1 hour, 56 minutes	2 hours, 21 minutes
Travels	1 hour, 11 minutes	1 hour, 6 minutes	1 hour, 19 minutes

18. Women and men use differently the time for the same activities. Men, in average, perform an income-generating work for 45 minutes longer per day than women. Women, at their turn, dedicate 2 hours more per day for household/domestic activities and care.

19. The analysis of the average time for the activities calculated only for persons involved in such activities (the participants) outlines even more discrepancies between women and men (Table 2).

Table 2
Average time spent on main activities for participants by sex, hours and minutes per day

Main activities	Total		Women		Men	
	Average time hours/min per day	Participation rate, %	Average time hours/min per day	Participation rate, %	Average time hours/min per day	Participation rate, %
Personal care	11 h 17 min	100	11 h 15 min	100	11 h 20 min	100
Employment (work)	7 h 47 min	36.6	7 h 28 min	33.6	8 h 5 min	40.3
Study	5 h 52 min	10.7	5 h 52 min	10.1	5 h 51 min	11.3
Household and family care	4 h 8 min	90.4	4 h 50 min	96.6	3 h 10 min	83.0
Voluntary work & meetings	2 h 26 min	14.1	2 h 17 min	16.0	2 h 39 min	11.7
Social life and entertainment	1 h 28 min	66.7	1 h 23 min	64.9	1 h 33 min	68.8
Sports & outdoors activities	1 h 49 min	20.3	1 h 41 min	19.2	1 h 58 min	21.7
Hobbies and computing	2 h 3 min	23.9	1 h 45 min	20.7	2 h 19 min	27.8
Mass media	2 h 32 min	83.8	2 h 19 min	83.3	2 h 48 min	84.4
Travels	1 h 26 min	83.5	1 h 21 min	80.5	1 h 30 min	87.1

20. The absolute majority (96.6%) of women aged 10 years and above are involved in *households and family care activities*, consuming for this purpose about 4 hours 50 minutes (each) on daily basis. The share of men involved in households activities accounts for about 83.0%. At the same time, they dedicate to these activities about 1 hour 40 minutes less than women.

21. On the other hand, employed men work for about 8 hours 5 minutes that is 37 minutes more than employed women. Besides, the share of employed men is higher than the share of employed women by 6.7 p.p. (40.3% and respectively 33.6%).

22. Men register a higher level than women in relation to participation in *social life and entertainment* (68.8% for men and respectively 64.9% for women) and *hobby and computing activities* (27.8% for men and 20.7% for women).

23. As a result of the fact that men practice more activities outside the household, they also register a higher share of *travels* during the day: 87.1% for men as compared to 80.5% for women.

24. The participation rates for certain activities, as well as the average time of such practice depend a lot on other factors, such as age, marital status, education level, labour market relation, etc.

25. Below are presented some survey results, related to how men and women spend their time on daily human activities. The data refer only to persons, who were engaged in the related activities.

B. Employment (work)

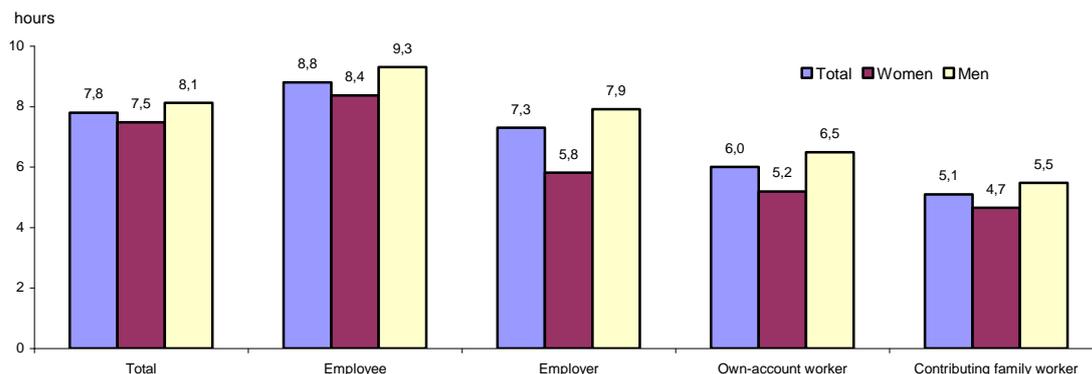
26. The indicators related to employment cover only the population aged 15 years and above.

27. A share of 39.6% of the total number of population aged 15 years and above, present in the country, are working. In average, the working day of an employed person lasts for 7.8 hours (8.1 hours for men and 7.5 hours for women).

28. In case of the employed persons, the duration of the working day differs depending on the status in employment. The longest working day was registered for employees (8.8 hours), and the shortest – for contributing family workers (5.1 hours) (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Average working time for employed persons by status in employment and sex, hours/day



29. Distribution of working time by *location* where the work has been performed is the following: the people worked at *workplace* about 86.6% of the time daily dedicated to work and about 13.4% of time - *worked at home* (out of 7.8 hours/day average working time).

C. Study

30. One out of ten persons aged 10 years and above (10.5%) is involved in a certain *study* activity within an educational institution in the country. These persons spend daily about 5.9 hours for *classes/lectures* or *homework*. The gender discrepancies were not been registered related to this indicator.

31. By age groups, people of 10 years and above, who practiced the *studying* activity, are distributed as following: 50% people aged 10-18 years; 41.6% people aged 19-24 years; 7.5% people aged 25-29 years; and 0.8% people aged over 30 years. The time spent by young people of 10 to 18 years old for education differs by genders. Thus, girls allocate more time for *lessons at school and homework* compared to boys of the same age (6.2 hours vs. 5.9 hours per day). The biggest difference is noticed in the urban area, where girls allocate by 0.9 hours more for studying than boys.

32. Generally, the girls of 10 to 18 years old spend more time doing *homework* compared to boys (2 hours compared to 1.7 hours in rural area; 2 hours compared to 1.8 hours in urban area).

33. The learning out of the formal education system (non-formal and informal education) is not wide-spread among Moldovan population. Hence, only 0.6% of the total population aged 10 years and above attend some training courses or study something individually, upon their own initiative. Those who practice such learning activities, usually dedicate in average about 2.3 hours per day for such activity: women study for 2.6 hours/day and men – 1.4 hours/day.

D. Household and family care

34. Nine out of ten inhabitants of the country aged 10 years and above dedicate on daily basis about 4.1 hours to activities related to *household and family care*.

35. The survey results reveal a certain division between women' and men's roles related to carrying out household and family care activities. Hence, women are more involved (according to the allocated time) in activities related to food preparation, household upkeep, making and care for textiles, shopping and services, and care for children, elderly, and sick family members.

36. On the other hand, men are more involved in gardening and pet care, household construction and repairs (Table 3).

Table 3

Average time spent on "household and family care activities" and the participation rate for participants by sex

Activity	Total		Women		Men	
	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %
Food management	1.8	64.6	2.0	89.6	1.1	34.6
Household upkeep	1.3	58.6	1.2	68.4	1.4	46.9
Making and care for textiles	1.4	17.8	1.4	29.9	0.9	3.4
Gardening and pet care	2.1	38.1	1.9	35.8	2.3	40.8
Construction and repairs	2.6	4.3	4.0	1.1	2.4	8.3
Shopping and services	0.9	32.8	0.8	35.4	0.9	29.6
Childcare	2.1	16.4	2.4	21.4	1.3	10.4
Help to an adult family member (elderly people, sick people)	1.2	2.0	1.1	3.1	1.8	0.7

37. The most frequent type of household work is *food management* which is mainly performed by women: an average of 2.0 hours a day (with participation rate of 89.6%) versus 1.1 hours a day allocated by men (with participation rate of 34.6%). This activity comprises *food preparation, baking and preserving*, with an average of 1.6 hours a day for women (and with participation rate of 80.1%) versus 1.0 hours a day allocated by men (with participation rate of 25.3%), followed by *dish washing*, which, as well, involves more women than men: an average of 0.7 hours a day (with participation rate of 74.8%) versus 0.5 hours a day allocated by men (with participation rate of 22.9%). For *cleaning dwelling* (the most frequent activity in the *household upkeep* group) women spend about 1.0 hour per day (with participation rate of 53.1%) versus 0.8 hour per day (with participation rate only of 14.3%) for men.

38. On average, 16.4% of the total population participates in *childcare* activities, each of them allocating 2.1 hours per day for activities related to child care. Women offer significantly more time to children than men: 2.4 hours compared do 1.3 hours and the rate of women participation in these activities is 21.4% and of men - only 10.4%.

39. Women get much more involved than men in taking *physical care of the child* (allocating double time compared to men, specifically 1.8 hours compared 0.9 hours in case

of men) and in interactive activities, - reading, playing speaking with the child (1.2 hours and 1.0 hour, respectively).

40. With respect to helping children doing their homework and accompanying them to various activities (child's participation in sports, cultural, arts, celebration activities at kindergarten/school, etc), women and men offer more or less the same amount of time.

E. Voluntary work and meetings

41. With reference to the rate of participation in *volunteer work and meetings*, only about 1 out of 7 persons or 14.1% of the population, including 16% of the women and 12% of men are practicing volunteer work and meetings for an average duration of 2 hours and 17 minutes in case of women and, respectively 2 hours and 39 minutes in case of men.

42. The main voluntary work form (8.1%) practiced by the country inhabitants aged 10 years and above is informal help to other households. The voluntary work performed *through some organisations / institutions* is insignificant, according to the survey – only 0.2% of the population (Table 4).

Table 4

Average time spent on “voluntary work and meetings” activities and the participation rate for participants by sex

Activity	Total		Women		Men	
	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %
Work for / through organisations	3.2	0.2	3.1	0.2	3.7	0.1
Informal help to other households	2.4	8.1	2.3	7.9	2.5	8.2
Participatory activities	2.2	6.5	2.1	8.6	2.5	3.9

43. The most wide-spread form for helping out other households is the *help for domestic activities* (46.5% of the time for voluntary work). It is also important to pay attention to *help in childcare* (27.3% of the time for voluntary work), as well as *help in farming* (12.3% of the time for voluntary work).

44. About 6.5% of the population aged 10 years and above are involved in *participatory activities*: women are more involved than men (respectively, 8.6% women and 3.9% men). The majority of time (96.7%) spent by people in such activities relates to population participation in *religious activities*.

F. Social life and entertainment

45. Two out of three country inhabitants aged 10 years and above (66.7%) are involved in average 1.5 hours per day in *social activities and entertainment*. The data show a higher participation rate in case of men as compared to women (68.8% and respectively 64.9%), and approximately the same time allocated by men and women (1.6 hours/day and respectively 1.4 hours/day). The most frequent activity in this group is *social life*, with an average of 3.7 hours per day for women (and with their participation rate of 87.3%) versus 2.8 hours a day allocated by men (with participation rate of 84.9%). (Table 5).

Table 5
Average time spent on “social life and entertainment” activities and the participation rate for participants by sex

Activity	Total		Women		Men	
	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %
Social life (in family, visiting, conversations, etc.)	3.1	85.5	3.7	87.3	2.8	84.9
Entertainment and culture	1.6	0.8	1.7	1.2	1.5	0.5
Resting – time out	1.0	30.6	1.1	28.7	0.9	31.3

46. Half of the time allocated by women to *social life* (48.8%) is spent at home, with the family. The same indicator for men accounts for 45.7%.

47. The most of the time dedicated to *entertainment and culture* is spent by the population at cinemas (38.7%) and theatres/concerts (22.8%). The cultural activities are preferred more by women than men. Participation/attendance of *sports events* (football matches, auto rallies, etc.) is an activity mostly preferred by men, who dedicate to such activities 16.5% of the time meant for entertainment and culture. While the *libraries* seem to be visited more frequently by women, who dedicate to such activity about 2.6% of the time meant for entertainment and culture.

G. Sports and outdoor activities

48. *Practicing sports and outdoor activities* is a form of spending free time for 20.3% of the Moldovan population aged 10 years and above. In average such activities account for 1.8 hours per day.

49. Practicing *physical exercise* does not register differences by sex. At the same time, the analysis of the disaggregated data by age groups reveals differences for this indicator in case of young people and adults.

50. Most of the time dedicated to physical exercise is used for walking *and hiking* (72.9%), especially in women’s case (86.2%). After walking, men prefer the ball games (20.2% of the time dedicated to physical exercise), and women prefer *gymnastics and fitness* (6.8%).

H. Hobbies and computing

51. *Hobbies and computing* activities are performed by about a quarter of the country population aged 10 years and above (23.9%) with an average time spent of 2.1 hours per day. Only 0.8% of the people stated that they are fond of some art type or have a hobby, allocating to such activities about 1.4 hours per day (Table 6).

Table 6
Average time spent on “hobbies and computing” activities and the participation rate for participants by sex

Activity	Total		Women		Men	
	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %
Arts and hobbies	1.4	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.8	0.8
Computing	1.9	19.1	1.7	17.8	2.1	20.7
Games	1.9	6.1	1.6	3.5	2.0	9.3

52. 41% of Moldovan population have a computer (PC); 38.7% have access to Internet; 19.1% use computer on daily basis. Men use computers at a higher level than women: 20.7% and 17.8% respectively. For reasons not related to work, computing is practiced for about 1.9 hours per day (men – 2.1 hours and women – 1.7 hours). Most of the time dedicated to computing is used for information, especially via Internet (44.2%). Communication by computing accounts for 27.8% of the time dedicated to computing.

I. Mass-media

53. 83.8% of Moldovans allocate in average about 2.5 hours per day of their free time for *reading, watching TV, listening to radio or recordings*, etc. Only 1 out of 10 persons (11.6%) reads periodicals (magazines, newspapers, etc.), books or other publications, dedicating to such activity in average one hour per day (Table 7).

Table 7
Average time spent on “mass-media” activities and the participation rate for participants by sex

Activity	Total		Women		Men	
	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %
Reading	1.0	11.6	1.0	12.5	1.1	10.5
TV, Video, and DVD	2.4	81.5	2.2	80.9	2.7	82.3
Radio and recordings, CDs, etc.	1.8	28.0	1.8	28.9	1.7	26.9

J. Travels

54. A share of 83.5% of the total number of the persons aged 10 years and above travel on daily basis for various purposes. Such travels last in average for 1.4 hours per day (Table 8).

Table 8
Average time spent for “travel” activities and the participation rate for participants by sex

Activity / Travel purpose	Total		Women		Men	
	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %	Average time, hours/day	Participation rate, %
Travel to/from work	1.1	29.7	1.0	27.4	1.1	32.4
Travel related to study	1.1	8.2	1.2	7.8	1.0	8.6
Travel related to shopping and services	0.8	32.1	0.8	34.6	0.9	29.2
Travel related to childcare	0.9	3.6	0.9	5.0	0.8	2.0
Travel related to other household care	1.1	6.7	0.9	4.5	1.1	9.4
Travel related to voluntary work and meetings	0.9	8.0	0.9	8.0	0.9	8.1
Travel related to social life	0.8	17.7	0.8	15.4	0.8	20.4
Travel related to other leisure	0.8	7.5	0.8	4.2	0.8	11.3
Travel related to changing locality	2.4	1.2	2.3	1.2	2.5	1.3

55. When analysing by *transport* mode, the travelling on foot is on the first place – it accounts for about two thirds (64.0%) of this activity (travel); being followed by travelling by public transport (bus/microbus) (15.9%) and travelling by private transport² (11.6%). About 4.0% of the time is used for travelling by trolleybus and 0.4% of the time is used in average for travelling by taxi.

56. The daily travels to/from work and studies, as well as the travels related to household and family care last in average for 1.1 hours per day each. The travels related to changing locality last in average for 2.4 hours per day.

57. The cars (personal or hitchhiked) are the main means of transport used by men, where as women mainly travel by buses. Therefore, women allocate more time for travel, as they use more intensely the public transport services: men spend 40.3% of their travel time in public transport, while women - 76.5%. Thus, the more moderate use of cars by women is complemented by their use of public transport.

IV Dissemination of the results

58. NBS prepared press realise and the publication with main survey results, which are disseminated mainly via NBS web-site: www.statistica.md.

59. As well, NBS presented brief information with main results of the Time Use Survey to the Governmental Commission for assuring gender equality.

² Including the occasion transport