

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Work Session on Gender Statistics (Geneva, 19-21 March 2014)

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will be held in room V at the Palais des Nations.
It will start at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 19 March 2014.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. UNECE is organising its biannual Work Session on Gender Statistics at the Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix 8, Geneva, from 19 to 21 March 2014.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

2. The main purpose of the Work Session is to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries on gender statistics and to discuss international statistical work in this area.

3. The target audience of the meeting includes statisticians in national and international statistical offices responsible for gender statistics as well as users of gender statistics.

III. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

4. The programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive topics:

- Gender equality in the life course;
- Experiences in collecting and using gender indicators for policymaking;
- Gender segregation in education and employment and its relationship with the gender pay gap;
- Gender analysis of census data: lessons learned from the 2010 round of censuses;
- Gender differences on sub-national level;
- Well-being of men and women, including issues related to health and lifestyles;
- Time use surveys;
- Emerging issues in gender statistics.

5. Explanatory notes on the Work Session's topics are provided below.

Gender equality in the life course

6. Women and men adjust their job trajectories differently to events that occur during the life course. Many aspects, including caring responsibility, work-life balance and family-friendly policies may affect their decisions. In some countries in the UNECE region, demographic and social changes such as ageing population may raise new challenges, exacerbating the care role of women and increasing gender inequality among elderly people. Participants are invited to present their experience in studying gender equality across individuals' life course.

Experiences in collecting and using gender indicators for policymaking

7. This discussion item includes methods of communicating indicators to a policy audience, including data visualisation and graphical means of displaying multiple indicators simultaneously or displaying temporal changes to indicators. Experiences of feedback from policymakers could be shared, particularly with indicators proposed by the UNECE Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality. Do they pinpoint the issues of highest policy relevance? Are there any issues concerning their measurement or interpretation? Do indicators over-simplify discussion of the policy issues?

Gender segregation in education and employment and its relationship with the gender pay gap

8. Over the past several decades, women have dramatically reshaped their role in labour market, becoming much more likely to work or look for work. However, nowadays women still have a lower employment rate, work more in part-time, and earn less than men. While in many European countries women are as likely as men to complete university education, there are systematic gender differences in the choice of field of study. Gender disparity in educational choices may affect the occupational segregation between women and men and explains gender differences in labour market outcomes including how the economic crisis impacted men and women, as well as the relationship of educational and employment segregation with the gender pay gap.

Gender analysis of census data: lessons learned from the 2010 round of censuses

9. The 2010 round of population and housing censuses provides an opportunity for countries to strengthen gender mainstreaming across the national statistical system. This session will provide participants with an opportunity to share experiences in gender analysis of census data and discuss the successes and challenges to date with a view to formulating proposals for gender analysis of key census topics.

Gender differences on sub-national level

10. Comparisons of gender indicators allow a country to assess its performance, to define goals and elaborate policies on gender equality. For this purpose, comparisons with other countries as well as comparisons at sub-national level are important. It would be useful to discuss how the countries deal with sub-national level comparisons: How big demand is there for such comparisons? How are methodological issues such as reliability of survey data for small regions dealt with? Do countries regularly produce gender indicators at sub-national level?

Well-being of men and women, including issues related to health and lifestyles

11. This session will look at recent developments in measuring the well-being of men and women in the light of the work of the Stiglitz commission. In particular, this discussion will examine the relationship of health and lifestyles to wellbeing. Health is a broad statistical domain with a distinct gender dimension, as men's and women's biology, lifestyles and roles differ and may require different policy interventions. The lifestyle factors measured in this context include nutrition, physical activity and use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. These factors as well as risk-taking behaviours are shaped by gender norms and values. Participants are invited to share information on the work undertaken in their offices on the measurement of gender differences in lifestyle factors and their links to health.

Time use surveys

12. Time-use surveys collect information on how people allocate their time among different types of activities during the day and provide a detailed picture of people's daily lives. They show the

gendered patterns of time-allocation and discern the roles and conditions of women and men in family and social life. They are an important information source for measuring household satellite accounts and care. Participants are invited to share their experience in conducting time-use surveys and to present findings. The new UNECE Guidelines on Harmonising Time Use Surveys will be presented in this session.

Emerging issues in gender statistics

13. This topic does not have a specific theme, and is open to any participants who wish to present evidence of emerging issues in gender statistics.

IV. DOCUMENTATION AND METHOD OF WORK

14. The working languages of the meeting are English, French and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

15. Papers that will be submitted to the UNECE secretariat by 16 December can be translated and made available in all three languages – English, French and Russian.

16. Meeting documents will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.03.gender.html>. The posted documents will not be distributed in the meeting room. Participants are encouraged to download them and bring their own copies to the meeting.

17. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Intention to contribute a paper should be submitted to Mr Andres Vikat, by e-mail andres.vikat@unece.org by **15 November 2013**. The message should include a short abstract of the paper.
- The full versions of the papers should be sent as Word files electronically to UNECE secretariat, e-mail gender.stats@unece.org by the following deadlines:
 - Papers for translation, by **16 December 2013**;
 - Other papers, by **10 February 2014**.

V. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION

18. The Work Session is open to representatives of all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Representatives of other Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.3, paras. 11, 12 and 13). All delegates must be accredited by the competent authority of their country or international organization.

19. All participants should register for the meeting by completing the attached registration form and sending it to the UNECE secretariat (email: gender.stats@unece.org or fax: +41 22 917 0040) **by 10 February 2014**. The participants who will be funded by UNECE should register **by 15 January 2014**.

20. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible at the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participants reside, with reference to the meeting of the UNECE Work

Session on Gender Statistics. If necessary, the UNECE secretariat can provide a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa (fax: +41 22 917 0040 or e-mail: gender.stats@unece.org).

21. In order to enter the Palais des Nations, all participants need to obtain a security pass (ID badge). For this purpose, please present yourself with your passport and the original registration form at the UN Security Identification Office at the Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations (Avenue de la Paix 14, 1210 Geneva; buses 8, F, V, Z and 28, stop Appia) by 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 19 March. The Security Identification Office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (non-stop). For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the Palais des Nations.

VI. ACCOMMODATION

22. Participants are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. The UNECE secretariat in Geneva is not in a position to provide such services to participants. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the meeting since available rooms are limited due to other meetings and events taking place in Geneva during the month of March. Maps of Geneva, list of hotels and information for visitors to the Palais des Nations are available on the following website: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>. The following information is also available:

- The closest hotel to Palais des Nations is the 5-Star Intercontinental.
- Grand Prè, Cornavin, Suisse are four-star hotels and within 7-10 minutes to the Palais des Nations by buses 8, 5, 28, F, V, Z and trams 13 and 15.
- There are several three-star and four-star hotels near Cornavin, the main train station. These hotels are moderate in price and are 10 minutes by bus or tram and 25-30 minutes on foot from the Palais des Nations. Examples include: Eden, Manotel, Mon Repos, des Alpes, International and Terminus, Montana, Savoy, Suisse, and Windsor.

VII. FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN GENEVA

23. Geneva International Airport now offers incoming passengers a free ticket for public transport. The free tickets are available from a machine in the airport's baggage collection area and allow you to use any public transport (train, tram, bus) in Geneva and surrounding areas for a period of 80 minutes. Look for the machine pictured below after collecting your luggage and before walking out through the customs area.



24. When checking-in at your hotel you should receive a free Geneva Transport Card, enabling you to use the entire Geneva public transport system free of charge throughout your stay.

Getting from the Airport to Geneva

25. The Geneva Airport is approximately 4 kilometres from the city centre. The train is the most efficient way to get into the city. Follow the signs to the airport railway station from the arrivals area. All trains leaving from the airport stop at the central Geneva-Cornavin station. The journey takes six minutes. The buses 5 and 28 will bring you from the airport to the Place des Nations.

26. Taxis are readily available from the airport. They are metered, so costs will vary, the journey from the airport into the city centre will usually cost around CHF 30.

27. Tourist and public transport information is available at the Unireso information desk in the airport arrival hall after you go through customs. More information on Geneva's free public transport initiative is available from:

- Public transport from Geneva Airport: <http://www.gva.ch/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-67/>
- Free Geneva Transport Card: <http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/index.php?rubrique=0000000417>

VIII. WEATHER

28. The weather in Geneva in March is moderate and it may rain. The average day temperature is 7 °C. You can check the weather forecast at the local website:

<http://www.meteoswiss.admin.ch/web/en/weather.html>. The conference room where the meeting will be held is air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 20-22°C.

IX. CURRENCY

29. The exchange rate of the euro and the Swiss franc is now around 1.20 francs per 1 euro and is subject to daily market fluctuations. For conversion rate please consult

<http://www.ubs.com/global/en/bcqv/calculator.html>. Currency exchange facilities are available in the city centre and at the UBS bank branch at Palais des Nations, located on the ground floor of C building (door C6). It is open from 08:30 to 16:30, with no lunch break, from Monday to Friday.

X. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

30. Should you have any questions regarding the information provided above, please contact:

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Map of the UN premises in Geneva

