

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Workshop on Developing Entrepreneurship Statistics by Gender in Armenia
Yerevan, Armenia, 16-17 December 2014

19 December 2014

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

I. Organization and attendance

1. This capacity-building workshop on entrepreneurship statistics by gender was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the National Statistical Service (NSS) of the Republic of Armenia, with financial support from the United Nations Development Account and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The working languages of the workshop were English and Armenian. The workshop was targeted towards managers and staff dealing with gender statistics and household and enterprise surveys in NSS Armenia as well as in other government agencies.
2. The workshop was attended by participants from NSS Armenia and the Ministry of Justice of Armenia as well as the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT). The workshop included expert contributions from representatives of Statistics Sweden, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and UNECE.

II. Purpose

3. The purpose of the workshop was to build capacity in the system of official statistics in Armenia in relation to understanding and measuring entrepreneurship by gender, as well as to identify possibilities for data collection on this topic. The workshop aimed to strengthen the gender sensitization of the Armenian statistical system and to support efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into statistics in Armenia.
4. The workshop also explored the possibility of testing a survey module developed under the EDGE (Evidence and Data for Gender Equality) project in Armenia.

III. Summary of proceedings

5. The workshop consisted of six substantive sessions over two days. The agenda and English presentations are available on the meeting page of the UNECE website¹.
6. The first day began with a scene-setting session in which national and international projects and initiatives were presented, then continued with sessions covering concepts, definitions and data sources for measuring entrepreneurship with a gender perspective, followed by a closer focus on

¹ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40118#/>

the use of business registers for this purpose. The second day focused on the use of household surveys for measuring entrepreneurship with a gender perspective, followed by discussions of the way forward, conclusions, and finally a visit to the offices of NSS Armenia.

7. UNECE began the proceedings with an overview of the project 'Interregional cooperation to strengthen national capacities to measure progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment', of which the present workshop forms one element.
8. A presentation by UNSD described the EDGE project (Evidence and Data for Gender Equality), showing how it is used to develop measurement tools on asset ownership and entrepreneurship from the gender perspective.
9. CIS-Stat outlined their plans for capacity-building in gender statistics.
10. The situation in relation to collection, availability and quality of gender statistics in Armenia was outlined, including data availability for the UNECE set of indicators of gender equality in economy, and statistics on status in employment.
11. A presentation explained the current use of the business register for statistical purposes in Armenia.
12. Concepts and definitions for measuring entrepreneurship were explained in detail, beginning with discussion of why a gender perspective is necessary; then exploring the diversity of existing definitions; and finally examining potential indicators, data sources and availability for each of the key concepts.
13. Key findings on employers and own-account workers in the UNECE Statistical database were presented with a gender focus, placing Armenia in context in comparison with other countries in the UNECE region and showing trends over time.
14. The current situation with respect to measurement of entrepreneurship in household and labour force surveys in Armenia was described and discussed, including recent advances with introducing the Labour Force Survey that could potentially be further enhanced with a module measuring entrepreneurship. The specific importance of this for understanding gender equality was underlined by both the producers and users of statistics.
15. As an example of good practice in another country, the Swedish system of statistical production based on administrative sources was presented. This included consideration of the population register, business register, employment register and enterprise surveys.
16. Statistics Sweden also explained their use of an algorithm for identifying the operational leaders of Swedish businesses, as an example of the use of business registers for measuring entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.
17. The use of household surveys for measuring entrepreneurship from the gender perspective was exemplified with reference to the EDGE survey.
18. Workshop participants considered the way forward, discussing what needs to be done to improve the collection and quality of entrepreneurship statistics by gender in Armenia, and how to do this.

IV. Conclusions

19. UNECE led an open discussion to summarize the content and draw conclusions from the workshop. NSS and UNECE agreed to start preparing the test a survey module in Armenia for measuring entrepreneurship from the gender perspective.
 20. Participants expressed satisfaction with the training provided and acknowledged its relevance to their needs. It was felt that the workshop had led to increased knowledge and awareness of advanced practices in measuring entrepreneurship using household surveys and business registers. Participants appreciated the opportunity to discuss and exchange experiences among one-another and with international experts.
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