Use of Macedonian Gender Statistics in policymaking and policy monitoring

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Introduction

The analysis of policies and budgets from the gender aspect provides the policy makers with a new dimension in the planning process, which does not consider gender inequality only as a consequence, but also identifies and addresses the causes and processes that created such a policy.

Specific needs and priorities of men and women are different and have to be treated differently - so that they can equally benefit from them.
Introduction

- The goal of policy makers is to pose gender-specific questions to identify inequalities in the impact of existing governmental policy, and to develop a process that addresses inequality in future national policies.

- The Government of the Republic of Macedonia is committed to this concept and shows political will and readiness to promote gender equality and improve the position of women.
State Statistical Office

- General improvements made in the statistical system as a whole have an influence over all relevant gender statistics used for planning and policy purposes

- Collects, processes, links, stores, analyses and presents statistical data on the gender structure

- Follows the general objectives of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and its activities towards ensuring and promoting gender equality
Policies and practices - strategic documents

- LAW ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN-
  (The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, in January 2012)

- obligations for the state administration bodies and the local units of self-government;
- to incorporate within strategic plans and budgets the principle of equal opportunities for women and men;
- monitor the effects and impact of their programmes on women and men;
- report on the results achieved and progress with their annual reports that they are required to submit to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy by 31 March at the latest of the current year for the previous year.
Policies and practices - strategic documents

STRATEGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY 2013-2020 and THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR GENDER EQUALITY 2013-2017
(The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia - January 2013)

• a long-term strategic document that provides a framework for the full equality of women and men such as cross-sectoral, horizontal and universal social and political priority.

• sets out the basic steps and the specific guidelines for introducing a gender perspective in the mainstream societies flows and full achievement of gender equality in the Republic Macedonia.
Policies and practices - strategic documents

METHODOLOGY FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING
(Ministry of Labour and Social Policy)

• unification of the methods, procedures and ways of including the gender perspective in the mainstream;
• instrument and guide for successful implementation of the obligations arising from the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the Strategy for the introduction of gender responsible budgeting;
• In the process of preparation of the Methodology, representatives were included from all relevant institutions, experts in the field of gender equality and representatives of civic associations and the social partners.
### METHODOLOGY FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING
(Ministry of Labour and Social Policy)

- **The Methodology** does not require special budget allocations for women but requires gender-responsive approach;

- The process of gender responsive budgeting, described in the Methodology, is **fully aligned with the existing strategic planning system and budgeting** in the ministries of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and procedures for policy co-ordination and decision-making.
Policies and practices

Annual unified reports

- Government
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
- SSO, state administration bodies, local units of self-government, NGOs etc.
Why gender statistics?

• The way to go is ➔ STATISTICS!

• Statistics, evidence and surveys could make links between data, knowledge, analysis and policy.
Why gender statistics?

- Factual basis for all stages of policy making: planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation;
- Shed light on priority gender issues and gender gaps;
- Set targets and benchmarks;
- Track progress.
Why gender statistics?

• Evidence-based policy-making may be defined as using statistics and other sources of information systematically to:

1. highlight issues,
2. define goals,
3. present policy choice,
4. monitor policy implementation and
5. evaluate policy impact.
Gender statistics

• Gender statistics reflects the relation between women and men in different socio-economic and political life, and serve as a basis for changing the current and creating new policies
  – All data on individuals should be collected, analysed and presented by sex, in accordance with the Law on State Statistics.

• ‘Sex’ as a variable in all statistical surveys that concern individuals
  • the capacity for collecting, processing, analysing and data dissemination based on gender is really well developed
Gender statistics

• The SSO formed a Working Group that works as a team on gender statistics development and improvement

• there is no separate Department for gender statistics.
  – uses the available human and financial capacities, which sometimes show as insufficient for more successful results
  - horizontal working group is not a limitation but rather an advantage, because the members of this group can contribute in reflection of different gender aspects.
Data source and communication tools

• Programme for publication and dissemination
Programme for publication and dissemination

Gender pay gap
Data source and communication tools

- **The Communication Strategy** of the State Statistical Office (SSO) is a document that in general defines the policy for public relations of the institution. This document specifies the standards on which the communication of the SSO is based.

- **Target groups**
  - Government and state bodies, local self-government, authorised bodies in the statistical system of the country, business entities, educational and research institutions, NGOs, the public (citizens, pupils and students), media, international statistical organisations and institutions.
Data source and communication tools

- Channels and tools for external communication
  - printed and electronic media, the Internet, direct meetings with target groups, attendance at events.

www.stat.gov.mk
Data source and communication tools

Monitoring and Evaluation

• **User Satisfaction Survey** (via the website)
  – regularly conducted every 2 years
• Monitor the traffic on the website
• the representation of the State Statistical Office in the media
• the presence of journalists at press conferences and briefings
• attendance at organized forums and workshops, and on the basis of these observations
• make analyses of the results in terms of achieving the set strategic objectives.
Data source and communication tools

Monitoring and Evaluation

• User Satisfaction Survey
Plan of actions

- **Objective 1:** Revise the current national set of data and indicators; (gender equality index, MICS data, census data..)

- **Objective 2:** Revise and innovate the content of the publication on gender statistics (transferred from the concept of "available" data to the concept of "needed" data);

- **Objective 3:** Increasing the cooperation with producers and users of gender statistics;

- **Objective 4:** Finding additional resources for building the State Statistical Office capacity (human and technical);

- **Objective 5:** Developing the regional and international cooperation. ( UNECE, EUROSTAT,EIGE, OSCE, UNFPA, UNICEF..................)
Conclusions

The State Statistical Office works continuously on improvement of gender statistics:

- based on national as well as international experiences;
- a long-term process, which could be achieved by cooperation of producers and users of statistical data;
- coverage and data quality;
- ensuring the regular production of statistical data on gender for a wide range of potential users.
Conclusions – “Revival of gender statistics”

• The increasing realisation of the important role that women can play in the development process of a country has underlined the need to generate gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated statistics;

• Importance of considering the role of women and men separately without masking over gender difference under the pretext of one population.
- Keep good things, change and improve bad -
16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
Thank you for your attention!