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##### **Building partnerships for better gender statistics**

## **Statistical Data and Gender Mechanisms: united to create a gender sensitive environment**

**Note by the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina\***

### *Abstract*

Aware of the high importance of evidence-based data in gender statistics, the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina is trying to follow new trends in gender statistics. Good co-operation with the main gender mechanism in the country, the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), has been established from the very beginning. We recognized the significance of gender data in creating better policies for women in our society.

In order to be comparable with others (EU countries and countries of the region), we strive to establish co-operation with relevant institutions responsible for gender issues. Recently the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina has established a tight connection with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). The Agency is working on the measurement of the next Gender Equality Index.

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## **I. Gender Statistics in the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### **A. Publication ‘Women and Men in Bosnia and Herzegovina’**

1. The Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina is publishing the bulletin ‘Women and Men in Bosnia and Herzegovina’, every two years, which includes data from a variety of statistical and other areas, categorized by gender. The data give a brief presentation of the status of women and men in BiH society. Through this publication, the Agency for Statistics of BiH seeks to give a specific contribution to the achievement of equality between the sexes.
2. The bulletin consists of the following chapters: Population, Health and Mortality, Education, Research and Development, Employment, Social welfare, Crime, Political power, General elections, Public administration and Violence against women. This bulletin can serve as a source of information for all users interested in the status of women and men and gender equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
3. Most data presented in this publication are the result of the surveys carried out by the Agency for Statistics of BiH, as well as existing statistical documentation. A smaller part of the data is taken from other state and entity institutions.
4. Since the publication is the only publication of this kind in the country, which gives the comprehensive overview of data disaggregated by sex in various fields of public and private life, we are trying to complement and expand the data set with all possible data. We are trying to introduce a bigger set of available data disaggregated by sex each time we publish a bulletin.
5. Also, we are putting a big effort to make a publication available for everyone, to the broader public, and we are trying to improve a way of disseminating data. The next bulletin, which will be published in the end of 2017, beside standard tables and graphs, will have also short descriptions which will explain in detail changes of data in time series.
6. We will also use the infographic view of data, in order to make gender data more interesting and attractive for broader public and users.
7. According to the requests than we receive on a daily base from different users, we are aware that our publication with various gender data is very popular. This motivates us to be better each time and to improve, to include all possible data that can be collected in public and private sphere of life.
8. Since the first post-war Census in BiH has been conducted 2013, in the new publication we will have a dedicated section to women status according the Census. All data that can be extracted from the Census will be included in the publication. We find this very interesting for the broader public, because it was a long time since the last Census was conducted in BiH (1991).
9. The publication ‘Women and Men in Bosnia and Herzegovina’ is available online on the website of the Agency for Statistics of BiH, but also in the web site of the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH, which represent the main gender mechanism agency in the country.
10. This fact shows a strong collaboration between statistics and gender mechanisms and our need to work together in order to achieve a better environment for all people, no matter they are women or men.
11. Entities’ statistical offices of Federation BiH and Republica Srpska are also producing their own publications with gender data. Data and indicators are mostly equal in both publications, but there are slight differences that depend of the availability of certain data sources in different entities.

## **II. Co-operation between the Agency for Statistics of BiH and the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH**

### **A. Gender Equality Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

12. In the legislation of BiH, the most important law that stipulates gender equality in the country is the Gender Equality Law.
13. The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina passed the Gender Equality Law in 2003 (revised in 2010). The Law forms the basis for the creation of a network of mechanisms and institutional structures for advancing gender equality at all levels of administration in the country.
14. The Law is the most important mechanism for progress towards gender equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
15. It is based on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, advocating for gender equality in the private and public spheres, and prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sex or sexual orientation. The Law contains of 33 articles that include the term of discrimination – what can be seen as discrimination on the basis of sex in the fields of education, work and employment, social and health protection, sport and culture, public life and media. Articles of the Law also regulate prohibition of violence, compensation of damage, obligations of authorities, monitoring and supervision over implementation of the law, penal provisions, as well as interim and final provisions. This Law regulates, promotes and protects substantive gender equality and guarantees equal opportunities to all citizens, in public as well as private life, and prevents direct and indirect gender based discrimination.
16. The Gender Equality Law also stipulates that all statistical data and information collected and processed in public institutes of all levels should be disaggregated by sex. Those data should be an integral component of the official statistical evidence and they should be available to the public.
17. According to the Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina has the main coordination role in the area of gender equality.
18. Each entity has their own entity's level Gender centre, it means that there a Gender centre of Federation BiH and Gender centre of Republica Srpska. All three institutions (including Agency of gender Equality of BiH) are in the close cooperation, but they are performing in the area of their own entity.

### **B. Fields of co-operation between statistics and gender mechanisms in BiH**

19. From the very beginning of the gender statistics development, a good co-operation between the Agency for Statistics of BiH and the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH had been established. The initial request for collaboration is created from the need to connect a statistical data with real needs, and respectively to use a statistical data as evidence base data in order to create better policies for achieving gender equality.
20. Agency for Gender Equality of BiH often uses statistical data that have been produced and collected by the Agency for Statistics of BiH, and also suggests and informs us about possible new sources.

## **1. Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

21. Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina (GAP BiH) for the period 2013-2017 is a strategic document containing goals, programmes and measures for the realization of gender equality in all areas of social life and work, in the public and the private sphere.
22. GAP BiH follows priorities of all levels of government in BiH, relying on previous GAP BiH 2006-2011, State and Entity development strategy, European Union (EU) Strategy for equality of men and women and other relevant strategic documents of the Council of Europe (CoE), EU and United Nations (UN). This strategic document still contains all areas of social life but prioritized and cross-cutting areas were defined, as well as areas related to strengthening the system, mechanisms and instruments to achieve gender equality and strengthening co-operation and partnership. In this manner, the obligations of institutional gender equality mechanisms were clearly defined, as well as the obligations and responsibilities of competent ministries in each priority area. GAP BiH 2013-2017 contains three strategic goals defining priority areas of activities—namely, programmes and measures needed to realize each goal.
23. In order to insure the full implementation of GAP BiH on the territory of the whole country, institutional mechanisms consistent with legal framework in BiH were established.
24. Three Coordination Committees were established – Coordination Committee for BiH, Federation of BiH and Republica Srpska.
25. Agency for Statistics of BiH is a member of the Coordination Committee for the implementation of the Gender Action Plan in BiH.
26. Coordination Committee is in charge to produce and adopt annual Operational plans.
27. In the Operational plan defined for the Agency for Statistics of BiH, several activities were anticipated to be done. Most important activities are: the work on the continuation of “Women and men in BiH” bulletin, measurement of the Gender Equality Index, participation in the Survey on violence against women – (Fundamental Rights Agency – FRA), education of personnel employed in the Agency for Statistics of BiH in the field of gender equality etc.

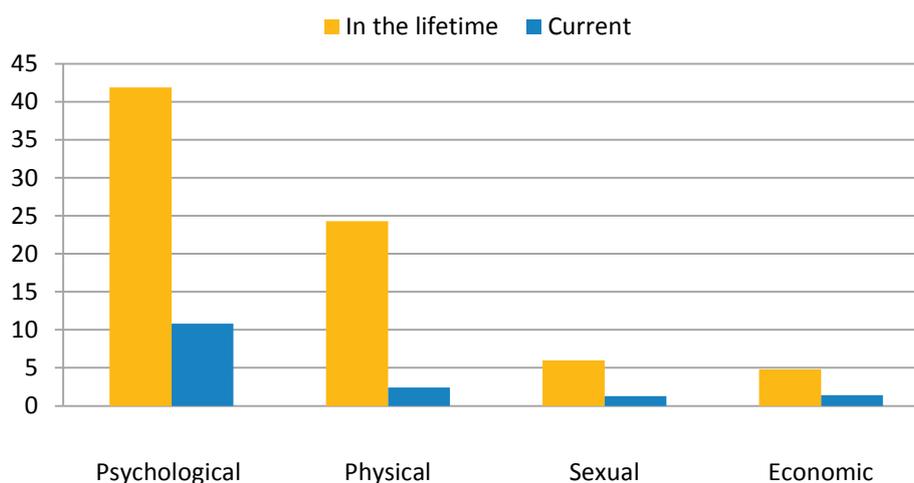
## **2. Study on Prevalence and characteristics of violence against women in BiH**

28. The Agency for Statistics of BiH, as well as the statistical institutes of other entities, participated in the conduction of the Study on Prevalence and characteristics of violence against women in BiH. The Study was conducted in 2013 out of the necessity to provide data about the problem of violence against women, which is one of the major challenges in BiH society.
29. The goal of the Study was to gain insight into prevalence of different forms of violence against women, both domestic and outside of the household; to identify the main characteristics of different form of violence against women, to identify key factors that influence violence against women; and to examine the consequences of violence against women and women’s experiences with institutions and organisations that provide support to women victims of violence.
30. The Study was conducted on a sample of 3,300 households and adult women in BiH. Data were also collected on the characteristics of the households themselves. This enabled the analysis of some important determinants of domestic and partner violence.
31. Four types of violence were analysed by the Study: physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence. In terms of perpetrators, a distinction has been made between partner violence, domestic violence and violence in wider community. A time dimension was also include in the Study,

whereby a distinction has been made between experiences of violence during lifetime (from 15 years of age) and actual violence (in the past year period).

32. According to the Study, more than half of surveyed women experienced at least one form of violence from the age of 15. During the year preceding the survey, almost 12% of surveyed women in BiH had experienced some form of violence.
33. In the Graph 1 it can be seen that the most frequent form of violence is psychological, followed by physical and sexual, while the economic violence is the less represented in the surveyed sample.

Graph 1: Prevalence rates of various types of violence against women (2013)



34. Perpetrators of violence against women are most often former or current partners. In general, there is a much higher risk of violence against women in intimate partner and domestic relationships than in wider community.
35. Young women are more subjected to violence than older women. This difference is most visible in actual physical violence, but the prevalence of this form of violence during lifetime is higher among old women.
36. Based on the research findings, recommendations for the improvement of policies and measurements to combat violence against women were defined. These recommendations have been defined in cooperation with various stakeholders. Three key areas of improvement were agreed: establishing a system for monitoring violence against women, improving prevention and support services to women victims of violence and raising awareness about violence against women.

### **3. Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

37. An Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2014 – 2017 is another example of good practice in how statistical data are used in policymaking.
38. Participatory involvement in this work, based on best practices, with systematic statistical data collection, has been achieved by defining innovative goals and activities for an Action plan which is

of crucial importance for a complete implementation of Resolution 1325 (“Women, peace and security”) in BiH.

39. Statistical data which describe women in decision making (executive and legislator authorities), security and defence, women in peace missions and other field traditionally reserved for men, contributed in forming an overall picture and to identify a position of women in this fields. After has been established that the number of women in abovementioned fields is minor, there was a need for improvement through the implementation of the Resolution UNSCR 1325. After the first Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the situation of women in decision making, security and defence changed significantly. Through various measures taken, the awareness of public changed, more women had been employed in the security and defence sectors.
40. This is a good example how statistical data can influence stakeholders and policy makers to bring decision and measures in favour of women, in order to contribute gender equality in the country.

### **III. Harmonization with EU practice**

#### **A. Co-operation with European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)**

41. In last two years, the Agency for Statistics of BiH achieved a good and effective collaboration with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). There are several different types of activities within EIGE’s field of action, on which the Agency for Statistics of BiH also works.

##### **1. Gender Equality Index**

42. The Gender Equality Index measures gender gaps between women and men.
43. Measuring progress in gender equality is an integral part of effective policy-making. The Gender Equality Index supports the development and implementation of evidence-based gender equality policies and legislation and shows the different outcomes of those policies for women and men. It also increases awareness of progress and challenges in implementing gender equality policies among decision-makers and the general public. Finally, the Index highlights data gaps and calls for harmonised, comparable and reliable data that are both disaggregated by sex and available for all Member States.
44. The Gender Equality Index consists of eight domains. The six domains work, money, knowledge, time, power, health which are combined into a core Index that is complemented by two additional, equally important, satellite domains of violence and intersecting inequalities. They belong to the framework of the Gender Equality Index in all respects, but do not impact the overall score. Each domain is further divided into sub-domains which cover the key issues within the respective thematic areas. The full conceptual framework is presented in the first edition of the Index.
45. Using this framework, 31 indicators have been chosen to monitor developments in gender equality in the six core domains in every Member State as well as the EU-28 in total. The Gender Equality Index is formed by combining these indicators into a single summary measure, which allows for the complex issue of gender equality to be synthesised into one easy to understand measure.
46. Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have all indicators available yet. Several specific surveys that are essential data sources for different indicators are not conducted yet in BiH, such as EU SILC (European Survey on Income and Living Conditions), EHIS (European Health Interview Survey), EWCS (European Working Condition Survey) and SES (Structure of Earnings Survey).

47. For indicators in different domains, where is possible, we have found an alternative data source. With the great help of the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH, we have tried to find alternative ways in order to completely be able to measure all indicators in the proper way.
48. The European Working Condition Survey (EWCS) of Eurofound is a data source for several indicators in the index domain of Time, and is conducted every five years. BiH was not included in the last wave of the EWCS conducted in 2015. Knowing that the EWCS has become an indispensable tool for producing the Gender Equality Index, the Agency for Gender Equality, following the proposal of the Agency for Statistics of BiH, requested to Eurofound to include BiH in the next, 7th wave of the EWCS, which will be conducted in 2020.
49. The European Survey on Income and Living Conditions will be conducted in 2018 in the whole territory of BiH.
50. Finally, the methodology of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), which is an independent EU body, will be used to collect data on violence against women. The FRA survey will be conducted in 10 countries of Balkans and Eastern Europe. This is important from the point of view of comparability. The FRA survey is a data source for the satellite domain of the index – Violence, which is not developed completely in EU countries yet, but in the next index is likely to become an indispensable tool for measuring the domain of Violence.

## **2. EIGE Gender database**

51. The database contains gender statistics from all over the European Union and beyond, at the EU, Member State and European level. It is aimed at providing statistical evidence which can be used to support and complement the European Commission's (EC) Strategy on Gender Equality and support the Member States to monitor their progress.
52. The aim of the gender database is to have an overview of statistics on gender and to show differences and inequalities between both sexes. Also, the importance of gender data base is in its possibility to act as a reliable resource in formulation and monitoring of policies that are beneficial for both women and men and will facilitate making appropriate decisions towards the advancement of gender equality.
53. In the next period, Agency for Statistics of BiH will try to fulfil a gender database with all available data and indicators, in order to be comparable with other countries.

## **IV. Conclusion**

54. The Agency for Statistics of BiH has a very good and fruitful collaboration with institutions within the gender machinery. In various fields of activity, a good collaboration with the main gender mechanism in the country, the Agency for Gender Equality, has been established.
  55. In order to have gender sensitive policies, it is necessary to have reliable, evidence-based data.
  56. The improvement of gender statistics in BiH is evident. Data are used to create better policies and to improve the position of women in all spheres of life, private and public.
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