

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Workshop on Gender Statistics: Finding and Filling Gaps in Gender Statistics for SDG Monitoring

Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 13-14 May 2019

Organized in cooperation with UN Women and the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland

CONCEPT NOTE (revised version)

The workshop will be held in the Conference room 'Léopold-Robert', Hotel Beaulac, Esplanade Léopold-Robert 2, 2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland, beginning with registration at 09:00 on Monday 13 May and ending by 16:30 on Tuesday 14 May.

I. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with UN Women and the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) of Switzerland, is organizing a capacity development Workshop on Gender Statistics for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The theme of the workshop is 'Finding and Filling Gaps in Gender Statistics for SDG Monitoring'.

The workshop will be followed by the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics, which will take place on 15-17 May at the same venue. Further information about the Work Session can be found in a separate information note available on the UNECE website at bit.ly/unecegenderstats2019. The information note also contains logistical information about the conference venue, travel, accommodation, etc.

The workshop is jointly financed by the United Nations Development Account project "Statistics and Data", UN Women and FSO Switzerland.

II. PURPOSE

The workshop will enhance the capacity of participants

- to engage in constructive dialogue with policymakers and others who demand and use gender statistics
- to produce and/or to interpret gender-oriented indicators for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically statistics on entrepreneurship

with a gender perspective, and the indicator on women's representation in local government.

III. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is designed to benefit participants from the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Other countries are also welcome to participate.

The two primary target groups are gender focal points in national statistical offices (NSOs) and policymakers who use gender statistics, such as representatives of government agencies and gender equality bodies.

IV. FORMAT AND CONTENT

The programme of the workshop will consist of the sessions described below. A detailed timetable, papers and presentation slides will be posted on the UNECE website at bit.ly/unecegenderstats_eecca2019.

Identifying gaps

Identifying areas that lack data, or where data are not adequately meeting the demands of users, is an essential first step in improving gender statistics to meet the policymaking and monitoring needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This part of the workshop will focus on ways to highlight areas where more or better data are needed, or where data could be better targeted to those who need and use them.

Meeting the needs of policymakers

This session will serve as a forum to bring together decision-makers who require gender statistics for their work, and producers of gender statistics from NSOs. It will highlight examples of good practice in user-producer interaction gathered by the UNECE Task Force on Communicating Gender Statistics. Further case studies will be presented by policymakers, demonstrating what kinds of gender statistics they use, and how data availability impacts their work. Practical activities will offer an opportunity for dialogue between users and producers.

Filling gaps

While improving gender statistics begins with identifying gaps or areas that need strengthening, the crucial next step is finding ways to close those gaps. This part of the workshop looks at two different gaps and asks how they can be filled by making changes to existing data production, collection or compilation. In both cases, adding a gender dimension to existing methods could provide valuable data to inform efforts to achieve SDG 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”; but in both cases, decision-makers must be convinced of the need for the gender dimension to ensure the necessary changes are made.

Entrepreneurship statistics with a gender dimension

Entrepreneurship is widely considered essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Entrepreneurs have the potential to drive sustainable reductions in poverty and vulnerability, and support for entrepreneurship can foster innovations that can help achieve SDGs across the full range of development domains. Yet entrepreneurial activity continues to be much more associated with men than with women. Addressing this imbalance is particularly difficult due to a dearth of sex-disaggregated data that permit identification of entrepreneurs by sex and by type of self-employment and entrepreneurship. Without such data, targeted policies are hard to formulate or evaluate.

This session will consider the concepts and definitions used in entrepreneurship statistics, and how a gender perspective can be applied to the production of such statistics using household surveys, business surveys, business registers and other administrative sources. The session will showcase the recent experiences of selected countries in this area, providing an opportunity for other countries to learn from them.

Measuring Women’s Representation in Local Government

Indicator 5.5.1(b) of the SDGs is ‘proportion of seats held by women in local governments’. When the 2030 Agenda and its indicator framework were adopted, this indicator fell into tier III, meaning that there was no internationally-established definition or methodology and the indicator was not regularly produced by most countries. Since the adoption of the Agenda, UN Women, as the designated custodian agency, has developed detailed methodology¹ and country-specific guidance, and has gathered data from all world regions. This session, led by representatives of UN Women, will look in detail at the data-gathering exercise undertaken in the UNECE region and will present an opportunity for participants to learn more about the production of the indicator. The session will also be a forum for participants to provide their feedback on the process and the challenges faced during the first round of data gathering in 2018, with a view to continuous improvement to streamline future rounds of collection.

¹ See the UNECE Statistical Glossary for more information: <https://statswiki.unece.org/x/TABqDQ>

Visit to the Swiss Federal Statistical Office

A visit to the offices of FSO Switzerland will be organized during the afternoon of the second day of the Workshop, Tuesday 14 May. Participants will be able to learn about the gender statistics work undertaken by the Office, as well as their work on SDGs and capacity development.

V. LANGUAGES

The working languages of the workshop will be English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

VI. MATERIALS

Documents for the workshop will be made available on the UNECE website in English and Russian at the following location: bit.ly/unecegenderstats_eecca2019. Participants are encouraged to download papers from the website and, where feasible, to use electronic devices to read them in order to minimize paper use. Documents posted on the website before the workshop will not be distributed in the conference room.

VII. REGISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

For information on registration, visas, accommodation and logistics, please refer to the information note for the Work Session on Gender Statistics, available at bit.ly/unecegenderstats2019.

VIII. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the content of the workshop, contact:

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