

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

ECE Work Session on Gender Statistics
(Geneva, Switzerland, 23-25 September 2002)

KEY ISSUES FOR TOPIC I

Gender differences as the consequence of macro-economic changes and policy decisions; use of institutional (business) surveys and registers as measurement tools for gender dimensions in economic development process¹

1. How do gender mechanisms influence economic activity, occupational structures and entrepreneurship of women and men? Which gender mechanisms operate economically? What potential do business surveys and registry data have for describing such gender mechanisms?
2. Who are the women who have taken on responsibility for businesses, and what are their personal and household characteristics? What are the characteristics of the establishments that they own? How do they differ from the establishments owned by men? What are the differences? Are these differences useful or necessary?
3. What are the mechanisms of change in the control of management of establishments?
4. Does the character, the composition and growth of industries in transition countries influence which gender mechanisms are important?
 - a. Under what conditions are men more affected than women by unemployment? What are the gender mechanisms influencing such conditions?
 - b. Do women have quicker responses to fluctuations in unemployment that may be explained by the extent to which they participate differently than men in socially arranged production? If so, what would these differences be? What is the end result on total production of services?
 - c. Is it important, or does it matter to policy analysts, which groups are differentially affected by unemployment? Under what conditions does it matter? What are the implications to total production and consumption of goods and services, and to savings? What is the role of gender mechanisms in interpreting policy implications?
5. Have we effectively established statistical programmes in our countries for the study of establishments, their character and composition? Which variables are important to monitor in such studies?
6. What has been the experience of statisticians in the conducting of establishment censuses and business surveys regarding best practices?
7. To what extent have establishment censuses and business surveys incorporated measurement of gender mechanisms? What would these gender mechanisms be, and how are they measured?

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