

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
STATISTICAL DIVISION**

**UNECE/UNDP Task Force Meeting on Gender  
Statistics Website for Europe and North America**  
(25-26 September 2002, Geneva, Switzerland)

**Working Paper No. 2  
Agenda item 1**

**Progress Report on the work carried out on the UNECE/UNDP Gender Statistics  
Website since the last Task Force Meeting (May 2001)**

Paper submitted by UNECE Secretariat\*

**Background**

The project on the UNECE/UNDP Gender Statistics Website for Europe and North America was launched at the UNECE/UNDP Workshop on Gender Statistics for Policy Monitoring and Benchmarking and the Work Session on Gender Statistics in Orvieto (Italy) in October 2000. At this occasion, the proposed structure of the website was discussed, and after these meetings, a revised version of the website proposal was posted on the UNECE website for further comments.

In May 2001, the UNECE/UNDP Task Force Meeting on the Regional Gender Statistics Website made recommendations for the further implementation of the website on the following issues (see also Final Report of the Task Force, 29 May 2001):

- 1. Gender indicators to evaluate the situation of women and men in the Member Countries**
  - A set of indicators and their definitions
  - Timeframe (reference years)
  - Collection of the necessary data
  - Metadata
  
- 2. Website issues**
  - Gender focal points
  - Website implementation / layout
  - Improve the quality of gender statistics
  - Web-presentation of gender indicators and statistics
  - Policy part

In the following, a short overview of the achievements and work carried out for each of these issues is given as well as an outlook on work still to be done.

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## 1. Gender indicators to evaluate the situation of women and men in the Member Countries

In May 2001, the Task Force recommended a set of common gender indicators for 7 broad policy areas<sup>1</sup>, as well as the timeframe (reference years 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000, then annual series) and which metadata to be collected.

Based on the recommended indicators, the gender statistics team at UNECE identified the statistical series necessary to provide these indicators, elaborated exact definitions based on international standards, and developed the questionnaire for data collection. The draft version of the questionnaire was piloted in 4 countries (Austria, Israel, Poland, and Portugal) in early 2002. Based on the experiences from the pilot exercise, the final version of the questionnaire was sent out in March 2002 to the 45 countries, which nominated a focal point (see 2 below), and we have received (at least some) answers from **37 countries** by now. A detailed discussion of the questionnaire and the viability of certain indicators and on data collection issues will take place in the course of the Task Force Meeting (agenda item 3).

Data have been collected for the requested reference years, however, for years before 1990 data availability is expectedly poor. For each statistical series, the most relevant metadata have also been collected, and these are being loaded to the UNECE Gender Statistics Database together with the data.

We expect to be able to provide access to the new data in September/October 2002. For additional information on the web-presentation of indicators and statistics, see below.

## 2. Website issues

### 2.1 Gender focal points

The Task Force recommended that a mechanism to participate in the website should be put into place in order to ensure an active and continued collaboration with NSOs. National gender focal points should be nominated by NSOs. These should be responsible for collating the data and metadata and ensuring up-dates.

A letter to invite NSOs to nominate gender focal points was sent out in July 2001, and up-to-now **45 countries** have provided us with **gender focal points**. To these, the questionnaire for data collection and other correspondence is being sent.

There are currently 10 countries for which we do not have a focal point (Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, San Marino, Ukraine, Yugoslavia). As soon as our resources allow, we will enrich the Gender Statistics Database with some easily accessible statistical information for these countries.

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<sup>1</sup> The broad policy areas had already been defined at the Orvieto meeting.

## 2.2 Website implementation / layout

The contents of the Gender Statistics Website were set up in line with the project proposal of November 2000 (a more substantial discussion of the contents will take place during this meeting, agenda item 2), and the implementation was done in line with the recommendations of the May 2001 Task Force Meeting: clean look, logical categories, clear menu, and a quick download of content. The Website design and development was done by Peter Wielgosz who worked on this task from the end of 2001 until June 2002.

In order to ensure user-friendliness, a first version was tested with colleagues inside ECE, and we also invited several focal points and gender experts outside ECE to comment by e-mail on this first version which they could access with a password. Based on these tests and comments, the design was reworked, and we opened the improved and user-friendlier version to the public in **April 2002**. The address is <http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/>

Although there is space for further improvement in many respects, we do not expect major changes in the current structure and layout. Main issues remaining for follow-up are the translation of (parts of) the website into Russian. However, only parts with a rather stable content can be translated.

## 2.3 Improve the quality of gender statistics

One long-term objective of the website is to improve the quality of gender statistics. To foster the understanding and production of gender statistics, the website contains a section **Making gender statistics** focussing on the production and presentation of gender statistics. It also includes a section on guidelines and standards. This section will be discussed in detail during this meeting (agenda item 2).

A main issue to pursue in this respect will be the development and implementation of **methodological files** for the recommended indicators (see also web-presentation of gender indicators and statistics below). Still missing and to be developed is the **framework for quality monitoring**.

## 2.4 Web-presentation of gender indicators and statistics

Although there has been good progress on the data collection and the setting-up of the UNECE Gender Statistics Database, we will only be able to present the new data on-line in September/October 2002 for the earliest. In the mean time, country profiles and selected tables from *Women and Men in Europe and North America 2000* are available on-line.

In May 2001, the Task Force recommended a **simple presentation of the common gender indicators** for users not so familiar with statistics. For this, we will provide ready-made excel tables directly available on-line. Their presentation layout will be discussed in the course of this meeting (agenda item 3).

In addition, we will provide an **on-line access** to the **UNECE Gender Statistics Database** directly from the website as soon as possible. This will allow users to extract data tailor-made: next to the aggregated information on the common gender indicators, the detailed series as collected through the gender statistics questionnaire will also be accessible. Country-specific metadata will accompany the data as footnotes.

The Task Force in May 2001 also recommended the provision of **methodological files** for the generic indicators. This is still to be done. Methodological files will be made available for each of the common gender indicators. First, the methodological files will only contain methodological information. Depending on available resources, links between indicators and policies will be provided.

## **2.5 Policy part<sup>2</sup>**

In line with the Task Force recommendations, the website contains a section on **Gender Issues**. This section provides an overview of gender equality work in different areas and gives examples of gender-sensitive policies in ECE Member States. This section will be discussed in detail during this Task Force Meeting (agenda item 2).

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<sup>2</sup> This part of the website has been elaborated by Sofia Drengsted-Nielsen.