

Discussion of Individual Parts of the Site

Paper submitted by UNECE Secretariat*

1. Making gender statistics

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genstats.htm>

1.1 Overview

The section *Making Gender Statistics* is an overall introduction to gender statistics – what they are and how to do them. It contains information on the development, presentation, and dissemination of gender statistics and indicators. This includes information on international guidelines, recommendations, and standards for concepts, definitions, classifications, and methods of data collection. It also provides a guide on "best practices" for presentation, analysis, and dissemination of gender statistics. It currently does not contain any "real life" examples for the given recommendations (tables, charts, press releases, etc.)

1.2 Further development of this section

The section broadly follows the website proposal as agreed in the Orvieto meeting in 2000 but has been extended and enriched with additional information. Main parts of this section are considered to be rather stable, and we *plan to translate* this section into Russian *as soon as possible*. Therefore, the Task Force is invited to comment on the current section and to provide us with suggestions for improvement to allow us to finalise this section. Also, the current section is lacking any practical examples, so we invite participants to provide us with examples from national reports for charts, tables, etc.

In the following, each section is shortly described, and we ask for each section for your contributions.

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1.3 The sections one by one

1.3.1 What is gender statistics?

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genstats/genstats-1.htm>

This section provides an introduction to the concept of gender statistics and reasons are given why gender statistics are needed. A short historical overview on gender statistics describes the stages of development of the concept.

- *Please provide us with any comments or additional information you consider to be necessary to be added to this section.*

1.3.2 Producing gender statistics

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genstats/genstats-2.htm>

Here, the focus is on the main steps that need to be undertaken in order to compile relevant gender statistics while drawing attention to the various aspects that have to be considered. We broadly follow the model developed by Statistics Sweden.

- *Please provide us with any comments or additional information you consider necessary to be added to this section.*

1.3.3 Presenting gender statistics

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genstats/genstats-3.htm>

This highlights the importance of an appropriate visualisation of gender statistics. It also contains a great deal of practical information on what to consider when producing tables and graphs.

- *Please provide us with any comments on the contents of the recommendations given; please check especially, whether our rules and recommendations for tables and charts are exhaustive.*

Currently, we only show the “theory”, and we want to enrich the sections by “real life” examples from countries of the ECE region. We therefore invite the Task Force to provide us with material on the following:

a) Tables

Examples from national women and men publications on

- Lists
- Text tables
- Annex tables
- A table for showing data on women and men as described in the section

b) Charts

National examples for the most important types of charts used to display gender statistics:

- Bar charts
- Line charts
- Pie charts
- Stacked bar charts

c) **Any suggestions for additional reference material**

d) **An example for presenting data with the life cycle approach**

1.3.4 Disseminating gender statistics

<http://www.unecce.org/stats/gender/web/genstats/genstats-4.htm>

Reaching the general public is essential for increasing the awareness of gender issues and the eradication of gender stereotypes and gender discrimination. This section therefore discusses various approaches used to ensure a wide dissemination of gender statistics.

- *Please provide us with any comments or additional information you consider necessary to be added to this section.*

In addition to general comments on this sections, please possibly provide us with:

- An example of a press release for a gender statistical product
- An example / short overview or summary report of your national dissemination strategy for a gender statistics product

1.3.5 International standards and guidelines

This section is targeted at the overall improvement of the production of gender statistics as well as at the improvement of international comparability, and it thus compiles relevant methodological information in the field of gender statistics.

- *Please provide us with any comments or additional information you consider necessary to be added to this section.*

2. Gender issues

<http://www.unecce.org/stats/gender/web/genpols.htm>

2.1 Overview

The following provides an overview of what has been achieved in the *Gender issues* section since the last Task Force meeting in May 2001, what are the trends, what issues require more attention and what priorities for the future can be identified.

The section is organised into 4 chapters:

- Gender mainstreaming;
- Policy areas;
- National review;
- Resources.

Gender mainstreaming gives the notion of gender equality as a goal that can be achieved by integrating gender dimension into all levels of policy-making.

In *Policy areas*, gender equality initiatives are presented by topics with examples of gender policies in ECE Member States. Links were made from each key policy area to the recommended common gender indicators in the relevant area.

The main idea of this section is to stimulate change by presenting examples of best practices. What has been done in this regard?

1. The network of gender focal points for policies from the government bodies has been established. This network covers mostly Eastern Europe and the CIS.
2. The background paper on the project was translated into Russian and sent to the CIS.
3. Some of the National Action Plans from Eastern Europe and the CIS and the Baltic States were analysed, and based on them and other documents, concrete questions were asked to Gender Focal Points. In this way most examples of best practices are being collected.
4. Later (in May 2002), the uniform questionnaire in the form of a letter about gender policies was sent to all countries. Questions cover all policy areas with the request to include the basic information about each initiative.

The idea behind this questionnaire was to enter this information into the *National Review* chapter in order to present a gender profile of each country (policies, legislation, gender statistics, implementation reports, and other relevant documents). Another option is to derive the best practices examples from these replies for the *Policy areas* part and link them to the *National Review*.

- *We would appreciate your comments and additional examples of best practices concerning the policy areas. We have indicated the areas where more examples would be needed.*

2.2 Population

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genpols/keyinds/genpols-2pop.htm>

Ageing

With regard to aging three sets of problems are identified:

- older women's health and needs
- informal caregivers
- pension policies

The policies on aging are not presented fully in the website (only one example from Canada was found), mainly because the pension policies with regard to care for elderly are not developed in the region. We are searching for more examples, and would be grateful for your input.

Population decline

The best examples are found in Nordic Countries and Canada, where the national public pension plan ensures that the pension of a parent is not reduced as a result of caring for children. There is a need for public policies to improve the situation in the CIS and Eastern Europe, where birth rates are the lowest in the region. Probably such initiatives exist in these countries and we are just not aware of them. We would appreciate if you keep us updated.

Migration

Legal - there are examples of the initiatives for immigrant women in Western Europe. As for the illegal immigration, this is a timely and important topic for the future research.

Refugees: Internally displaced/returnees belong to this category, too. A policy example is available from Tajikistan (see the website).

With regard the previous discussion on differentiating rural and urban population, there are policies targeted at rural women. You will find an example from Ukraine on the website.

2.3 Families and households

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genpols/keyinds/genpols-2fam.htm>

Diversification of lifestyles

Policies are mostly concerned with the vulnerable groups: women-headed households, lone mothers, and older women (see the website).

Decreasing family size

The vulnerable group here are working mothers with small children. With few exceptions examples are from Western Europe and Canada.

Contraceptive information

You will find on the website policies examples from Kazakhstan and Romania.

Gender roles and responsibility sharing

The policies are mostly concerned with balancing work and family life (e.g. Canada). This issue is linked with unequal sharing of unpaid care work.

Policies in the Nordic Countries on maternity and parental leave aim to enhance the role of the fathers (see the website). In Eastern Europe and the CIS, the laws traditionally protect women during pregnancy and women with children (longer maternity leaves, reduced working hours, etc.), while father's roles and rights are sometimes neglected. In this case men are discriminated. This is also a potential topic for the future research.

2.4 Work and the economy

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genpols/keyinds/genpols-2work.htm>

Labour force participation and type of work

Some indicators such as part-time work cannot be understood without a context. A good example is given from Sweden, where women working part-time do not fall outside the pension schemes. However, there is no information available yet to evaluate trends in part-time jobs in transition economies.

Labour market segregation

There are anti-discriminatory policies against employer's biases (Nordic Countries,). However, these policies are effective only in case when the enforcement mechanisms are in place, like an equal opportunity ombudsperson or Labour court (in the Nordic Countries, Lithuania, etc.). Gender segregation in occupation is a continuation of gender segregation of fields of study. A policy that also targets the educational system is found in Austria (project on women in engineering).

Unemployment

One known initiative is promoting women's entrepreneurship by giving micro-credits in the countries in transition (examples from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan). For the future, it would be useful to give examples on retraining programs and focusing on the use of these programmes to challenge the occupational segregation and not to further it.

2.5 Education and communication

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genpols/keyinds/genpols-2edu.htm>

Equal access to higher education

Equal access to education is not a problem in the countries of the region, but the dropout is, both in Eastern and Western Europe. This is a suggestion for future indicators and policy response.

Equal access to the same fields of study

In order to change gender roles and stereotypes it is important to target school curricula and teachers training. Good practices on teacher-training programs on gender issues exist in Portugal, Sweden, and Malta. There is a need to develop indicators on the elimination of gender stereotypes from teaching materials and curricula contents.

Most teachers are women

There are policies (e.g. in Sweden) to make the teaching profession more attractive for men as well. As regards promoting women in teaching careers, to our knowledge, there are not sufficient policies in place in countries in the ECE region.

2.6 Public life and decision-making

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genpols/keyinds/genpols-2pub.htm>

Key positions in political decision-making

The best examples are given from the Nordic Countries (Sweden and Norway).

The link to the European Commission's database is made (*The European Database Women in Decision Making*) to show the state of the art in the EU countries. Some initiatives in the CIS countries presented too (Ukraine).

Key positions in economic decision-making

There is an ongoing open public debate in Norway on introducing gender quotas for executive bodies in private enterprises. We are looking for more information in this regard and would appreciate if you keep us informed on the relevant activities in your countries.

Key positions in other areas: judiciary, education, and the media.

The same situation as with the previous topic: there are some statistics, but not the policies.

Gender and media

This topic implies two main strategies: 1) use of the media to increase women's participation in decision-making, and 2) promoting non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media. Therefore, it not only pertains to *Public life and decision-making* but also to *Education and communication*, where we would like to include it in the future too.

2.7 Health

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genpols/keyinds/genpols-2health.htm>

Women and men differ biologically

The examples exist only on health research in favour of men; this part should be more developed: both in terms of statistics and policies.

Gender differences in the life style

Policies on *tobacco* exist practically in all western countries but they are not gender-specific. On the website we have so far only one example of gender-specific policy, from Sweden.

Some health problems are particular to women

Due to their reproductive system, some health problems are particular to women. Contrary to the western countries, in most transition countries there is a lack of screening services and prevention programmes for cervical and breast cancers (reflected in the higher death rates due to these causes) which calls for the attention of policy-makers. Please let us know on any relevant activities in your countries.

2.8 Crime and violence

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/genpols/keyinds/genpols-2crime.htm>

Perpetrators, and types of crime

No policies have been found; probably it would be a good topic to discuss in the future.

Violence against women

The Task Force considered domestic violence as one of the most important topics and included it into the future indicators. Policies are being developed in many countries (see the website). There is a certain experience in the countries on data collection (Canadian National Survey, International Study on violence, National Survey in Malta, etc., see the website). However, the enforcements mechanisms and legislations are not on a par.

2.9 Trends in gender policies

The topic *Violence against women* (domestic violence and trafficking in women) is high on the political agenda both in the East and West. These are also priority areas for EU and UN/UNIFEM.

Some of the topics are common for the West (EU Member States). These are:

1. Women in decision-making
2. Balancing family and working life, and related to it
3. Unequal sharing of unpaid care work.
4. Income gaps

As for the CIS countries, the topic of *poverty* is a crosscutting issue. Poverty alleviation programmes are not always connected to gender, even though there is a stark gender difference in human poverty that urgently needs to be addressed.

2.10 Areas for future policy relevant research

1. *Poverty and gender*;
2. Policies and indicators on eliminating *gender stereotypes in Education and Media*;
3. *Gender mainstreaming* – an example from Sweden shows that it is measurable;
4. *Men's health*: There is a need in two sets of policies: those directly targeted at men's health, and policies that address underlying socio-economic causes for high men mortality and morbidity. Data specifying the external causes of death (violence, accidents at work, road accidents) are important too. In this connection, it would also be appropriate to look at alcohol consumption.

3. Other parts

- Welcome
- Glossary
- ECE gender meetings
- Publications
- Networks and links
- Site map
- Contact us

3.1 Overview

The remaining sections of the website are covered by the following, and in the discussion, we aim at getting the Task Force's input on how to improve and further develop these other sections. Next to specific comments on each section, general comments about user-friendliness and clearness of the site are also most welcomed.

3.2 Welcome

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/welcome1.htm>

This section introduces the website, its aims and who made it. The structure of the site should also be as understandable as possible from this portal.

- *Please let us know any comments and suggestions you might have to make the welcome page a good/better portal to the site.*

3.3 Glossary

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/glossary.htm>

The glossary is foreseen to provide a big deal of information on gender terms. Being under development, it currently only lists gender terms related to statistics, and we are lacking information on sources, related items and links. In the future, the glossary shall be enriched by policy-related gender terms.

3.4 ECE Gender Meetings

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/news.htm>

This page contains a list of recent and up-coming events, meetings, etc. For the time being we focus on activities where the UNECE Statistical Division is directly involved but we hope to enlarge the scope of this section in the future.

It depends on future resources whether this will really be feasible. The commitment of focal points to keep us up-to-date on national and international gender meetings they are involved in might provide a possibility to enlarge the current scope of this section.

3.5 Publications

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/pubreps.htm>

This page contains a list of recent publications and reports. For the time being, we focus on publications where the UNECE Statistical Division has been directly involved - though we hope to enlarge the scope of this section in the future.

It depends on future resources whether this will really be feasible. In case the section is to be enlarged, the question is whether we enlarge by national publications in the statistical field only, or by any national and international gender related publications. The latter, however, is obviously not very realistic.

An enlargement by national statistical gender publications (i.e. mainly Women & Men publications and closely related publications) might be feasible if focal points commit themselves to keep us up-to-date on national gender statistics related publications.

3.6 Networks and links

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/links.htm>

This section aims at providing comprehensive access to Internet resources relevant to both gender statistics and gender policies. In developing this section, we experienced some difficulties in how to best organise the access to the huge amount of information available.

The current organisation of this section is as follows:

- A link to all National Statistical Institutes in the ECE Region.
 - A list of international organisations active in the development and improvement of gender statistics and/or related areas of work.
 - Links to gender networks.
 - A link to the policy resources part, for more detailed information on gender policies, also at the national level.
- *Please let us know whether this structure is user-friendly or how we can improve on that. Please also let us know which additional information might be added here.*

3.7 Site map and contact us

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/search.htm>

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/contact.htm>

- *Please let us know any comments on these sections (user-friendliness, clarity, etc.)*