

**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. 5
Agenda item 4**

Site Maintenance and Development

Paper submitted by UNECE Secretariat*

Background

The UNECE gender statistics website is part of a larger, UNDP funded project to monitor human development in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The project is coming to an end this year (in December 2002). Therefore, the future development of the gender website depends largely on whether there will be a future extra-budgetary project on gender statistics. The current project has allowed us to use 3 extra-budgetary staff in addition to the regular staff. The future maintenance depends on how many resources could be used.

A new project on gender statistics (“Gender indicators for the follow-up of the Beijing Platform of Action”) by the five Regional Commissions of the UN in liaison with the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and other statistical offices of the United Nations is under development. It focuses on data collection and use of gender indicators for policy making. The project proposal has been prepared. The project is planned to be entirely funded from external sources and the UN is currently looking for donors. The project would be implemented over the next five years in order to provide reliable indicators at the 10-year benchmark of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2005. The major goals of the project are (i) to adopt a core of common gender indicators, (ii) periodically provide data for the strategic areas of the Beijing Platform for Action, (iii) identify emerging issues and future indicators, and (iv) assist national governments in the implementation of the minimum set of gender indicators. If this project materialises, we will be in a good position to further develop the gender website and database.

Therefore, we can identify a minimum program (using only regular budget resources) and a more advanced program (as part of the potential UN regional commissions project). The tasks listed below are open for discussion. We will be grateful for advice and recommendations from the Task Force on future development of the website.

* Prepared by Tiina Luige

1. Minimum Program

The *minimum program* would entail:

- 1) maintenance of the website by updating links, networks, publications, etc.;
- 2) maintenance of the gender database, new data collection (annually or bi-annually);
- 3) maintenance of the gender policies network, adding new examples and best practices.

The tasks that have to be done in immediate future:

- Russian translation of the core part of the website;
- Providing access to the gender database and a set of ready-made Excel tables;
- Update and enlargement of
 - *Glossary*;
 - *Statistics* – including links to various statistical sources;
- Maintenance of
 - *Making gender statistics* by adding examples from countries;
 - Policy examples;
 - Publications;
 - Networks and links.

2. Focal points

In any case, the success of the gender project depends on the support of countries. Only their active contribution would allow us to maximise the quality of the website in terms of data availability and provision of other material relevant to gender statistics. All that has been done until now would not have been possible without the cooperation of the gender focal points in statistical offices and the gender policies network.

The following areas can be mentioned where ongoing collaboration and contributions are required:

- Providing examples from the area of making gender statistics;
- Providing data and metadata;
- Providing examples on gender policies;
- Providing information on new links, networks, publications, research activities etc.

As regards the provision of data, it would be substantial that there is clearly only one contact person in each NSO, and that the focal point ensures the co-ordination of data delivery to ECE. I.e. it would be very resource consuming for the UNECE to contact all data providers in countries individually.

As regards the provision of other material (such as information on national gender publications, the address of a national gender statistics website, ongoing activities such as gender meetings, research projects etc.), it could be thought of to develop a semi-standardised questionnaire which ECE will send out approximately once a year to receive information on national activities and make them available on the website.

The prototype regional website was planned to serve as a common unifying framework for a series of inter-connected country websites, therefore it was envisaged that country gender statistics website would also be established. We would appreciate if countries inform us if they establish a local gender statistics website, so that we can include a link to the site.

3. Options in case of external funding through “Gender indicators for the follow-up of the Beijing Platform of Action”

Even though it is too early to know, the following could be thought of in case the external budget project kicks off. A *more advanced program* could envisage doing the following in addition to the tasks mentioned above:

- Creation of the methodological files as outlined in the Task Force report from May 2001;
- Creation of the framework for data quality monitoring;
- Adding new indicators to the recommended set, data collection for the new indicators;
- Adding new policy areas;
- Complementing the database with data available from other national and international sources (to fill in data gaps for missing indicators and countries);
- Data analysis;
- Benchmarking and monitoring of gender policies;
- Workshops for National Statistical Offices on implementing the recommended set of indicators with special attention to the CIS and Balkan countries;
- Creating awareness of gender statistics among policy makers and planning bodies, NGOs, research institutions, etc., promoting user-producer dialogue on gender statistics.

The possibilities to do all that depend on whether the above-mentioned UN regional commissions project on follow-up to Beijing+5 will materialise. If yes, there will be a possibility to hire extra-budgetary staff to the same extent as under the current project and to organise regional workshops.

4. Emerging policy issues and potential new indicators

Independently from the above two options, there is still quite a lot of work to be done to improve data and metadata on the recommended set of indicators identified by the 2001 Task Force. Therefore, we would be cautious in adding new indicators to the recommended “standard set” at this stage. E.g., more work needs to be done on existing indicators where there is little data available, especially concerning

- time use, paid and unpaid work by women and men;
- income gaps, data on earnings;
- violence against women: victims of crime, domestic violence, trafficking.

However, some areas worth exploring with the aim of identifying new indicators are:

- 1) Poverty: living conditions and social protection;
- 2) Indicators for gender values and stereotypes;
- 3) Gender budgets.

There is some basis for identifying indicators in the first two areas (based on papers by Stein Vikan prepared for this Task Force Meeting, and the papers by Pia Pulkkinen and Jakob Oudhof/Saskia Keuzenkamp prepared for the Work Session on Gender Statistics 2002). In deciding whether it is feasible to include these indicators in the recommended “standard set”, we need to look both at the emergency of policy needs and at the availability of data and possibilities to collect the data in future, especially in the transition economies.