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**Session 1 – Supporting paper**

**THE STATUS OF GENDER STATISTICS IN THE FORMER  
YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Submitted by State Statistical Office , FYR of Macedonia \*

**I. The role and activities of the State Statistical Office**

1. The State Statistical Office follows the general objectives of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and its activities towards ensuring and promoting gender equality, which are based on:

- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Actions
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of Women
- The National Action Plan for Gender Equality
- Actions and Initiatives for Implementing the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action (Beijing +5)

2. The Declaration for Equality and Development urges the international community, governments, and civil society to take action on twelve critical areas (from the Beijing declaration) of concern. In that matter, a number of paragraphs in the area of health, education, poverty, employment, violence, decision-making and so on, comprises the need for generating and improving statistics. Gender statistics reflect the relations between women and men in different socio-economic and political arenas, and serve as a basis for changing the current and creating new policies.

3. The State Statistical Office performs its activities having in mind Area H from the Platform of Action, which concerns the "institutional mechanism for the advancement of women".

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\* Paper prepared by Marina Mijovska.

4. Within the Strategic objective H.3: "Generate and disseminate gender disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation," the most important are:

209(a) Ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analyzed and presented by sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society; In order to implement this objective, the State Statistical Office has included sex as a variable in all statistical surveys that concerns individuals (population, families and households, education, employment, crime and so on), which means that the capacity for collecting, processing, analyzing and data dissemination based on gender is really well developed.

210(a) Ensure the regular production of a statistical publication on gender that presents and interprets topical data on women and men in a form suitable for a wide range of non-technical users;

Having in mind this objective, the State statistical office, within its Programme for publication and dissemination, have published two editions of the publication called "Women and men in Macedonia" in 2000 and 2004 which is a very good source for basic data on women and men.

210(b) Ensure that producers and users of statistics in each country regularly review the adequacy of the official statistical system and its coverage of gender issues, and prepare and plan for improvements, where necessary;

Having in mind this objective, the State statistical office, usually makes contacts with users of statistical data and uses their suggestions and remarks for improving statistical surveys and to innovate statistical system as a whole.

209(d) Designate or appoint staff to strengthen gender -statistics programmes and ensure coordination, monitoring and linkage to all fields of statistical work, and prepare output that integrates statistics from various subject areas;

The State Statistical Office uses its current human resources in order to produce gender statistics. Creating a special department for gender statistics should be supported financially by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

## **II. Data sources**

5. The Statistical office is responsible for conducting about 300 statistical surveys per year as well as LFS and HBS. All surveys are part of "Programme for statistical surveys" for the period 2003-2007.

6. Gender (sex) as a variable is used in all statistical surveys related to individuals, which means that the capacity for collecting, processing, analyzing and data dissemination based on gender is fairly well developed.

7. Gender statistics generated from current statistical surveys and sectors such as population, families and households, health, education, employment, crime, elections etc. General improvements made in the statistical system as a whole have an influence over all relevant gender statistics used for planning and policy purposes.

8. Statistical surveys, such as the Labour force survey, Household budget survey and Time use survey, which were first conducted in September this year, are very important data sources.

9. Through this survey, we expect to provide data for time use in every day life for male and female, duration of working time (full time and part time), the time spent on education, improvement of personal sport, culture and humanitarian values, etc.

10. International classifications, such as ISCED- 97, ISCO-88, as well as international definitions have been used in all statistical surveys, which means that the data are internationally comparable.

11. Having in mind, the necessity and importance of considering development and using of ICT as well as ICT and gender relation, the State statistical office plans to conduct a new Survey for ICT usage in enterprises and households. The initial preparation, which covers translation of EUROSTAT questionnaires and recommendations, has started. This survey needs additional efforts concerning enlarging human and financial capacities.

### **III. Organization and coordination of work in the Statistical Office**

12. The starting point in organization of work in the Statistical office concerning gender statistics is Strategic objective H.3 from Beijing Platform of actions, point 209(d): Designate or appoint staff to strengthen gender-statistics programmes and ensure coordination, monitoring and linkage to all fields of statistical work, and prepare output that integrates statistics from various subject areas.

13. The state statistical office formed a Working group, which works as a team on gender statistics development and improvement. The members of the group are people from the statistical office, which covered the greater part of gender statistical data. This means that the statistical office uses the available human and financial capacities, which sometimes is not adequate for more successful results.

14. This organizational structure depends on several causes:

(i) current organizational scheme, (ii) legal framework, which limits the new employment in public administration and (iii) limited budgetary resources.

15. The current organizational scheme of the Statistical office was adopted in the beginning of 2004, and according to this scheme no separate Department for gender statistics exists. So, it means that the members of the Gender statistics working group have many other responsibilities, and they cannot be fully devoted only to gender issue. But, we consider that the existence of the horizontal Working group is not a limitation, but an advantage, because the members of this group can contribute on the reflection of different gender aspects.

### **IV. Plan of action**

16. The State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia follows the general objectives of the Government, which come from the Beijing declaration and Platform for Action adopted on IV World Conference for women held in 1995.

17. The activities of the Statistical Office towards improving gender statistics are based on national as well as international experiences, having in mind that improving gender statistics is a long-lasting process, which could be achieved by cooperation of producers and users of statistical data.

### Plan of Action

18. The State Statistical Office continuously works on improvement of gender statistics, from the point of view of coverage and data quality, and ensuring the regular production of statistical publication on gender for a wide range of potential users [Beijing Platform of Action, 1995, 207 (a)].

#### Plan of Action for the period 2004-2005

*Objective 1:* Revise of current national set of data and indicators

*Activity:* It is necessary to input additional indicators, for example from the health sector: morbidity, mortality, contraception, abortions; political life (elections); gender and ICT;

*Objective 2 :* Revise and innovate the content of publication for gender statistics (transferred from the concept of "available" data to the concept of "needed" data).

*Activity:* It is necessary to make contacts with potential users and producers of additional indicators in order to evaluate the quality of current publication and in order to identify priority areas in future work

*Objective 3 :* Increasing the cooperation with producers and users of gender statistics

*Activity:* identifying the target groups of producers and users; defining the ways of cooperation (meetings, seminars, workshops)

*Objective 4:* Finding additional resources for building Statistical Office's capacity (human and technical)

*Objective 5:* Developing the regional and international cooperation.

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