

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Workshop on Developing Entrepreneurship Statistics by Gender in the Republic of Moldova

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 30 June – 1 July 2015

9 July 2015

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

I. Organization and attendance

1. This capacity-building workshop on entrepreneurship statistics by gender was organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldova, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women, with financial support from the United Nations Development Account and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The working languages of the workshop were English and Romanian. The workshop was targeted towards managers and staff dealing with gender statistics, household and business surveys in NBS Moldova and the authorities in charge of the business register, as well as the users of entrepreneurship statistics in government agencies, academia and civil society, and the development partners in the country.
2. The workshop was attended by participants from NBS Moldova, the Ministry of Economy, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, the Organization for the Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), the National Employment Agency, the Ministry of Finance, the Centre for State Information Resources “Registru”, the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova, the Small Business Association of Moldova, representatives of non-governmental organizations and academia, and representatives of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT), UNDP and UN Women.
3. The workshop included expert contributions from representatives of the Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and UNECE.

II. Purpose

4. The purpose of the workshop was to build capacity in the system of official statistics in the Republic of Moldova in relation to understanding and measuring entrepreneurship by gender, as well as to identify possibilities for data collection on this topic. The workshop aimed to strengthen the gender sensitization of the Moldovan statistical system and to reinforce an existing strategy to mainstream a gender perspective into statistics in the Republic of Moldova. It also aimed to support the evidence-based monitoring and evaluation of the National Programme on Ensuring Gender Equality, the National Strategy on small and medium-sized enterprise development and its

action plan and other national/sectoral strategic papers promoting gender equality in business activity.

5. The workshop also explored the possibility of testing a survey module developed under the EDGE (Evidence and Data for Gender Equality) project in the Republic of Moldova.

III. Summary of proceedings

6. The workshop consisted of five substantive sessions over two days, divided into two thematic sections, on measurement of entrepreneurship using statistical business surveys and business registers, and on measurement of entrepreneurship with household surveys, respectively. The workshop ended with discussions of the way forward, and conclusions, including discussion of the plans to test the EDGE survey module in the Republic of Moldova in the latter months of 2015. The agenda and presentations are available on the meeting page of the UNECE website¹.
7. UNECE began the proceedings with an overview of the project 'Interregional cooperation to strengthen national capacities to measure progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment', of which the present workshop forms one element.
8. Representatives of NBS Moldova delivered two presentations as part of a session on the national context and background: the first on the policy framework on development of small and medium-sized enterprises and measurement needs, and the second on women's entrepreneurship as part of national gender equality programmes.
9. An expert from ISTAT led a training session on the use of business statistics for measuring entrepreneurship from the gender perspective at the international level. Concepts and definitions for measuring entrepreneurship were explained, beginning with discussion of why a gender perspective is necessary; then exploring the diversity of existing definitions; and finally examining potential indicators, data sources and availability for each of the key concepts. This was followed by detailed exploration of specific examples: the Factors of Business Success survey, the Italian statistical business register, and integrated longitudinal employer-employee data.
10. A session on business statistics in Moldova, led by representatives of NBS Moldova, looked at the status of NBS business statistics and the business register for measuring the characteristics of entrepreneurs and their enterprises. It then examined the experience of Moldova in the measurement of women's entrepreneurship. This was followed by a consideration of data users' perspective on business statistics and difficulties in data use, and then by an exploration of alternatives to NBS data sources on entrepreneurial activity.
11. The second section of the workshop began with a presentation from UNECE, in which key findings on employers and own-account workers in the UNECE statistical database were presented with a gender focus, placing the Republic of Moldova in context in comparison with other countries in the UNECE region and showing trends over time.
12. The final substantive session, on the use of household surveys for measuring entrepreneurship from the gender perspective at the international level,

¹ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37871#/>

began with a training session by UNSD introducing the EDGE project (Evidence and Data for Gender Equality), showing how it is used to develop measurement tools on asset ownership and entrepreneurship from the gender perspective. A representative of NBS Moldova complemented this with information on the use of household surveys for measuring entrepreneurship activity in Moldova.

13. Workshop participants considered the way forward, discussing what needs to be done to improve the collection and quality of entrepreneurship statistics by gender in the Republic of Moldova, and how to do this.

IV. Conclusions

14. UNECE led an open discussion to summarize the content and draw conclusions from the workshop. It was agreed that NBS would carry out, with financial support from UNECE, a pilot test of a survey module in the Republic of Moldova for measuring entrepreneurship from the gender perspective.
 15. Participants recognized the potential for better use of administrative sources for entrepreneurship statistics in Moldova and that the legal basis for this exists. NBS and other government agencies should work together to improve access to and use of administrative sources.
 16. Participants expressed satisfaction with the training provided and acknowledged its relevance to their needs. It was felt that the workshop had led to increased knowledge and awareness of advanced practices in measuring entrepreneurship using household surveys and business registers. Participants appreciated the opportunity to discuss and exchange experiences among one-another and with international experts.
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