

## **UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Report on the Workshop on Education Indicators for Millennium Development Goals

Tirana, 21-22 November 2012

### **Background**

The need for monitoring the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals has been an opportunity for many countries to develop their statistical systems and to produce better information in support of evidence-based policies for development. However, national statistical systems face pervasive statistical challenges in monitoring MDGs, including the persistent data gaps, insufficient use of official national data, and discrepancies among indicators produced by national and international agencies.

The Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) works to improve the quality of official statistics produced by its member States. Particular attention is given to MDG indicators in the countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. To assist the countries in the MDG monitoring process, UNECE maintains its MDG Database as well as a data repository with detailed data and extended metadata.

Consultation with MDG focal points revealed that there is a need to improve capacities to produce and monitor the MDGs related to education (Goal 2 and part of Goal 3). Training in international methodology and resolving discrepancies between national and international estimates were among the main priorities mentioned. To address these issues, UNECE organized a workshop on education indicators for MDGs with funding from the One UN Coherence Fund and the United Nations Development Account. UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) provided substantive input to the meeting by providing the main training.

### **Purpose**

The main purpose of the workshop was to strengthen statistical capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through regional cooperation and knowledge sharing. The meeting concentrated on education indicators related to MDG Goal 2 and Goal 3. More specifically, the workshop aimed to:

- (a) Present the methodologies recommended by UNESCO and other international organizations
- (b) Discuss data sources and their problems
- (c) Reduce data gaps and discrepancies between national and international estimates
- (d) Discuss the availability of data and reporting in national MDG monitoring
- (e) Present issues related to data analysis and the interpretation of the data for policymakers
- (f) Present regional best practices
- (g) Stimulate national and interregional coordination and cooperation

### **Organization and attendance**

The training was provided by experts from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and UNECE. Best practices were shared by representatives from the participating countries. Local support

in organizing the meeting was provided by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tirana.

The working languages at the workshop were English, Albanian and Russian. The workshop consisted of two days plenary presentations and discussions on 21-22 November. Simultaneous interpretation between English, Russian and Albanian was provided throughout the workshop and the PowerPoint presentations used during the workshop were made available in all three languages. They remain accessible at the workshop's web page<sup>1</sup>.

A total of 29 participants from 7 countries participated, including 18 participants from the host country. The list of participants is provided in the annex.

### Summary of proceedings

The workshop was opened by the Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Albania, Ms. Filloreta Kodra. Thereafter, the Director of UIS, Mr. Hendrik van der Pol, and the representative of UNECE, Mr. Taeke Gjaltema, welcomed the participants.

Mr. Taeke Gjaltema presented the coverage of the education indicators for MDGs in official national and international reporting and discussed the discrepancies between them. Next, the role of data collection, analysis and statistics of the education related MDG and their policy implications were discussed by Mr. van der Pol (UIS). In the second presentation of UIS, provided by Ms. Ioulia Sementchouk, the definitions and method of calculation of the various indicators were shown. Special attention was given to their limitations and interpretation. Practical examples using data from countries that were present were used. The presentations were followed by an extensive question and answer session in which further issues were discussed and clarified.

The representative of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia presented the challenges in producing indicators and activities to improve the measurement and availability and quality of MDG indicators for education in Armenia. The presentation by the representative of the National Statistics Office of Georgia focused on their experience in data collection and dissemination and how users are involved and trained in using the data. The representative of Ministry of Education of Albania showed how the various government agencies are involved and what the process is from collecting primary data to the production of indicators and the dissemination of information and what the quality issues are. Again, each presentation was followed by extensive discussion where further issues were raised and clarified and others shared their experiences.

Day Two of the workshop started with a presentation by a representative of UN Women on the importance and use of education indicators for MDGs in their area of work. The representative of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina showed how various data sources, such as the census, surveys and administrative data can be used in producing education indicators. Next, the representative from Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan presented how their activities relate to national policies and how they are coordinated and how they plan to improve quality of data for monitoring and measurement of MDGs. The two representatives from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova showed how national targets and goals were adapted to national needs

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.11.mdg.html>

and which data sources are being used and how they manage the metadata for education indicators for MDGs and the steps made to control the quality of their data.

UNECE presented its activities on MDGs, focusing on its Regional MDG Database and the importance of improving metadata. The experts from UIS summarized the meeting with an overview of the lessons learned and the conclusions from the discussions.

#### **Capacity-building activities held back-to-back with the Workshop**

The workshop was preceded by a two-day capacity building mission of UNECE and UIS to the Institute of Statistics of Albania (INSTAT) on 19-20 November for detailed discussion on education and population data with representatives from INSTAT, the Ministry of Education.

After the workshop, on 23 November, the experts and representatives from visiting countries conducted a working visit of to INSTAT in order to learn about its work and exchange experience in more detail.

## Annex 1 List of Participants

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Mr./Ms</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>Representing organization</b>
1	Albania	Ms.	Irena	Benussi	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
2	Albania	Ms.	Hafsa	Decka	Regional Education Directorate
3	Albania	Ms.	Brunilda	Dervishaj	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
4	Albania	Ms.	Ana	Kadillari	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
5	Albania	Ms.	Shqiponja	Lamce	Ministry of Education
6	Albania	Ms.	Mimoza	Agolli	Ministry of Education
7	Albania	Ms.	Emira	Galanxhi	INSTAT
8	Albania	Ms.	Lili	Hajdari	Ministry of Education
9	Albania	Mr.	Niko	Hyka	APAAL
10	Albania	Ms.	Vera	Kamani	Ministry of Education
11	Albania	Ms.	Anila	Kasneci	INSTAT
12	Albania	Ms.	Inis	Morina	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
13	Albania	Ms.	Kledia	Ngjela	Ministry of Education
14	Albania	Ms.	Alma	Pashnjari	Directorate of Education
15	Albania	Ms.	Bukurie	Shahini	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
16	Albania	Ms.	Blerina	Subashi	INSTAT
17	Albania	Ms.	Alida	Tota	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
18	Armenia	Ms.	Mareta	Tsaturyan	National Statistical Service, Republic of Armenia
19	Azerbaijan	Mr.	Elchin	Haji	State Statistical Committee
20	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms.	Ljiljana	Malis	Agency for statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
21	Georgia	Ms.	Lia	Charekishvili	National Statistics Office of Georgia
22	Republic of Moldova	Ms.	Larisa	Chirita	National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova
23	Republic of Moldova	Ms.	Maria	Vasiliev	National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova
24	Tajikistan	Ms.	Tatiana	Gukasova	Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
25	UN in Albania	Ms.	Sonila	Konda	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Albania
26	UN WOMEN	Mr.	Rezart	Xhelo	UN Women
27	UNECE	Mr.	Taeke	Gjaltema	Statistical Division
28	UNESCO	Ms.	Ioulia	Sementchouk	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
29	UNESCO	Mr.	Hendrik	Van der Pol	UNESCO Institute for Statistics