

**Workshop on Gender Statistics**  
Geneva, 15 March 2012

26 March 2012

## **REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **I. Organization and attendance**

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) organised this capacity building workshop on gender statistics together with the Medstat programme of Euro-Mediterranean statistical co-operation and with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The workshop followed the 2012 UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics (Geneva, 12-14 March). The working languages of the workshop were English, French and Russian.
2. Participants represented statistical offices of the following countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Experts from the International Labour Organization, Palestine Institute of Women's Studies of Birzeit University, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Medstat III Programme of the European Union and UNECE participated as well. UNFPA (project PDB6U718 "Strengthening national capacities on gender statistics") supported participation from countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and the Medstat Programme from countries of North Africa and the Middle East.
3. The workshop consisted of two training modules, one on labour statistics and the other on time use surveys. The presentations made at the workshop are available at the UNECE website <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.03.15.gender.html>.

### **II. Objective**

4. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen capacities of national statistical offices in applying the gender perspective (1) in producing and disseminating labour statistics, with focus on the gender pay gap, and (2) in carrying out time use surveys and communicating their results. These two topics were selected based on feedback from previous gender statistics workshops.

### **III. Training module on labour statistics**

5. This module was applying the gender perspective in producing and disseminating labour statistics, with focus on the gender pay gap. To facilitate preparation for the workshop and to have an overview of the situation in the countries, participants were requested to fill in questionnaire on labour statistics.
6. Ms Adriana Mata-Greenwood from the International Labour Organization lectured on the gender aspects of labour statistics and about the gender pay gap (GPG). She explained shortcomings

of definitions and methodologies, survey questions formulation in labour statistics, addressing family contexts, importance of choosing right indicators and presenting them. The following topics of gender equality were addressed: balancing work and family life, unacknowledged forms of work, labour market segregation and income differentials. On GPG, the lecturer explained the concept of wages, different calculation methods and cross-country comparison issues.

7. Participants raised the following issues in the discussion:

- a) Data collection on informal employment and questionnaire design to cover informal economy;
- b) Inclusion of questions on employment conditions into LFS and requested advice;
- c) Studying GPG by education, age and employment type;
- d) Family structure and its influence on women's behavior and GPG.

8. Participants worked in five groups on an assignment of calculating GPG using different earnings statistics and identifying the effects of using the various employment related income statistics on the estimates of GPG. Having completed the exercise, participants noted the following points:

- a) Median earnings are more suitable for calculating the GPG than mean earnings, because they are not sensitive to extreme values; in most cases, however, the mean is available and median is not;
- b) Considering overtime in the calculation increases GPG, because men work more overtime;
- c) Adding part-time to full-time employment data increases the gap, because there are more women among part-time employees than men;
- d) GPG of only part-time employment is likely to be small or even negative.

#### **IV. Training module on time use surveys**

9. This module focused on carrying out time use survey (TUS) and communicating their results. To facilitate preparation for the workshop and to have an overview of the situation in the countries, participants were requested to fill in a questionnaire on TUS before the workshop. Of the participating countries, eleven had carried out a TUS in the past and seven had plans to carry out one in 2012 or 2013.

10. Introduction to the module featured the UNECE training video on TUS, which demonstrated their usefulness, the kind of data collected, data collection methods and classification systems for the coding of activities, and the measurement issues specific to TUS.

11. Mr Klas Rydenstam, an expert with many years of work experience on TUS at Statistics Sweden and with harmonization of TUS at Eurostat, presented characteristics and techniques of TUS, issues related to gender equality and to the international harmonization of TUS. He paid special attention to the practical aspects of implementing a TUS as a diary and as a survey with direct questions on time use, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches. He showed TUS results from different countries. Participants addressed technical issues related to designing and coding of the surveys, highlighting the challenge of covering all activities in a pre-coded questionnaire.

12. In the group exercise, participants discussed and proposed analyses and statistics that exploit the data in various ways beyond the standard output and discussed possible policy applications of the results. Each of the three groups presented how they envisage TUS data to support addressing

different policy issues. Participants were informed that the UNECE Task Force on Time Use Surveys is working on guidelines to improve harmonisation of TUS and will address several issues discussed in the workshop, including the subjective quality measures.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

13. Participants expressed satisfaction with the provided training and emphasised its relevance to their needs. The opportunity to discuss and exchange experience among countries from different regions was much appreciated. The secretariat thanked the participants and experts and closed the workshop.

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