

GENDER DIFFERENCES ON SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL IN MOLDOVA

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March 2014, Geneva

Need for comparative gender analysis at subnational level

- **Law on Regional Development setting out main regional development objectives, principles, frameworks and planning instruments**
- **Government Programme "European Integration: Freedom, Democracy, Prosperity"**
- **Moldavian National Demographic Security Strategy**

Gender Disparities in Politics

Results of latest local elections:

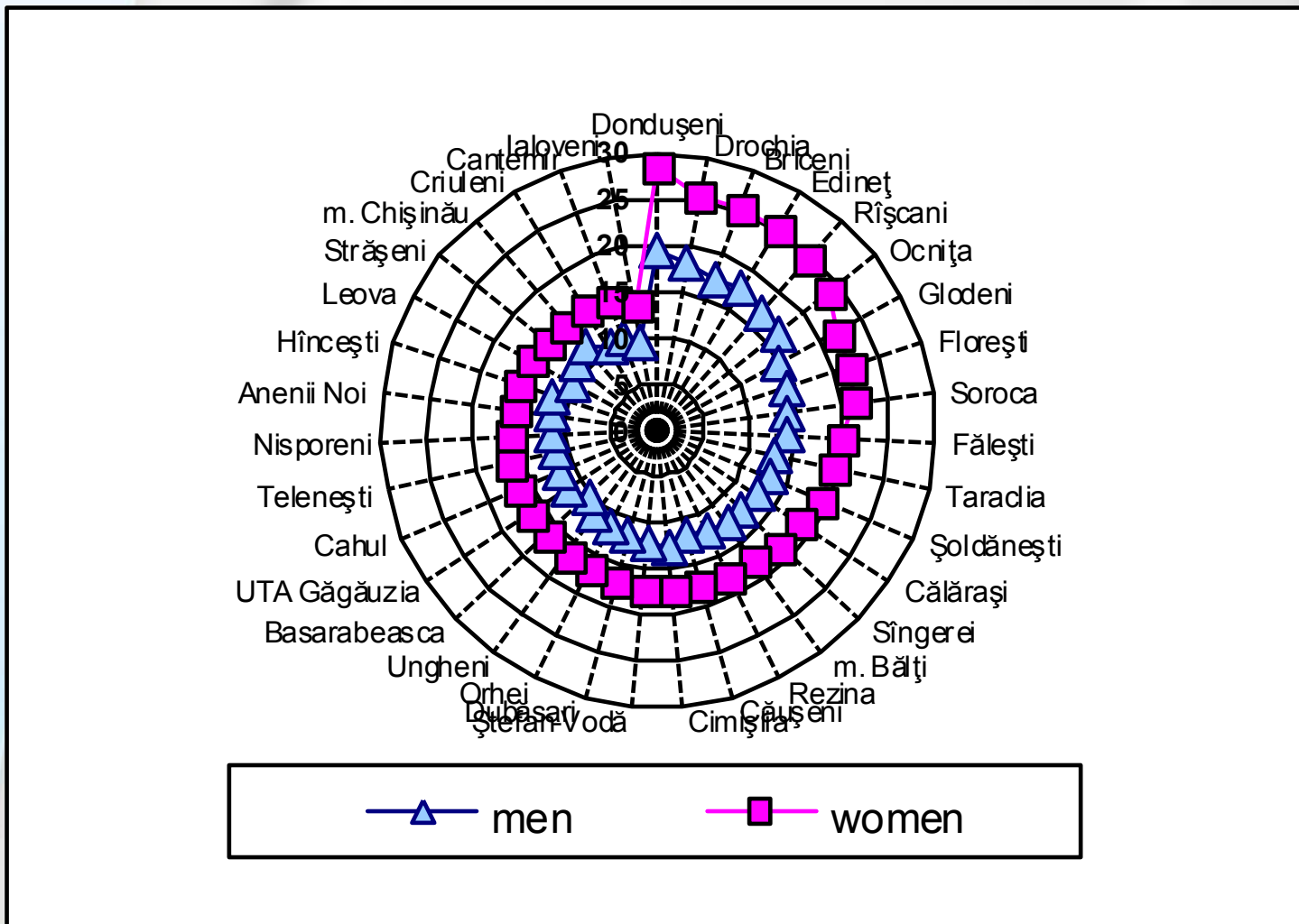
- **Gender disparities at registration phase: 4,204 candidates to Mayors and Vice Mayors, including 843 females (20%) were registered and only one in four female candidate was elected.**
- **The largest representation of female candidates was in the local administration of the Southern Zone - 25%, and in Cimislia District of the zone it was 42%. However, only 7 out of 53 female candidates were elected in the region.**
- **Female candidates are mostly successful in elections of District, Rural and Municipal Councillors: up to 40% were elected in some regions. However, in some administrative areas there are less than 20% of female councillors.**
- **Only 3 women were elected District Chairpersons - one in each of three regions: North, Centre and South, which is only 8.8% of total number of Chairpersons.**

Population Size and Structure

- About 30% of the population live both in the Northern and Central Zones, over 15% live in the Southern Zone and the population of Gagauzia is about 5% of the total population of the country. Residents of Chişinău Municipality comprise about a fifth of the total population of the country.
- Steady depopulation trends prevail in three regions: Centre, South and especially North.
- 51.9% of the total population are women and 48.1% are men. The largest gender gap is found in Chişinău Municipality where for each 1,000 males there are 1,128 females whereas the smallest gap is in the Northern Zone (1,100 females vs. 1,000 males). However, in two administrative areas of this zone: Bălţi Municipality and Donduşeni District the gender imbalance is stronger: 1,176 and 1,142 females vs. 1,000 males respectively.

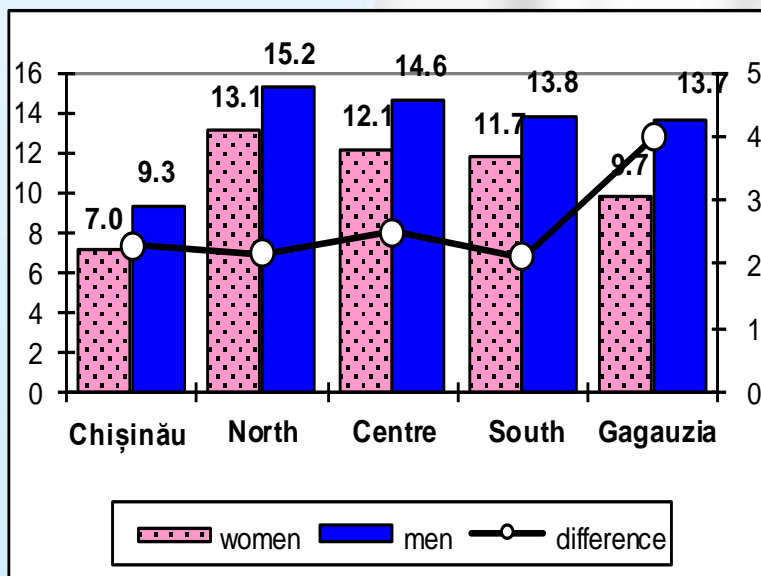
Ageing Coefficient

(number of 60 years old males and females and over per 100 persons of relevant gender)



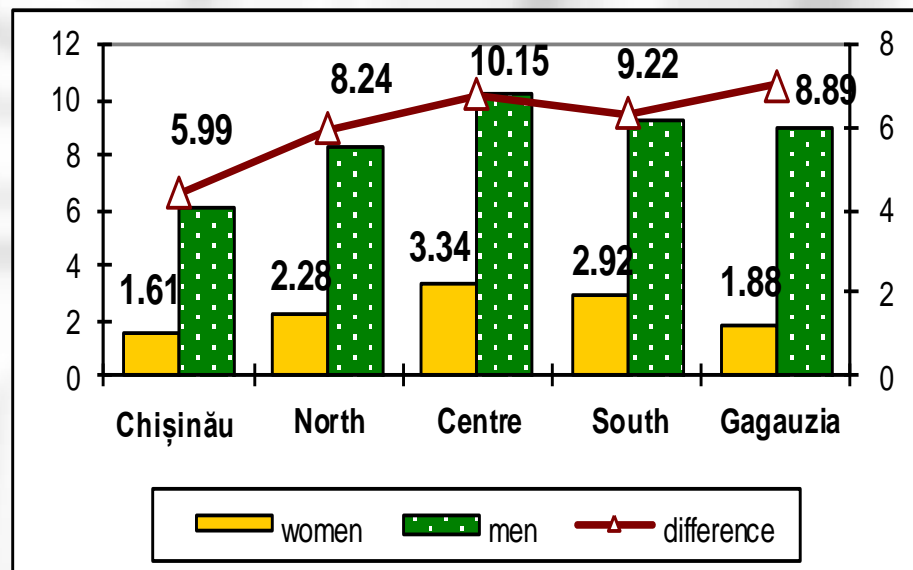
Demographic Processes

Total mortality rate by gender, and development regions, %



Male and female mortality rates in working age

(per 1,000 persons of relevant gender)



Labour Market

- Regional differences at the labour market depend on the population size and structure. Residents of Chişinău Municipality account for 22% of the total population in the country whereas given a younger age structure of the municipality its economically active residents account for 29% of economically active population of the country. An opposite situation is found in the Northern region given its older age structure: 31% and 27% respectively.
- The labour force participation rate of persons aged 15 years and over is 41.6% with higher rate among men (45%) than among women (38.6%). The largest gender gap is found in Chişinău (15 percentage points difference) and smallest gap is found in the north (2.2 percentage points difference).

Labour Market (Cont.)

- Men prevail among employed in all regions, the largest gender gap is found in Chişinău Municipality - up to 12 percentage points. Gender equality in employment is typical for depopulating areas characterized by female prevalence in elder age groups, including among the employed.
- Formal employment in all regions is predominantly feminized. Employed women prevail among working women: ranging from 67% in the Centre through to 95% in Chişinău Municipality.
- On average, women earn three fourth of what men earn. Such gender pay gap is found in all regions of the country. The only exception is Nisporeni district in the Centre where average earnings of women were 106.3% of those of men in 2010.
- Ranking by unemployment rates is as follows: Municipalities of Chişinău, Centre, South, North with higher male unemployment in all regions.

Business

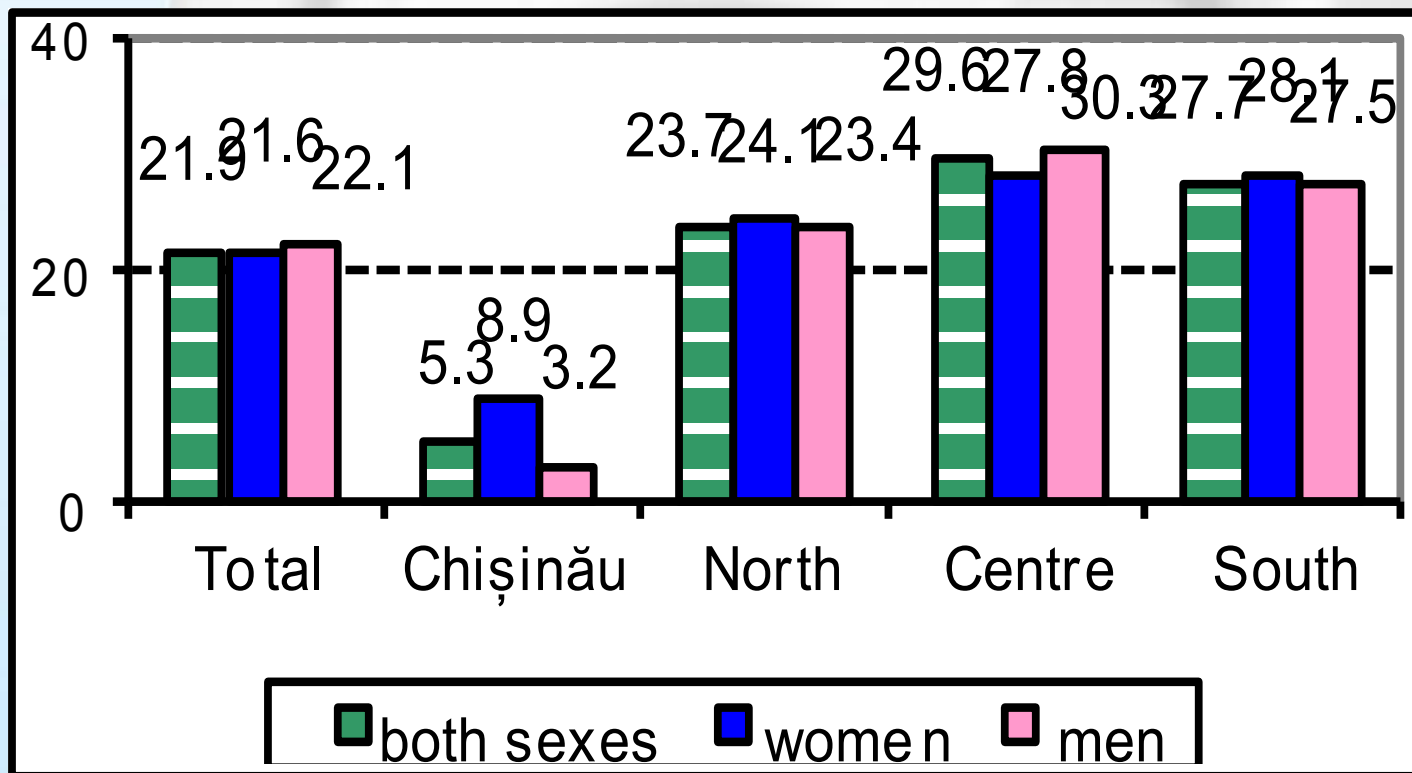
- **Business women (mercenary managers and business co-owners) account for 27.5% of all business persons in Moldova.**
- **Most business persons (59%) live/work in Chişinău Municipality; 17% in the North, 14% in the Centre , 7% in the South and over 3% in Gagauzia.**
- **No significant gender differences were found among the regions.**
- **Chişinău Municipality has youngest business persons, and women prevail in the age group of 15-34 years. The lowest youth representation in business is found in the North and South where most active women and men are aged 55 years and over.**

Household Living Standards

- **Every fourth household head has no reliable source of income and at the same time has to maintain other household members. For most population, salaries and pensions are major sources of income. Women's dependence on social benefits is stronger than men's: each fifth woman and 17% of men say that pension is a major source of income.**
- **Major sources of income for capital residents are salaries and here most vulnerable are the residents of the Northern zone.**
- **Remittances are important sources of income. On average, remittances account for 16.8% of household income. Residents of the South where there is the largest share of labour migrants have stronger dependence on remittances.**

MAJOR FINDINGS

Absolute poverty rate, by sex of household head,
by development regions, 2010, %



7. Education

No gender inequalities are found in education in the regions of Moldova. Feminization of teaching staff remains a serious issue: 84% of teachers are women. On the other hand, considering male and female distribution in administrative staff, the shares of men and women at management positions are quite proportionate to the representation of men and women in total teaching staff. Male representation at management positions ranges from 12.5% in Chişinău Municipality to 16.8% in the Centre.

Health

- A major issue is about unequal regional distribution of health care personnel with a shortage of health care personnel in rural areas and excessive personnel in urban areas.
- On average, there are 35 physicians per 10,000 population. The most disadvantaged are the Centre and the South with a maximum of 15 physicians per 10,000 population. The capital is the region which has the highest physician density.
- The labour market in health sector is feminized. Nevertheless, regional differentiation in male to female ratio in some administrative areas is completely opposite. A noticeable female prevalence among physicians is found in the capital (75%) and in Gagauzia (63%). At the same time, male physicians prevail in Bălți Municipality and four districts: here male physicians are 60-70% of total physicians.

Incidence of diseases

Tuberculosis The highest incidence is found in the Centre (106 new cases per 100,000) and the lowest incidence is found in the South and in Gagauzia (66 new cases per 100,000). Men are more susceptible to this disease, on average the gap of 2.6 times is found in all regions.

Cancer In 2010, the highest incidence was registered in Chişinău Municipality (234 cases per 100,000 with almost no gender imbalance). The lowest incidence was registered in the Centre (202 cases per 100,000 with a 13% gap towards men). In Gagauzia where cancer incidence is 228 cases the gender gap is larger, almost 20%. And only in the South there are more women with cancer.

The South is the region with the highest incidence of **alcoholism and chronic psychosis**, both among men and women.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) The largest number of cases is registered in Gagauzia (731 per 100,000) and the smallest number is registered in the South (370 cases). Gender specifics: high incidence of infections was registered among women in Gagauzia (3.5 times higher than among men).

Social Protection

- Apart from Chişinău Municipality, persons who worked in agriculture prevail in the structure of pensioners in all regions. Ranking of regions by size of monthly pension benefit is as follows: municipalities of Chişinău Municipality, Gagauzia, South and Centre with a 1/3 difference between minimum and maximum size of benefits.
- In the regional differentiation two factors can be identified that increase gender disparities in the size of pension benefits: 'agrarian' and 'non-agrarian'.
- In the capital, the gender gap is the largest one and is 33%. In all other agrarian regions women receive less than 90% of men's pension benefits. In some regions gender gap is smaller (94% or higher).

Crime

- **Women account for a small share of offenders, about 10%. Gender profile in the crimes by regions is as follows: In Chișinău Municipality male crime is 8 times higher than female crime, in Gagauzia - 11 times, and in the North it is 5 times higher.**
- **Drug-related crimes are the only type of crimes where women sometimes are more involved than men: in some regions of the country the drug-related crime rates among women are higher than among men, e.g. in Briceni (2 times higher).**

Violence Against Women

- On average, 6 out of 10 women aged 15 years and older were subjected to, at least, one form of violence by present or latest partner.
- Regional estimates of domestic violence rate demonstrate that women in the Centre (73%) are more subjected to violence, the lowest rate is found in the capital (58%).
- Sixty per cent of women suffer from psychological violence. Women living in central districts (68%) suffer more from this form of violence, whereas in other regions on average 56% of women were subjected to this form of violence.
- Forty per cent of women reported physical violence by their husbands/partners, and again the likelihood of major physical violence is higher for women in the Centre.
- About 19% of women were subjected to sexual violence by their husbands/partners. This form of violence is mostly spread in Chişinău Municipality (23.5%).

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

- In education there are no gender gaps in Moldavian regions.
- There is vertical occupational discrimination and barriers for participating in politics.
- Other components of gender disparities tell a confusing story.
- Comparison of Chişinău Municipality and four other development regions is revealing.
- Key conclusion: regional and gender disparities are interrelated and meaningful analysis of gender issues is impossible without considering regional specifics.
- A deeper analysis will help to devise constructive practical solutions for addressing regional gender disparities, approximating regions by levels of development and for overcoming disintegration trends.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- **Incomparability of statistical samples. Specifically, it is the issue in sections on Labour Market and Household Living Standards, where the data for Gagauzia were analysed together with the South, as opposed to other sections where Gagauzia is a separate area because according to the Law on Administrative System Gagauzia is an autonomous development region.**
- **The reliability of regional data can be sometimes challenged. Thus, for instance, in population estimates for underpopulated areas, the small number of population events (deaths and number of persons in specific age groups) affects reliability and accuracy of estimates.**
- **Familiarization with new methodological developments in this area is of great importance in order to improve the current estimation procedures at the regional level. It is very important for future studies.**

Thank you!