

Strengthening National Capacities in Statistics on Population, Gender, Vulnerable Groups and Poverty in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Narrative project report to the UNFPA Eastern Europe Central Asia Regional Office on activities carried out in 2014

4 February 2015

1. In 2014, the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was implementing the project “Strengthening national capacities in statistics on population, gender, vulnerable groups and poverty in Eastern Europe and Central Asia” according to the agreement with the Eastern Europe Central Asia Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA EECARO) signed in September 2014. This report describes the activities that were carried out.

Editing of the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing

2. Every ten years, UNECE publishes the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations to guide countries in the planning and conducting of their population and housing censuses, and to improve the comparability of census data through the selection of a core set of census topics and the harmonization of definitions and classifications. UNECE coordinates the work of national census experts who prepare of the Recommendations.

3. The UNFPA funds were used for the substantive editing of the Recommendations. The draft chapters of were prepared by nine expert task forces, and substantive editing was necessary in order to ensure consistency of the text in content and in style. A consultant with many years of experience in dealing with population censuses, Mr Ian White (recently retired from the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics) was recruited to elaborate the material available and apply uniform style and format, in order to produce a complete and high quality publication. He worked on this through November and December.

4. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians will review the edited Recommendations in February 2015, after which they will be submitted for adoption to the CES plenary session of June 2015. Upon adoption, electronic and print publication in English, Russian and French will follow.

Workshop on developing entrepreneurship statistics by gender in Armenia

5. In the Beijing Platform for Action, countries have agreed to foster women’s access to self-employment and entrepreneurship, but available data are limited for differentiating entrepreneurs by sex and among the different types of self-employment and entrepreneurship. Such information is required for targeted policy measures in this area. In a recent review of

data availability for gender equality indicators in Armenia, entrepreneurship was identified as a priority topic for capacity-building in gender statistics.

6. UNECE organized a workshop in cooperation with the National Statistical Service (NSS) of Armenia to identify ways of new data collection to measure entrepreneurship by gender and build the capacity in NSS Armenia in this regard. The workshop took place on 16 and 17 December in Yerevan with 14 participants from NSS Armenia, one from the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues (as data user) and two from the Ministry of Justice (the agency in charge of the business register). Two experts from Statistics Sweden delivered presentations on the use of the business register and other registers for measuring entrepreneurship and an expert from the United Nations Statistics Division introduced the concepts and recent advances in the methodology of measuring entrepreneurship in the EDGE (Evidence and Data for Gender Equality) initiative. UNECE presented on definitions and available data in international databases. Interactive discussions took place on the basis of these presentations as well as those by NSS Armenia on the current situation with registers and surveys.

7. It was decided that UNECE and the EDGE project team would support NSS Armenia in testing the new EDGE survey module on measuring entrepreneurship from the gender perspective. Concrete steps were also identified for improving the use of the Armenian business register for statistical purposes. Overall, the workshop strengthened the gender sensitization of the Armenian statistical system.

8. The UNFPA funds were used on the travel of experts and staff and on the organization expenses of the workshop.