



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Statistical Division

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 2015

18 December 2015

1. In 2015, the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) continued 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 in 2015.

Gender-responsive data collection, analysis and use (ACT02DGAPS)

Workshop on gender statistics dissemination and training

2. UNECE organized the Workshop on Gender Statistics Dissemination and Training in cooperation with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldova and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in Chisinau on 3-4 November 2015.

3. The Workshop was attended by 43 producers and users of gender statistics in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). It addressed the challenges for disseminating and communicating gender statistics from the perspectives of both producers and users and thus enhanced the capacity of national statistical offices in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to disseminate and communicate gender statistics and the capacity of users to understand and use gender statistics.

4. The Workshop reviewed and discussed the UNECE toolkit for training users of gender statistics. Several training sessions were conducted to facilitate this review. Participants provided detailed comments that support the finalization of the toolkit and its sustainable use in gender statistics trainings in EECCA countries. The toolkit was considered as a comprehensive and very useful instrument for conducting national training in gender statistics.

Workshop on developing entrepreneurship statistics by gender in the Republic of Moldova

5. This capacity-building workshop on entrepreneurship statistics by gender was organized jointly by UNECE, NBS Moldova, UNDP and UN Women. Participants included 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.
6. The Workshop built 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. It strengthened the gender sensitization of the Moldovan statistical system and reinforced the 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.
7. The Workshop identified the need for testing a survey module for measuring entrepreneurship from the gender perspective in the Republic of Moldova. It was agreed that NBS would carry out such testing.
8. 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.

Workshop on population and housing censuses (ACT03CENWS)

9. UNECE organized the Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses for EECCA countries in partnership with the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT). The Workshop was held in Geneva on 28-29 September 2015, back-to-back with the meeting of the UNECE-Eurostat Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses (30 September – 2 October 2015).
10. The Workshop was attended by 30 census experts and managers who discussed plans for the next census and the implementation of the *Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing*. Experience from the 2010 round of censuses was shared, focusing on the countries that conducted their census in 2014.
11. A study “Measuring population and housing in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: review of practices in the 2010 round of censuses” was prepared by a consultant (Mr Ian White, recently retired from the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics) in connection with this workshop. The study reviewed in detail the practices followed by countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia during the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. It compared the different approaches and practices among countries in the region and, in general terms, with countries in Western Europe and North America.

Workshop on measuring poverty and vulnerability (ACT03VULWS)

12. UNECE organized the Workshop on Measuring Poverty and Vulnerability on 4 May 2015 in Geneva, back-to-back with the UNECE Seminar on Poverty Measurement (5-6 May 2015). It was attended by 29 statisticians and analysts from EECCA countries, international organizations and invited experts. The Workshop built statistical capacity for the measurement of multidimensional poverty and vulnerability to poverty, with focus on EECCA countries.

13. The discussion at the Workshop has acknowledged the diversity of the region and the difficulty of having a “one size fits all” standard in poverty measurement. The workshop reviewed in detail the methodology of multidimensional poverty measurement, acknowledging the need to adapt the concrete measures to the country circumstances while adhering to common principles.

14. The countries recommended to work towards adopting a definition of ‘vulnerable to poverty’ and developing international guidelines for identifying and reviewing vulnerable-to-poverty population and population sub-groups. Participants also proposed to develop an internationally comparable set of indicators of vulnerability and continue capacity-building and exchange of best practices on this topic.

Use of funds

15. UNFPA funding was used to cover the travel of participants, experts and staff to the meetings, consultancy for preparing the census study, translation of documents, and interpretation. The funds utilization report is provided in a separate document.

Links to the meeting reports and materials

Workshop on gender statistics dissemination and training:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40150#>

Workshop on developing entrepreneurship statistics by gender in the Republic of Moldova:

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

Workshop on measuring poverty and vulnerability:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38133#>