



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Statistical Division

Strengthening Capacity for Producing and Disseminating Statistics on Population, Gender and Ageing in the UNECE Region

*Narrative project report to the UNFPA Eastern Europe Central Asia Regional
Office on activities carried out in 2016*

20 January 2017

1. In 2016, the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) implemented the project “Strengthening capacity for producing and disseminating statistics on population, gender and ageing in the UNECE region” according to the agreement with the Eastern Europe Central Asia Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA EECARO) signed in April 2016.

Workshop on gender statistics (ACT02DGAPS)

2. UNECE organized a workshop for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), in cooperation with the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and Statistics Lithuania. The workshop took place on 30-31 May 2016 in Vilnius, Lithuania. It aimed to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices in EECCA countries to disseminate and communicate gender statistics, and to understand the role of gender-oriented indicators in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Beneficiary countries were represented by gender statistics experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Mexico, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the CIS-Stat, the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) were also represented. The workshop had a total of 33 participants.

4. Two experts from Sweden and Switzerland delivered training on the communication of gender statistics, interpreting findings and formulating key messages. UNECE gave presentations on the ‘Women and Men’ publications of participating countries; the UNECE Toolkit for training users of gender statistics; and on data availability for the gender-relevant SDG indicators. OECD shared regional findings from the Social Institutions and Gender index. Countries also presented their national experiences on these topics and discussed the respective challenges.

5. The workshop provided a valuable platform for exchanging experience and knowledge on national and regional best practices in dissemination and communication of gender

statistics, and on the ways in which gender-relevant topics and sex-disaggregation are being tackled in order to fulfil the requirements of SDG reporting. In particular, it highlighted the need for further work to meet the statistical needs of the 2030 Agenda.

Workshop on population and housing censuses (ACT03CENWS)

6. 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 (CISSTAT). The Workshop was held in Geneva on 26-27 September, back-to-back with the meeting of the UNECE-Eurostat Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses (28-30 September).

7. The Workshop was attended by 48 census experts and managers representing the following countries and organizations: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Estonia, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Mexico, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United States of America, Uzbekistan, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UNFPA. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Eurasian Economic Commission, CIS-Stat, Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), IPUMS International census dissemination partnership, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota. Ms. Irina Zbarskaya (CIS-Stat) facilitated the discussion.

8. Participants discussed plans for the next census and the challenges faced in the implementation of the *Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing*. Special sessions were devoted to new opportunities arising from the use of technological innovations and administrative sources. Plans for further work were concretized in light of ongoing projects of UNECE, UNFPA and UNSD, and topics identified on which to focus further capacity-building.

9. Participants expressed appreciation of the Workshop as an opportunity to discuss census issues that are of specific interest to countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Workshop on addressing data gaps for active ageing indicators (ACT10AGEIN)

10. The workshop took place on 23-24 June 2016 in Minsk, Belarus. It continued the work initiated at the first workshop (November 2015, Geneva) and aimed at evaluating the progress made by the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia (EECCA), and Western Balkans in filling in the statistical annex to national reports on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) under its third review and appraisal cycle and providing expert consultations on methodology of calculation, possible alternative data sources and variables for specific indicators of active ageing.

11. The workshop was attended by 40 participants including 29 representatives — national focal points on ageing and specialists from national statistical offices — of 15 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member States, namely Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan;

two invited experts from research institutes of Germany and the Russian Federation (Technical University of Dortmund, and National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow)); representatives of UNFPA offices of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and EECARO, a representative of the World Bank and two representatives of the UNECE Secretariat.

12. Country representatives (over 20 representatives that provided feedback) indicated that the workshop helped to identify alternative variables and data sources for the indicators of active ageing, provided necessary information for the preparation of the statistical annex to the national reports on MIPAA implementation, as well as enhanced contacts between the participants. The presentations by the invited experts and the work in groups were particularly appreciated.

Links to the meeting reports and materials

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

Workshop on population and housing censuses: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41294#/>

Workshop on addressing data gaps for active ageing indicators:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42481#/>