

**Joint ECE/UNDP Workshop on  
Gender Statistics for Policy Monitoring and Benchmarking  
(Orvieto, Italy, 9-10 October 2000)**

**LITHUANIA**

**GENDER STATISTICS IN LITHUANIA - PRODUCERS**

Papers submitted by Lithuania<sup>1</sup>

**Introduction**

In Lithuania the issues of gender equality were first addressed in 1994 when the position of State Counselor on Women's Issues was established at the Prime Minister's Office. In 1996, it was upgraded into the Office of Adviser to the Government on Women's and Family Issues. At the end of 1996, the Government adopted the Action Plan for the Advancement of Women in Lithuania.

1997 was the year when the national machinery was under creation. A Subdivision was established within the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Gender Statistics Subdivision was set up at the Statistics Lithuania, (the staff responsible for the production and presentation of gender statistics), as well as a group of Women-Parliamentarians and the Parliamentary Commission on Family and Children. In addition, in March 2000, the Government had established a permanent Inter-Ministerial Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

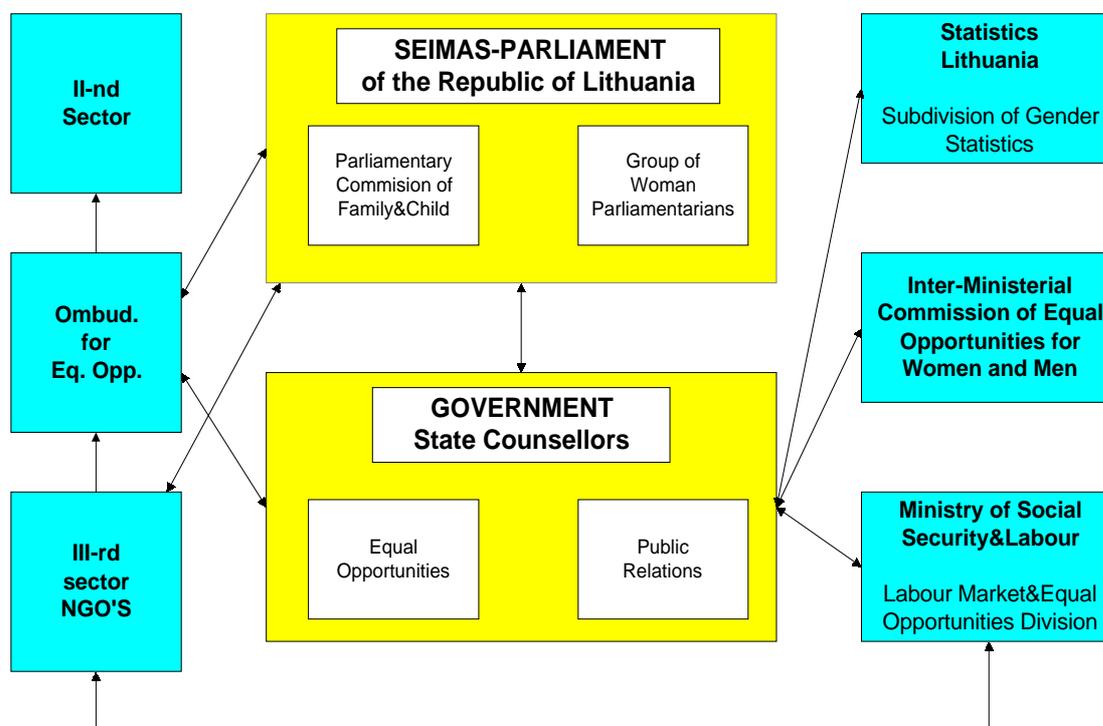
The Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men had come into force on 1 March 1999. The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman had been established by the Parliament on 25 May 1999. The Office enjoys broad administrative powers that grant it a special status even among similar offices in the Nordic countries.

The important role that non-governmental organizations (NGO's) were playing concerning women's issues. The number of women's NGO's had expanded to 63 in 1999 from 50 in 1997. The Information Centre on Women's Issues was the most active women's organization that collected and studied statistical data on women in the area of education, health, employment, earnings and others.

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## THE NATIONAL MACHINERY ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



By Resolution No. 77 of January 21, 1998 the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the 1998-2000 Action Plan for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Advancement of Women.

The Action Plan for the Advancement of Women covers the following spheres: protection of women's human rights, socio-economic position of women, women and environmental protection, women's health, family planning, women and education, women in politics and administration, abuse and violence against women and girls, women and mass media, the statistical system and gender differences. In order to implement the Action Plan for Advancement of Women, a national mechanism for establishment of equal opportunities of men and women has been envisaged.

On the issues of Statistics system and gender differences the following measures have been planned:

- Establishment of a subdivision on gender statistics
- Creation of a database
- Annual publication of gender statistics
- Publishing of gender statistics in the press.

The Statistics Lithuania has been preparing information about women earlier too. The publications "Lithuanian Women" were published in 1981, 1987. "Lithuanian Women and Family" were published in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995. The last publication was dedicated to the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women.

Since 1997 Statistics Lithuania had started to compile and produce more detail statistical data disaggregated by sex in order to show the fact situation of women and men in all areas of life. Annual Statistical publications "Women and Men in Lithuania" has been published since 1997. Statistical report about Women and Men situation in Lithuania has been prepared to meet the growing demand on information about gender statistics (only in Lithuanian).

The main data sources: administrative statistical data, data from the surveys (Labour force survey, Household budget survey, Panel survey of demography of small and medium business).

The Population and Dwelling Census, which will be conducted in 2001, will be the main source of data.

The main list of gender statistics by statistical fields in Statistics Lithuania:

Population

Composition of the household and income

Health care and social welfare

Education, Science

Economic activity and employment of population

Earnings

Founders/managers in the small and medium business

Law and order

#### **Public administration**

Statistical data on foreign countries.

In June 2000 a delegation of the Republic of Lithuania, following Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, present a report at the UN Committee meeting in New York. The Committee notes some concluding comments:

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Lithuania for submitting its initial and second periodic reports. The reports follow the guidelines of the Committee and contain good statistical data disaggregated by sex.

2. Welcomes the fact that the Lithuanian Government followed the recommendations of the Beijing Platform for Action and approved two National Action Plans for 1996-1997 and 1998-2000, respectively, which are in accordance with the priorities of the Platform for Action.

3. Welcomes the fact that Lithuania ratified the Convention without reservations, and it intends to sign the Optional Protocol and to accept the amendment of article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Committee's meeting time.

4. Notes with satisfaction that both of the Government and the Parliament of Lithuania recognize the important role of increasing number of NGO's working on women's issues.

5. Notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Government to collect and publish annually all statistical data disaggregated by sex.

As the demand for the information on gender statistics increases, it is very important to use various sources of information efficiently. However, the problem of coordination of social surveys carried out by various institutions and utilization of their results remains. Another problem is the possibility to estimate the dimension of negative social phenomena (narcotics, alcoholism, asocial way of living). Due to different methodologies of calculation the comparability of some social indicators among countries is problematic.

To present statistics and indicators on women and men in various areas it is often appropriate to compile the data by statistical field. There are some reasons why data are not collected, (for example, time use, access to land, victims of violence) - difficult to quantify and measure, resources are limited and etc.

The following is a list of topics where data are particularly scarce:

- About the situation of women in the labour market, and particular about the fact that the official unemployment statistics do not take account of hidden unemployment of women nor of their informal employment and underemployment.
- About violence against women, especially domestic violence, the issue of trafficking women and girls.
- The high rate of abortions among women and lack of access to various methods of family planning, including contraceptives, especially among women in rural areas.
- Not enough information on the situation of rural women, especially older rural women, as concerns their cash income, health situation, access to free health care services and social and cultural opportunities.

Preparing statistical information and publications we established co-operation with other governmental and non-governmental women organisations. A booklet “Women and Men in Lithuania 1998” and the leaflets for the Conferences were published in collaboration with Women’s Issues Information Centre (WIIC).

Ever increasing number of users of gender statistics shows great demand of this kind of statistics: Government, Inter-Ministerial Commission of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Policy makers, NGO’s, Mass media, Ordinary people and etc.

There are publications of the Statistics Lithuania advertised on the office website. There is also a brief annotation of the publication “Women and Men in Lithuania” posted on the webpage. It would be useful to include gender website for better cooperation and communication among other countries.

In order to better analyse the needs of users and satisfy them a Workshop on Gender Statistics will be organised in October 2000, in Vilnius with participation WIIC, Statistics Sweden and representatives from Estonia and Latvia.