



Gender indicators and policies: linking statistics with policy initiatives

UNECE Statistical Division
Tiina Luige and Sofia Drenghsted-Nielsen



Background

- UNECE/UNDP regional gender statistics website project 2001-2002
 - part of Human Development Statistics and Social Trends Reporting in Eastern and Central Europe and the CIS
- “Gender statistics website for monitoring change”
- Aim
 - improve gender statistics
 - facilitate gender mainstreaming by providing statistical data that reflect gender issues in society
 - make gender statistics available to a wide range of users for policy monitoring and benchmarking



UNECE/UNDP gender website

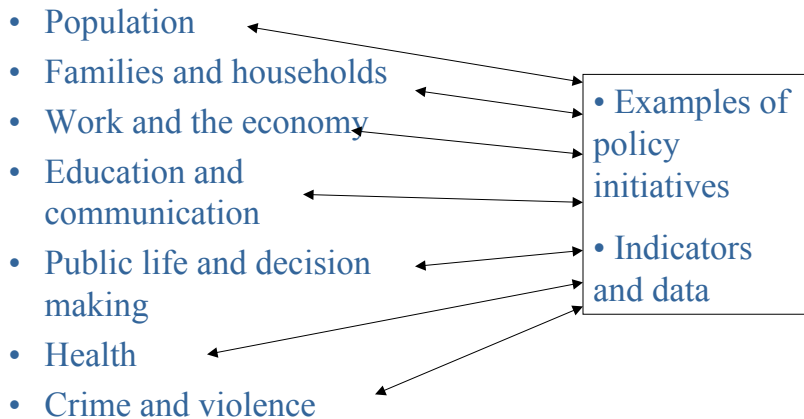
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- Launched in October 2000 in Orvieto
 - Workshop on Gender Statistics for Policy Monitoring and Benchmarking
- Started 2001, Task Force May 2001
- Website available April 2002, data in Oct. 2002
<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/>
- Task Force II – 25-26 September 2002



Policy areas

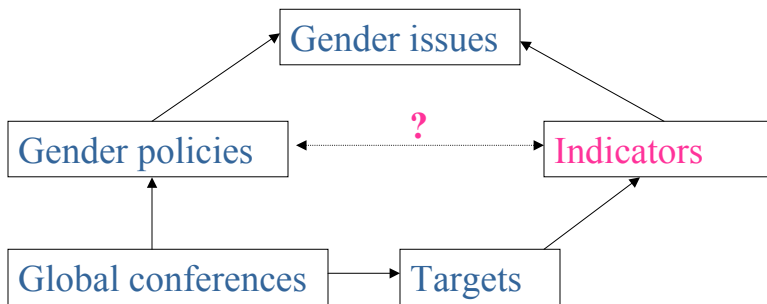
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Linking statistics and policies (1)

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Linking statistics and policies (2)

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- Are there indicators to monitor the situation in the identified areas of concern
- Is data available for these indicators
 - Areas where indicators/data are not available
 - Areas of concern without enough attention from policy makers
- How the data can be used for policy monitoring and benchmarking

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Linking statistics and policies: conclusions

- Difficult to directly link gender issues/policies and indicators
 - Policies areas interrelated
 - Influence of other factors – general economic situation, attitudes, changing conditions over time
 - Very detailed data needed
 - Statistics shows what is happening but not why
 - Data lacking about what is happening inside family, work unit
- Data can be used to pinpoint areas where policy intervention would be needed
 - Trends
 - Comparing similar/different countries

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Some areas with insufficient data:

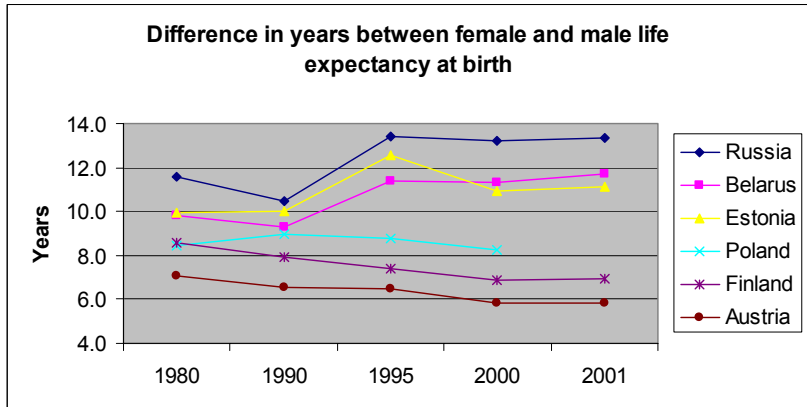
- Time-use
- Responsibility sharing within family
- Earnings
- Public life and decision making
 - especially women's representation in decision making in economy, media, education and judiciary system
- Health
- Violence and victims
- Gender attitudes and stereotypes

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Example 1: life expectancy at birth

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Example 2: retirement age

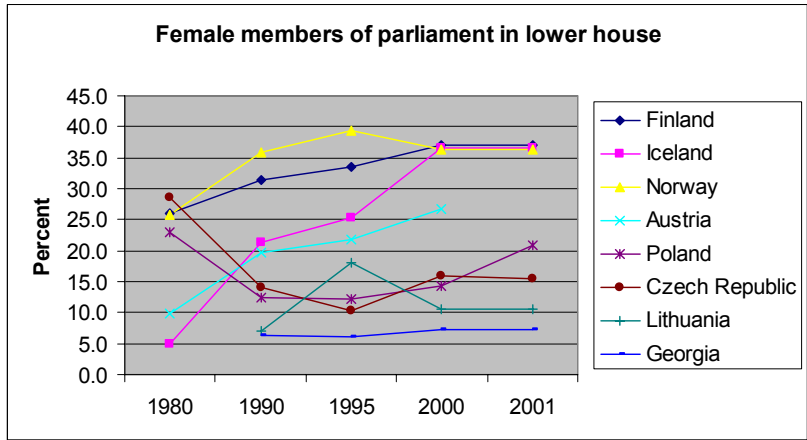
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2001	Women	Men	Difference
Finland	65	65	0
Iceland	67	67	0
United Kingdom	60	65	5
Estonia	58	63	5
Latvia	58	61	3
Romania	57	62	5
Belarus	55	60	5
Georgia	60	65	5
Russia	55	60	5

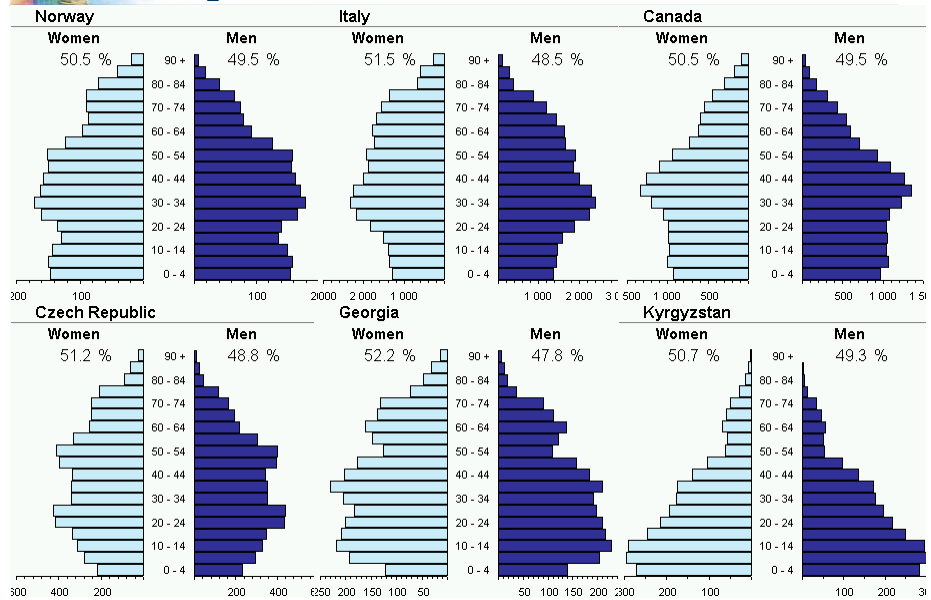


Example 3: members of parliament

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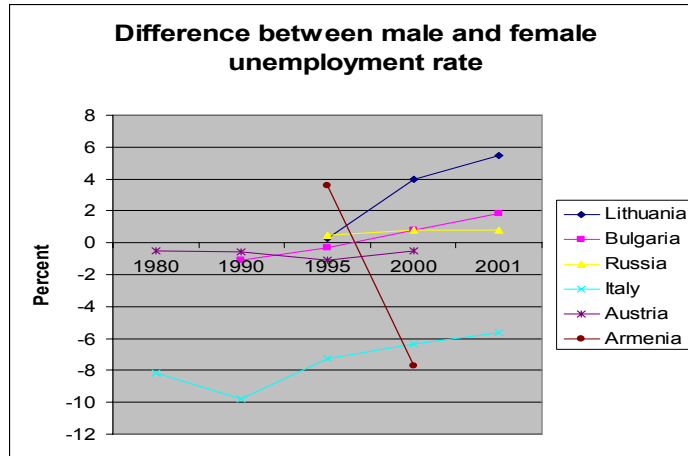


Example 4:



Example 5: male and female unemployment

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True benchmarking involves far more than quantitative data comparison. Additional analysis based on detailed qualitative information helps ‘understand behind numbers, what to change and how to change it.’

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Interrelatedness of different policy areas:

- gender-based stereotypes in choice of education => gender segregation of fields of study => gender segregation in occupation
- child-caring and other services supporting families
 - reduce vertical segregation of labour
 - responsibility sharing at home
 - encourage families to have more children

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Two types of policies:

- **practical, short-term objectives**

aim at solving concrete immediate problems or needs (e.g. concrete measures to increase women's presentation in public life and decision-making are legislation and quota system)

- **long-term strategies/strategic objectives**

target at the causes/roots of the problems (in the same case of women in decision making: high levels of female labor force, extent to which women's labor force activity is part-time and the nature of welfare benefits available, measures to facilitate reconciliation of political work and family life etc.)



New policy areas:

Environment:

For example the pilot project in Finland (*Gender Equality Perspective in planning, evaluation and decision-making concerning environment*)

- conducted by the Ministry of Environment from 1997 to 2000. One of the aims to enable women to participate in town planning and in improving the quality of their living environment.



Some trends in policies:

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- violence against women
- trafficking in women

These two issues are high on the political agenda both in the East and West. These are also priority areas for EU and UN/UNIFEM.

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Education

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- the human rights education, anti-discrimination on the basis of sex (*Life skills project* of the UNICEF)
- teachers' training on gender issues, so teachers can challenge gender stereotypes instead of confirming them.

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