

**ENGLISH ONLY**

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR  
EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN  
STATISTICIANS**

UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics  
Organized in cooperation with UNDP-UNFPA-WHO  
(Geneva, 18-20 October 2004)

**Session 3– Invited paper**

**GENDER STATISTICS IN EUROSTAT**  
Overview of projects and publications

Submitted by Eurostat\*

**I. EU POLICIES – GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

1. When the European Community was established in the 1950s, interpretation of the concept of equal opportunities was limited to the principle of equal remuneration. Nowadays, however, the principle of gender mainstreaming is integrated in EU policies and all aspects of gender equality are covered by the Framework Strategy on Gender Equality.
2. Four years ago the Council decided on a Framework Strategy on Gender Equality (2001 – 2005)<sup>1</sup> and under this strategy the Commission has written annual reports for the follow up of the progress and established annual work programmes.
3. In the strategy there is a straightforward demand for gender statistics which includes:
  - Development and dissemination of comparable statistics broken down by sex in different policy areas
  - Development of methodologies and indicators for evaluating policies and practices

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\* Paper prepared by Karin Winqvist.

<sup>1</sup> COM(2000) 335 final

- Publication of an annual report including the progress towards reaching of the benchmarks and the evaluation of the results reached.
4. In the annual work programmes one of the priority actions is the systematic collection of gender disaggregated data as input into the relevant policy area, and using these data to develop indicators

## II. EU POLICIES – SPECIFIC AREAS

5. To complement the strategy of gender mainstreaming there are also areas where special attention has been given to develop equal opportunities between women and men. Within the employment and social inclusion processes one finds a number of issues where it is important to emphasize gender equality. On a number of occasions the European Council has set specific objectives and asked that the progress should be followed closely.

- The **Lisbon** Council in March 2000 fixed the objective of 60% of women aged 15 – 64 being in employment by 2010
- The **Stockholm** Council in March 2001 posed as a priority full employment and more and better jobs. A target for increasing the average EU employment among older women and men (55 – 64) to 50% by 2010. The Council and the Commission were invited to develop indicators on pay differentials between women and men and on the provision of care for children and other dependants by 2002
- The **French** Presidency in October 2000 addressed the problem of reconciling work and family life and proposed indicators on child care and care of other dependants
- The **Barcelona** Council stated that member states should remove disincentives for the female labour force and strive to provide child care to at least 90% of those aged 3 to mandatory school age and at least 33% of children aged 0-3

6. The European Council and the Presidency ask nowadays for a strict follow up of progress towards agreed goals and there is thus an increasing need for European statistics. Indicators have been developed and negotiated at a high political level meaning that Eurostat is requested to produce gender statistics that are comparable across Europe. Often the agreed indicators do not build on precise concepts and definitions and the development of the methodology must be done in policy expert groups in co-operation with working groups of national statistical experts.

## III. EU POLICIES – AVAILABLE DATA AND PUBLICATION

7. Eurostat has adopted the idea of gender mainstreaming so that all data on individuals are collected by sex to the extent that they are available in the member states. Thus it is possible to include at least a presentation by sex in most publications on individuals. Gender statistics have been a special module in our work programme since 2003, and what is more important, gradually the awareness of gender analysis has grown as a result of promotion done within Eurostat. A couple of years ago, a catalogue was produced within a network of statisticians where all Eurostat statistics that could be broken down by sex were identified.

8. The ‘equal opportunities’ approach also applies to reports disseminated by the Commission. Normally gender mainstreaming should be applied, i.e. taking gender issues into account in all policy actions, so that all indicators on individuals are presented by sex. The Spring Report including structural indicators (systematically presented by sex since 2002) and the Annual Report on Equal Opportunities including indicators to measure progress of equal

opportunities (areas: paid work, income and pay, decision-making, knowledge and time-use) are presented to the annual Spring Council. Some changes in society happen very slowly and there is no real need for annual assessment. It would be possible to use other - adequate but less frequent - data sources but unfortunately they are seldom used in this context.

#### **IV. EUROSTAT – PRESENTATION OF GENDER STATISTICS**

9. Eurostat has published a large number of publications on gender issues. Short publications – Statistics in Focus – have covered, for example, education, entrepreneurs, temporary work contracts, persons working weekends, migration and elderly. They were mentioned in the previous UNECE working session on Gender Statistics in 2002. A Panorama publication - The Life of women and men in Europe - was published in 2002. A pocketbook – How Europeans spend their time – Everyday life of women and men - with results from 10 European countries was published recently.

10. Other Commission services have also produced publications - almost only about women - for example in the areas Agriculture, Science and Research. DG EMPL has launched a database on Women and Men in Decision Making which is available from their website. The following paragraphs describe in more detail the recent accomplishments of Eurostat.

#### **V. EUROSTAT – SPECIFIC AREAS**

##### *Gender pay gap*

11. The gender pay gap is an important indicator to assess the policies of the MS. It is a structural indicator that is published annually in the Spring Report to the European Council. The main data source up until now has been the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) and results are available as a time series between 1994 and 2001, which was the final year of the ECHP. This household survey covers all private households and therefore the gender pay gap is estimated globally for employees in all activities of the economy. Furthermore analysis can be performed linking a persons pay to variables describing the individual, the household and the enterprise. A drawback for follow up and analysis has been that the data have become available fairly late and that the sample sizes are limited. Some countries have argued that household data are less suitable for measuring earnings and they have provided estimates from their earnings surveys instead.

##### *Time Use Surveys*

12. A Gentlemen's agreement in the Statistical Programming Committee in 1994 was the initiation of Eurostat's development of Guidelines on Harmonised European Time Use Surveys (TUS). A working group has, for ten years, been a forum for the discussion of pilot surveys, development of guidelines and reports from national time use surveys. The result is that TUS have been conducted in 21 European countries between 1998 and 2004. The surveys have been financed by the countries and the focus on national time series rather than international comparisons means that the harmonisation is less good for some countries. However, comparable results can now be published for many countries.

##### *Household satellite accounts*

13. To quantify and value the unpaid work mostly done in households has been a major issue for a long time. Eurostat has supported this work with grants and the organisation of task force

meetings. The aim was eventually to be able to produce guidelines on how to set up household satellite accounts according to the criteria used in the National Accounts. So far it has not been possible to reach a conclusion on how these accounts should be produced. There are different approaches and the final report from the Eurostat task force gives an overview of these including a list of areas where there is need for more research.

### *Care*

14. From an employment perspective it is urgent to describe the obstacles for entering the labour market and the problems to reconcile work and family life. In the Employment Guidelines 2003, guideline no. 6, promoting gender equality, repeats the target set by the Barcelona Council. Therefore there has been a strong demand from the Council and the Commission services to develop indicators and statistics on child care and care of other dependants. The Indicators group of the Employment Committee has reached a decision on how to define these indicators more precisely. Care traditions are very different in different MS and feasibility studies have been carried out to see if it would be possible to produce statistics from national sources in both areas. Unfortunately there are significant problems of comparability.

## **VI. EUROSTAT – PLANS AS REGARDS TO GENDER STATISTICS**

15. Presentation of statistics will continue as before, also taking the gender aspect into account. In addition to this there are a number of areas with a strong demand for new statistics. To develop new comparable statistics is quite a lengthy process and in recent years Eurostat has prepared legal acts, in several areas, that will improve the information about gender issues. They concern employment, social inclusion and earnings.

### *Employment statistics*

16. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is naturally a very important source for analysis of gender differences. New variables ‘Supervisory responsibilities’ and ‘Lack of care facilities’ will be introduced from 2005 and will give additional knowledge on equal opportunities in the labour market. Each year there is an ad hoc module included in the EU-LFS. In 2005 the ad hoc module will treat reconciliation of work and family life. This module will cover eleven variables describing how child care and other care responsibilities are dealt with. It also aims to measure the take up of parental leave. The module is compulsory according to a Commission Regulation and has been developed in co-operation with the MS and DG EMPL.

### *Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)*

17. The new Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) gradually replaces the ECHP and results for all countries will be available for the reference year 2005. It is a household survey which is less extensive than the ECHP. It covers individual and household information but only a very limited set of enterprise variables. In the SILC there is information about many areas that should be analysed in a gender perspective. Income in detail, living conditions, poverty and social inclusion are examples and DG EMPL has been closely involved in the preparations of the survey. Child care variables have been introduced in the SILC and from this information it will be possible to measure the number of hours of child care for each child by type of care. Results from the first countries (excluding child care) will be available at the beginning of next year and for all MS in the beginning of 2007.

*Earnings statistics*

18. There are good possibilities that European earnings statistics will improve in the future from both enterprise and household surveys. Eurostat has the support from the European Statistical System to gradually introduce a system of earnings statistics that will cover the whole economy. The Structure of Earnings Survey (SES) will be conducted every fourth year 2002, 2006 etc and it will give information about earnings that can be linked to individual and enterprise variables. It will not give household information. On the other hand the SILC has variables to estimate gross hourly earnings at least for countries that have no other source for gross hourly earnings. There is also an ongoing test to see if it is possible to include a variable on earnings in the LFS.

19. Micro data are collected by Eurostat for LFS, SILC and SES.

*Time Use Surveys*

20. The Time Use Surveys project has now reached a final stage and it is expected to collect micro data from the national TUS. The micro data will be harmonised and stored in a data base. Programmes will be developed in order to produce statistical time use tables that are accessible via electronic media.

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