

**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 – Supporting paper**

**THE USE OF DATABASE ON GENDER STATISTICS: UKRAINE'S EXPERIENCE**

Submitted by State Statistics Committee, Ukraine \*

1. Gender statistics cover a wide range of sectors. This necessitates the application of a complex approach that would take into account the multi aspects of nature and relationships. The ties between the different aspects of social and economic problems are taken into account in all stages of planning and implementation of the work program in the area of gender statistics.
2. In Ukraine, the branch of gender statistics started developing quite recently (since 1996). That is why for Ukraine studying the experiences accumulated by international organizations and other countries in this area is very relevant. This applies to all stages of work in the area of gender statistics, beginning with the identification of a system for indicators, the studying of sources for data collection, the development of the methodology for data collection, the compilation of publications, and making international comparisons. One of the basic sources for the required information on these issues are the UNECE-UNDP web site and Databases on Gender Statistics.
3. In the context of the efforts taken to improve the methodology, the complex approach was singled out with respect to the four main sources of gender statistics which are as follows:
  1. censuses of the population and sample surveys of households;
  2. censuses of enterprises and sample surveys of enterprises;
  3. different types of administrative accounting (certificates of registration of birth, death, marriage and divorce, and migration; card index of labor exchanges, agencies of compulsory insurance for unemployment, industrial injuries, retirement; card indexes that belong to the social security bodies; card indexes of health care departments, departments of education and culture, departments dealing with the defense of legal rights or laws; treasury data on execution of the budget for social expenditures, etc.);
  4. statistical register.

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4. These different sources differ in character and information derived from them. They also could be different in coverage and frequency, notions and their definitions, units of measurement, costs of work, quality and efficiency of data, etc. Some distinctions stem from the nature of a source. In some aspects they could be advantageous and in others disadvantageous. Thus, data from one source could better meet the needs of one group of users, while the other group may prefer another source. Therefore, the different sources should be considered mutually complemented rather than interchangeable.

5. The government's administrative bodies, within the framework of their ordinary efficient procedures, connected with the control and estimations of their activities collect different social and economic data. These data present a very large source of information meant to produce a complex basis for gender statistics for the purpose of developing indicators that would characterize the opportunities that exist for men and women in the economic and social life. However, the coordination of these statistics within the integrated framework and given the need to break down the data by sex creates a lot of problems related to the application of common classifications, concepts and definitions as to different areas and sources of statistical data. There could be also problems of timeliness and confidentiality. Therefore, these data are useful indicators in many cases, but they should go through a thorough examination and correction before they would be combined with the common system of gender indicators.

6. The main goal for carrying out the activities in gender statistics is to fully include the four basic sources through their use as mutually complemented ones. In this context, the efforts are made to encourage the enlargement of the usage, when it is possible, of the common definitions, concepts and classifications that would be applied for all different sources.

7. To be able to get gender statistics and other types of statistics coordinated within the integrated framework, the Ukraine's Law On the State Statistics specifies the relationships between the state statistics offices and other agencies that represent the power, local administration authorities, other legal persons that are engaged in activities associated with the collection, and usage of administrative data. The law foresees the following:

- a compulsory coordination of the methodology and reporting documentation which have to do with the collection and usage of administrative data with the state statistics offices;
- on request of the state statistics offices, there should be submission of administrative data that were obtained by bodies which are engaged in activities associated with collection and usage of administrative data for free;

8. In principle, this ensures the employment of the common classifications, concepts and definitions related to the different areas and data sources.

9. Administrative data are used as relatively cheap sources of current information on gender statistics both in Ukraine and many other countries in the world. Given the large number of regular registrations carried out by administrative authorities, Ukraine makes use of them to obtain social data both for the national and sub-national (regional, district) levels.

10. In order to enlarge the scale and advance the compatibility of sources and the data derived from them for gender indicators, Ukraine employs the following strategies and methods:

- coordination and reconciliation of statistical concepts, classifications and definitions;
- employment of the coordinated of complex surveys of households (population);

- expansion of the possibilities to produce the special tables and make analysis and estimations that facilitate the compilation of publications with gender statistical data and indicators.

11. When performing the mentioned operations, the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine is frequently focused on the information posted on the UNECE-UNDP web site and databases on gender statistics. The work with such material helps identify the gaps in data.

### **How could we improve the use of the web site and databases on gender statistics?**

12. The efforts made by the UNECE-UNDP in improving the use of the web site and databases on gender statistics should be appreciated. Statistical services regularly conduct the polls among the potential users of these data. The polls deal with the situations that occur in gender statistics and use of the web site and databases on gender statistics as sources for work. However, regrettably, the poll results were not highlighted on the web site. This approach can be used as one of the strands to improve the usage of materials with respect to sharing international experiences. Of special benefit could be the publications regarding international experiences on how to apply the national legislation in the area of statistics as a mechanism to have an impact on the quality of gender statistics data obtained from different sources.

### **Should the themes be excluded and/or new themes be included to the UNECE-UNDP database?**

13. An issue related to updating themes in the UNECE-UNDP database on gender statistics should begin with considering their current list and availability of indicators. Currently, the database on gender statistics has the following themes, namely:

- population
- education
- employment
- the opportunities for women and men in the economic and political activities
- health
- use of time
- law violations

14. Proceeding from the list of themes in databases, this list could be identified as being rather sufficient (does not require additional updating). However, when studying the list of indicators, which represent different themes, one could spot some gaps in data. Particularly, this applies to *health* theme. This theme presents the least number of indicators as compared to such themes as *population, education, and employment*. The theme *health* contains an indicator that characterizes a percent of the government expenditures for health care as compared to the GDP, indicators that characterize women and men with HIV/AIDS, indicators that show the consumption of tobacco, and the spread of excess weight.

15. At the same time, one branch of the EU activity for the next five years (harmonized with the UN activity) is the struggle against the illegal distribution of drugs and prevention of their use. Therefore, the majority of countries have implemented or are implementing the information network that would collect the required data needed to identify the approaches to resolve drug-related problems. The work is under way to improve the methodology for data collection; in this area of statistics, five indicators have been identified. It is quite evident that the data production in this area should take into account the gender principles and a need to supplement databases on

gender statistics with indicators that characterize the drug addiction problem. So the list of such indicators could be as follows:

- number of drug addicts with break down by sex as those that are on the books or newly registered;
- number of problematic drug addicts with break down by sex (injected drug addicts);
- deaths as a result of drug consumption with break down by sex;
- spread of infectious diseases among drug addicts – HIV/AIDS, hepatitis (with break down by sex)

16. Given the emergence of such problem as people trafficking, there is a need to supplement the theme, *law violations*, with the relevant indicators that would take into account gender approach. The criminal legislation adopted in many countries have amendments that specify such cases as crimes and accordingly identify the procedures used for their registration and reflection in statistical reports that deal with defense of legal rights or law. The usage of these data could be versatile:

- expertise of the national legislation that deals with the position of women;
- cooperation with the government and non-government organizations, international organizations with the purpose of preventing the people trafficking and giving assistance to the victims;
- publication of information materials and bulletins on people trafficking problems;
- conducting seminars on problems related to prevention of people trafficking.

#### **Whether the UNECE-UNDP database is valid at the country's level?**

17. As for validity of database at the national level, the answer to that question is positive. Besides, the work with database at the national level helps develop lists for gender indicators to estimate the situations at regional levels. For Ukraine this approach is important since the state administrative system consists of twenty-seven regions. In order to develop active national gender policies, it is necessary to get hold of regional data which could be widely adopted. This concerns, especially, the implementation of the UNDP actions in Ukraine within the framework of *Program of Equal Possibilities* which is implemented at the regional level as well as procedures for preparing publications on the position of women and men in the country.

#### **How to improve the communication with users?**

18. As to improvement of ties with users of the web site and the UNECE-UNDP database on gender statistics, the proposals could be standard. First of all, they should be based on disseminating inter-country experiences on how the mentioned instruments are to be used. To this end, it is necessary to stick to the practice of regularly questioning the potential users about the practice of database application.

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