

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Workshop on Gender Statistics
Vilnius, Lithuania, 30-31 May 2016

3 July 2016

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

I. Organization and attendance

1. This capacity-building workshop on gender statistics was organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and Statistics Lithuania, with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Account.
2. The target audience was experts dealing with gender statistics in national statistical offices in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).
3. The workshop was attended by participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. UNFPA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), CIS-Stat, the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) were also represented.

II. Purpose

4. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to disseminate and communicate gender statistics, and to understand the role of gender-oriented indicators in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

III. Summary of proceedings

5. The workshop consisted of four substantive sessions over two days: Gender indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Dissemination of gender statistics; Working with users of gender statistics; and an information session on the OECD Development Centre's Social Institutions & Gender Index.

6. The agenda and presentations are available on the meeting page of the UNECE website¹.

7. In the first session, UNECE provided an overview of the current state and plans for review and appraisal of the 2030 Agenda at the global and regional levels. This was followed by a presentation on data availability for gender-oriented Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators in EECCA countries. Participants from Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine presented their current activities in relation to gender in the SDGs, their concerns and plans for developing statistics to fill in the gaps.

8. The second session began with an overview of national 'Women and Men' publications in EECCA countries, presented by UNECE. An expert from Statistics Sweden then used the example of the Swedish Women and Men publication to introduce ways to improve the dissemination of gender statistics. Presentations of national and international experiences in the production of gender statistics publications were given by representatives of Switzerland, Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, Tajikistan, CIS-Stat and the Republic of Moldova.

9. Session two continued with a group work exercise led by the expert from Sweden, entitled 'Interpreting findings and formulating key messages'. Participants were asked to consider gender-related issues or problems in a range of thematic areas, identifying their possible causes and consequences. They then had to consider how each of these might be measured and what indicators could be used. Discussion among participants revealed a high level of interest in and knowledge about gender issues, their causes and consequences.

10. In the third session, UNECE presented a toolkit for NSOs to use in providing training to users of their gender statistics², and explained its development, recent revisions, current use and plans for further use. Participants were encouraged to make use of the toolkit in the training activities undertaken by their respective offices. They were also invited to inform the secretariat if they wished to request UNECE's assistance in developing national capacity-building activities to help staff use the toolkit effectively.

11. Continuing the third session, an expert from CIS-Stat gave a presentation about their guidebook on gender statistics, focusing on the reasons for its production, the demand for gender statistics, and the challenges faced.

12. The fourth session consisted of a presentation by an expert from the OECD Development Centre, explaining the Social Institutions and Gender Index and how it has been constructed and applied in the EECCA countries. Participants discussed the statistical challenges in production of the index, findings and their interpretation.

¹ www.unece.org/stats/documents/2016.5_gender_workshop.html

² Available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/toolkit.html>

13. Workshop participants were invited to visit the premises of Statistics Lithuania, where representatives from Lithuania gave a presentation of the Lithuanian system of official statistics, an overview of their preparation of gender statistics, and a demonstration of their new dissemination platform.

IV. Conclusions

14. The workshop was considered by participants to be a good opportunity for exchanging experience and knowledge on national and regional best practices in dissemination and communication of gender statistics. Participants especially appreciated the opportunity to discuss the position of gender statistics within the SDGs.
