

Assessing policymakers' needs for gender statistics: examples from a UNECE Task Force

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Workshop on Gender Statistics for EECCA Countries: Finding and Filling Gaps in Gender Statistics for SDG Monitoring

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STATISTICS





Why the Task Force?

- (Gender) statistics are most valuable to users when they are easily found and accessed, and when users find them relevant and understandable
- Responsibility of NSOs does not stop at production, nor even at dissemination
- NSOs must communicate gender statistics: promote awareness, understanding and use



Role of National Statistical Offices



STATISTICS

Fundamental Principles: bit.ly/UNECE_FPs

- Relevance, impartiality and equal access:

“official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies”

“To meet the test of practical utility statistics must be relevant, of suitable quality and in a form that facilitates easy and correct use.

The key to achieving this is maintaining an understanding of users’ needs”

United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: Implementation Guidelines (UNSD 2015)



Shared challenges

- Growing importance of communication across *all* statistical domains
 - High Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) flagship project on strategic communications
 - UNECE 'Making Data Meaningful' series
 - Communication becoming ever more crucial in many areas: censuses, statistics for SDGs, migration statistics...



... but also unique challenges

- Wide range of policy areas in which gender statistics are needed: health, education, social services, work, justice, transport, urban planning....
- Wide range of sources & dissemination products
- Equally wide variation in statistical literacy of policymakers
- Sensitivity and/or inherent political nature of some topics → what constitutes 'neutral'?



- Electronic guidance notes on:
 - Communicating the gender pay gap
 - Communicating statistics on gender-based violence
 - The language of gender in statistical communication
 - Maintaining impartiality when communicating gender statistics
 - Interacting with users of gender statistics
 - Addressing data gaps
- Collection of good practices
- 'Living' web platform



Interacting with users

- Identify different user groups and treat them as distinct
- Assess data needs and statistical capacities
- Tailor dissemination & communication approaches accordingly
- Assess regularly: don't assume needs are static

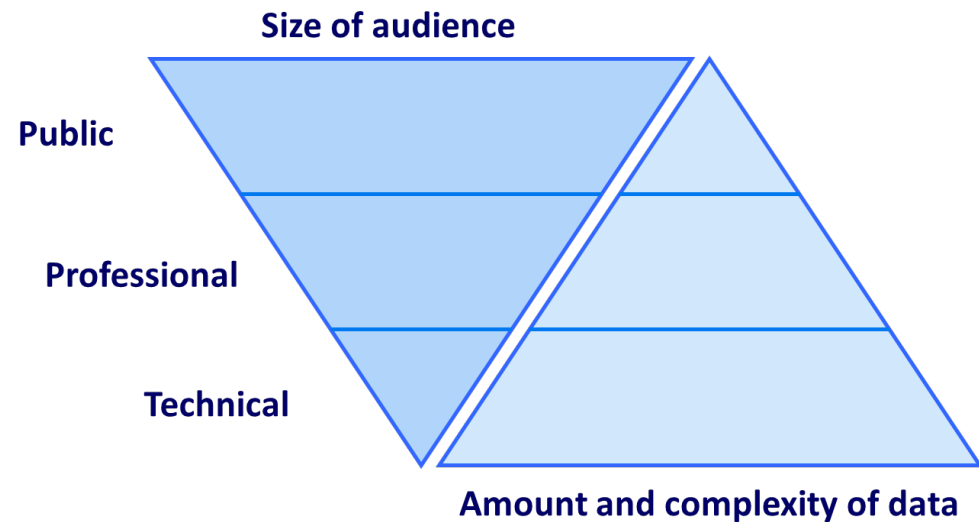


Cakes



Like cakes, users of statistics have many layers

The needs of policymakers are not the same as the needs of the general public





Specificities of policymakers?

- Producer-user gap is particularly pronounced for policymaker user group
- Translation from technical language
- Navigate culture that is not based on data-driven decisions
- Limited sensitivity to or awareness of gender issues





Assessing needs



- NSO-wide user surveys (e.g. generic survey included as Annex 3 in *UNECE Recommendations for Promoting, Measuring and Communicating the Value of Official Statistics*)
 - Work with survey designers to ensure gender-relevant aspects are included in surveys
 - Develop stakeholder-specific or subject-matter-specific user surveys
 - Obtain and analyze results relevant to use of gender statistics by policymakers



Republic of Moldova

- User Satisfaction Surveys
- Users want more data online; more data analysis & interpretation; more guidance in selection of appropriate indicators for policymaking

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

- Workshops with users (including UNECE workshops in 2017 & 2018)
- Round tables for producers and users

Armenia

- Mapping of stakeholders & consultation on improved gender stats publication



Other examples

- Annual meetings
- Steering groups
- Round tables with stakeholders
- User training seminars or workshops

→ Add your examples to our repository for the Task Force! (more on this in the Work Session on Wednesday)



Examples beyond gender statistics

UNECE collection of good practices ('putting customers at the centre' / 'meet user needs')

<https://statswiki.unece.org/x/fARXBw>

- Ireland: 'Liaison Groups'
 - Topic-specific groups of key stakeholders that meet regularly to discuss methodology & data needs
- Israel: tailor-made 'quick products' for government
 - E.g. to meet specific data needs of ministries for decision-making

Thank you for your attention!

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STATISTICS





1. **How do you know** what kinds of gender statistics policymakers need and in what format they need them?
2. **What do you do** in your country to ensure that you are meeting the gender statistics needs of policymakers?
3. **Have you changed** the way you do this?
 - Why? What made you change?
 - (Or why not? What might trigger a change in the future?)