UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

INF.2.
9 September 2020

Online meetings on gender statistics
12 October 2020, 09:00-12:00 CEST (focus on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus & Central Asia)
13-14 October 2020, 14:00-17:00 CEST

INVITATION TO REGISTER AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

> **Submit abstract:** bit.ly/AbstractUNECEGenderStats2020 **by Friday 18 September**
> **Register:** bit.ly/RegisterUNECEGenderStats2020 **by Friday 2 October**

I.   BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) organizes Work Sessions on Gender Statistics every 18 months to exchange experience and advance international work in gender statistics. In light of restrictions on travel and health protection measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the next in-person Work Session on Gender Statistics is postponed until September 2021, when it will take place back-to-back with the Global Forum on Gender Statistics in Bern, Switzerland. In the intervening period, UNECE is convening online meetings to provide gender statistics focal points an opportunity to review the methodological work carried out by UNECE task forces in gender statistics, present effective responses to COVID-19, and address emerging topics.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has affected statistical production across the region with unique implications for gender statistics. The online meetings provide an opportunity for gender statistics experts to share crisis-response experiences and consider priorities and best practices for measuring the impact of the pandemic on women and men. Commonalities among countries in the region in statistical operations, outbreak timing, and containment policies make the topic relevant for regional consideration.

Two online meetings will take place over three days:

A.   Gender statistics in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

Monday 12 October, 09:00-12:00 CEST (Geneva time)

(10:00-13:00 Chisinau/Kyiv/Minsk/Moscow, 11:00-14:00 Tbilisi/Yerevan, 12:00-15:00 Ashgabat/Tashkent/Dushanbe, 13:00-16:00 Bishkek/Nursultan).

B.   Measuring gender issues at times of the pandemic

Tuesday 13 October & Wednesday 14 October, 14:00-17:00 CEST (Geneva time).

II.   PARTICIPATION

The target audience of the meetings will be statisticians in national statistical offices and international organizations responsible for gender statistics. Representatives of academia, civil society and other individuals may also register and will be able to participate subject to available capacity.

Only registered participants will be able to connect to the meetings. To register please complete the online registration form at bit.ly/RegisterUNECEGenderStats2020 by Friday 2 October 2020. Connection links and instructions for joining the events will be sent out by email approximately one week before the meetings.

The working languages of the meetings are English and Russian. The organizers expect to provide simultaneous interpretation in these languages. Abstracts should be submitted and presentations delivered in English or Russian only.

III.   CONTRIBUTIONS

The meetings will consist of informational sessions which present the results and progress of methodological work carried out by UNECE task forces in gender statistics and thematic sessions with presentations by invited experts and meeting participants (See section IV).

No written papers are requested. The events will consist of short presentations (5-7 minutes, maximum 5 slides) followed by facilitated discussions. You may signal your wish to give a presentation during the events by submitting an abstract of approximately 300 words outlining your proposed contribution. Abstracts should be submitted in English or Russian via the online form at bit.ly/AbstractUNECEGenderStats2020 by Friday 18 September 2020.

> **Abstracts should aim to be forward-looking with the goal of providing information that is useful for others: e.g. highlighting findings or experiences that could offer valuable lessons learned; and/or showing how these experiences will inform future approaches**

The limited time available for the meetings means that only a selection of abstracts received will be accepted for presentation at the meeting. The CES Steering Group on Gender Statistics will select the abstracts to be presented. Selected presenters will be given full instructions and deadlines for preparing their presentations and for the conduct of the online event. All abstracts received will be made available on the meeting website and may be used to inform future online discussions.

IV.   EXPLANATORY NOTES ON SESSIONS

Gender Statistics in Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia (Monday 12 October)

Gender, entrepreneurship and trade

Gender-responsive trade policies requires sound national statistics. Statistical authorities, however, in most cases lack data and tools for the measurement of gender and trade. Methods and procedures for the collection of sex-disaggregated data, and the analysis of gender-focused statistics related to trade and entrepreneurship have to be developed and shared among countries. To develop a coherent approach to measuring the impact of trade on gender equality using official statistics, and building on the existing statistical data and capacity of countries, UNCTAD, UNECE and UNECA launched the project "Data and statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies in Africa, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia" (2020-2023). During this session, UNCTAD will present progress on methodological work in the area. **Contributions are invited** that share experience measuring the link between trade, entrepreneurship and gender. This session is expected to spearhead a dialogue between the trade and the statistics communities.

SDG indicators and their disaggregation

The United Nations Statistical Commission has agreed that improving data disaggregation is fundamental for the full implementation of the SDG indicator framework and has stressed that efforts should be made to develop the necessary statistical standards and tools. For this purpose, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators created a dedicated work stream on data disaggregation. The session will include presentation on gender-related aspects of this work and on other statistical work demonstrating progress with SDGs through the gender lens. **Contributions are invited** that share experience in producing sex-disaggregated data on SDG indicators.

Measuring gender issues at times of the pandemic (Tuesday 13 October, Wednesday 14 October)

Solutions to COVID-19 challenges

The COVID-19 crisis had an immediate effect on statistical systems, generating unprecedented demand for reliable and timely statistics while simultaneously interrupting data collection operations and threatening the quality and volume of available data. Gender issues attracted attention from the outset of the crisis. Women made up a large proportion of the care and service staff on the front lines of the immediate crisis response. Questions surrounding the economic impact on women and men, the burden of childcare amidst school closures, and the

link between social isolation measures and gender-based violence placed gender statistics at the forefront of NSO responses to the crisis.

These challenges also presented opportunities for innovation and the rapid introduction of new methods, products, and services in service of timely gender statistics. By the time of the meeting, experts will have reflected on immediate crisis responses and identified the most effective solutions. **Contributions are invited** that share good practices for gender statistics in times of crisis and beyond.

Priorities for gender statistics in aftermath of COVID-19

The social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis will last far longer than the pandemic itself. As a result, the renewed demand for sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics will persist after the immediate monitoring needs of the pandemic are met. As gender issues receive more public attention in the aftermath of the crisis, there may be increased investment in gender statistics and opportunities to adapt existing instruments or introduce new products to improve quality and volume of gender statistics. **Contributions are invited** that present national and regional priorities for gender statistics in the context of measuring the impacts of COVID-19.

Communicating gender statistics

A key priority for national statistical offices (NSOs) is to present statistical information clearly, in ways that maximize impact and usefulness. NSOs are increasingly recognizing that communication is a two-way process, not limited only to dissemination. NSOs face communication challenges across all statistical domains, but some challenges are uniquely felt in the field of gender statistics. With this in mind, a UNECE task force has developed guidance and a collection of good practice examples on communicating gender statistics. **Contributions are invited** that share country experiences in communicating gender statistics and addressing the challenges in this field.

Measurement of gender identity

In February 2019, the CES Bureau conducted an in-depth review of the measurement of gender identity, based on a paper by Statistics Canada and the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics. As follow-up, a task team was set up in early 2020 to work together with the UNECE Secretariat on the creation and development of a new regional networking platform on the measurement of gender identity. The task team will present the progress of this activity, and request feedback from the participants. **Contributions are invited** that share country experiences in the measurement of sexual identity.

Measurement of sexual orientation

In recent years, much progress has been made in many countries with regard to legislation that is supportive and protective of LGBT populations (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender

persons). Yet, sexual and gender minorities are far less studied in quantitative research than many other minority groups. Partly this is related to the numerous challenges associated with collecting suitable survey data, including the lack of internationally agreed standards. **Contributions are invited** that share country experiences in the measurement of sexual orientation.