UNECE Task Team on Measuring Gender Identity: launch of online resource

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Gender identity: background

• About how people identify
• May not match their sex registered at birth
• Not necessarily male or female (for example, people may identify as something in between)
• Growing recognition and interest
Scale

• In 2021, 0.65% of adults in England aged 16 and over did not identify with their sex registered at birth

• This is 1 in 150 people

Source: GP Patient Survey (a large sample of patients of National Health Service local doctors)
Gender identity: impact on gender statistics

• In a traditional male / female gender question, people may not provide their birth sex

• Answers could be a mixture of birth sex, lived gender and self-perceived gender

• Many statistics on gender and gender equality will be affected to some extent!
Measuring gender identity: challenges

• New topic
• Contested and evolving terminology
• Complex relationship between biological sex, gender and gender identity
• Country-specific contexts: cultural, linguistic, legal, political, statistical
UNECE Task Team on Measuring Gender Identity

• Recommended by CES Bureau In-depth Review of Measuring Gender Identity report (2019)

• Task: developing a networking platform to help experts in the field communicate developments and share information and material

• Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and UNECE
Outcome: online resource

• Survey of national statistical organisations working on the measurement of gender identity (34 responses)

• Summaries for five themes:
  • Terminology
  • Existing questions and testing
  • Legal context
  • Standards
  • Dissemination

• Additional reference materials
Outcome: online resource (continued)

• Available to national statistical organisations working (or beginning to work) on the topic

• Password protected on the UNECE Wiki (request access through the Secretariat)

• Proposed to have periodic updates, but let Secretariat know if you spot things that need changing!
Any questions?

(Freeware image by Camylla Battani, via Unsplash)