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UNSD Questionnaire on National Gender Statistics Programmes and Activities *

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PART A: BACKGROUND

1. Please provide the following background information

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Institution, department or unit: National Institute of Statistics

Persons/Institutions consulted (attach a list if applicable): Directorate of Equal Opportunities (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)

PART B: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

2. Is there a special unit/desk/focal point responsible for gender statistics in your National Statistical Office (NSO)?

_____ Yes ___x___ No

On a general level, there is a lack of awareness of gender issues. The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms as well are weak. Although there exists a statistical capability to monitor and analyse, the current production of gender data faces some difficult problems:

The legal instrument who ensure collection of data from administrative sources and who support the activities of INSTAT is the National Statistical Program, approved in 1993.

Until now there is only one expert under the Social Research Center- INSTAT responsible for this issue. Its work is mainly related with the collection of the information (Data) regarding gender issues and the preparation of the **publication “Women and Man in Albania”**. Despite that fact, the gender statistics are becoming important among the INSTAT priorities for the future plans.

Meanwhile NSO through the support of Swedish SIDA is working on the following directions:

- to build up capacities for gender statistics within the NSO.
- to develop the gender statistics, and establish and maintain a network of main users and producers of gender statistics in Albania.
- to formulate a strategy in overcoming overall gender blindness

PART C: GENDER STATISTICS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

User-producer dialogue

3. Has your NSO established a user-producer group for gender statistics?

___x___ Yes _____ No

Regarding the user – producer dialogue it has been established recently a group of user-producer group for gender statistics, (preliminarily consisting of representatives from INSTAT, Women’s Center Tirana,

and the Committee for Equal Opportunities) in order to develop better statistics for monitoring gender-related issues.

The list of producers of gender statistics in Albania covers 36 bodies, including INSTAT, various ministries, and various NGOs including such international bodies as UNDP and UNICEF. The ministries have responsibilities for collecting statistics related to their policy areas and to publish them in yearly reports. Their statistical units generally cooperate with INSTAT.

The ex Committee for Equal Opportunities now called the Directorate of Equal Opportunities and various other NGOs are also important parties in disseminating information on gender issues. They commonly have training programs in gender issues for staff at government departments, universities etc. both at local and regional levels.

An ECE Focal point for gender statistics was established within INSTAT to coordinate gender statistics production in Albania, and to disseminate ECE gender statistics among the government departments and research establishments.

Some of the more important stakeholders are listed below:

INSTAT

INSTAT is the main source of gender statistics in Albania. Almost all gender statistics are based on administrative records, such as

- Population (Vital Statistics Office)
- Education (Ministry of Education)
- Employment and unemployment (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
- Wages (only public administration)

All available statistics on gender issues are included in a (yearly) publication, entitled: “Women and Men in Albania”. The last one was published in 1997. In a limited way, gender statistical indicators are also found in specific publications such as:

- Annual structure survey on enterprises,
- Living Standards Measurements Survey (LSMS) results,
- Population census results.

Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is responsible for employment data. It is very hard to measure the informal labor market, and the focus is only on Tirana. Labor inspectors attached to the local labor offices check the enterprises for registered and non-registered employees. The data on employment is disaggregated by sex. The local labor offices also compile unemployment figures. There is a data gap in social services, disability etc.

In cooperation with the Institute of Social Insurance, the Ministry keeps two business registers, one on small and one on big enterprises. These registers do not contain data disaggregated by sex.

Institute of Public Health

The Institute maintains a database in health care (aggregated data). The database contains data on e.g. demographic variables, various diseases, water pollution, infant mortality and life expectancy. It is an Access database, run with technical support from WHO. There is no connection with the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS).

About 50 percent of the health care in Tirana is provided by the private sector. As there is no obligation for this sector to submit data, data collection constitutes a great problem. A health care publication is to be published in October 2004.

Ministry of Health

Together with INSTAT, the Ministry of Health produces health statistics. The information is based on registers from hospitals and public health centers. The statistics include a program on maternal health, financed by US-AID, but the quality of the data is uncertain.

There is also a pilot study going on (together with US-AID), intended to get a diagnosis on the health situation. All health institutes are involved. It is quite obvious that women and men suffer from different diseases.

Generally, the Institute suffers from a lack of human and computer resources.

The Committee for Equal Opportunities

In 2001 the Committee for Equal Opportunities was established by Government decree. It was based on the existing Committee on Women and Family. Its main objective is “the implementation of Government policies on women and family”.

The Committee has five policy areas, monitoring trends and developments in:

- Decision making
- Social programs
- Economic fields
- Health issues
- Education issues

Women’s Center Tirana

Women’s Center has established a “Gender alliance for development”. It organizes training activities covering gender sensitisation, gender and sex, gender stereotypes, gender statistics (in cooperation with INSTAT), and gender training for various professions.

The Center experiences a lack of sex-disaggregated data and a comprehensive report of gender issues. The Center’s training teams include both women and men from both governmental and non-governmental organizations. There are presently four gender trainers at the Center and 30 gender trainers at universities and governmental organizations. Their duty is to mainstream a gender perspective among teachers, university professors, local government managers, and lawyers. Since 1999 the Center has contacts with the Swedish NGO “Kvinna till Kvinna”.

Presentation and dissemination of gender statistics

4. *Please attach a list of the main publications (posters, brochures, booklets, analytical reports, web-sites) on statistics on women, women and men and/or gender statistics published by your NSO. Include the following details for all relevant publications: title, year of publication, format (book, poster, CD-ROM, internet), and frequency of publication (one-time, quarterly, annual, bi-annual, every five years).*

1. The publication “Women and Man in Albania”, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005
2. Gender perspectives in Albania (based on the results of census 2001). The goal of this study was to analyze: How the internal migration, influence the life of the woman and men in Albania. Periodical publications, survey and different studies ; INSTAT
3. Website: INSTAT.gov.al

5. Which of these publications (one or two) have been particularly effective in improving the accessibility of gender statistics in your country? What criteria have been applied to assess their effectiveness?

The publication “Women and Man in Albania” has been particularly effective.

6. Did your NSO receive technical/financial or another type of external input to produce any of the publications identified as most effective? Yes No

If yes,

a. Please identify the types of input (technical, financial, etc.) and sources (organization) used for each of the publications identified as most effective.

Is important to be mentioned that this INSTAT publication is produced in close collaboration with the Directorate of Equal Opportunities.

Collection and compilation of gender statistics

7. Has the NSO been involved in or conducted a survey, or a component of a survey (survey module), on specific gender issues? Yes No

If yes,

a. Please attach a list of the surveys or survey modules on specific gender issues that the NSO has conducted or has been involved in. Include the following details for all relevant surveys or survey modules: title, date, type of survey (household, institutional), coverage (national, sub-national), primary institution conducting the survey, role of the NSO, frequency of the survey (one-time survey, every five years).

Since 2000, INSTAT has carried out the following surveys that collect many information on gender issues:

- MICS Survey 2000 : Household survey , national coverage, UNICEF technical and financial support
- MICS Survey 2005: Household survey, national coverage, UNICEF technical and financial support
- LSMS Survey 2002: Household survey, national coverage, WB technical and financial support
- LSMS Survey 2005: Household survey, national coverage, WB technical and financial support

b. Has any of these surveys become a regular part of the work-programme of the NSO?

Yes
 No

LSMS Survey

8. Does your NSO have a specific gender-sensitive initiative to improve the coverage and measurement of such specific topics as economic participation, literacy, school attendance, etcetera, through the population and housing census?

Yes Please, briefly describe this initiative.
 No

9. Does your country have a specific initiative to collect/compile gender-sensitive data from administrative sources on such topics as decision-making, crime and violence, access to credit/land, etc?

Yes No

Capacity-building Activities

10. In the past five years, has your NSO conducted a workshop/seminar/conference on issues related to gender statistics? Yes No

PART D: WORK-PLAN ON GENDER STATISTICS

11. Does your NSO have a specific work-plan on gender statistics?

Yes No

If yes,

a. Please attach a copy of the current plan or describe briefly the main activities included in the plan.

Some of the main activities included in the plan:

- To start working on two aspects on how to improve gender statistics and how to fill in the data gaps. The co-operation between users and producers of statistics is going to help in this process.
- To define new ways of how to improve presentation of statistics to better reflect gender concerns
- To introduce basic tables and graphs and some general recommendations to easily see the gender dimension in statistics
- To start working with general "Guidelines for work with gender statistics"

b. What is the period covered by the current work-plan?

Start date: 2006 End date: 2007

c. What are the current priority areas?

Poverty, labor market

d. What are the main outputs expected?

Reliable disaggregated data for the abovementioned areas, Reports.

12. Are current gender statistics activities a part of the regular budget of your NSO?

Yes, all Yes, some No

a. Please list the external sources of funding

Swedish SIDA agency

PART E: MAINSTREAMING GENDER STATISTICS INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

13. Does your country have in place a Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP)?

Yes No

The Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) preparation has built upon the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (I-PRSP), compiled in May 2000 as a follow-up to ESAF 1 and ESAF 2 agreements with the IMF.

GPRS addresses acute problems encountered in the course of development, with a particular focus on poverty. It also reflects the special importance attached by the government and other stakeholders to the need to tackle these problems.

Prepared with the aim to address the problems of poverty and development in Albania, the GPRS is an Albanian strategy. NSSED is the basic document of the mid-term and long-term government policies. The first document of NSSED was prepared in 2001, called the *Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy*, GPRS.

The efforts made to implement the strategy during the year 2002, to extend it over a variety of fields and sectors, to raise the level of participation, and to focus it on intermingling and intersecting issues helped to transform GPRS into a Socio-Economic Strategy for the country.

After entering the Association Stabilization Agreement negotiations with European Union in 2003 and participating in the process of Millennium Challenge, the content of NSSED enriched and changed into a core document forwarding the country towards progress and European integration.

The responsible body for the NSSED strategy is the Ministry of Finance and the NSSED Department who played the role of the institutional coordinator to guarantee the transparent and efficient monitoring of the strategy. It has been also be responsible for the preparation of the annual Progress Report until 2005. In 2006 is created a new structure called NSDI.

The role of INSTAT (NSO) in this process: is one of key institutions for data collection and processing, will take over to conduct LSMS;

Data about Monitoring and Sources: GPRS

DATA	SOURCE	AGENCY
GDP, consumption, investments, export, import etc.	National account system, trade statistics	INSTAT, Bank of Albania
Public finances	Budget	Ministry of Finances, other ministries
Consumer and producer price index	Questionnaires of prices and wages	INSTAT, Bank of Albania
Poverty level in Albania, living conditions, social indicators	Family budget, expenditures and income	INSTAT – (LSMS)

Poverty incidence, dimensions, priorities (indicators of health, education, etc.)	Administrative Poverty Map	Monitoring Unit, sector ministries, research institutes
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The National Strategy for Socio-Economic Development (NSSED) which covers only the period 2002-2004, is the main strategic document for Albania. The NSSED serves as a short-term mechanism to achieve the full range of Albania's development priorities, including those reflected in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are to be attained over the period 1990-2015. One of the MDGs (MDG 3) pertains to Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

The Albanian response to this MDG covers two fields - the legal base and target objectives. The legal base for women's rights in law covers:

- Albanian constitution (1998) (affirms the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of gender, race, religion)
- Civil code (recognizes the equal rights of women in all legal proceedings)
- Penal code (protect women and men equally in all areas)
- Labour code (equal right to work)
- Family code

The main concrete target objective is to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015. Apart from this there is only one policy document approved by Government related to gender issues, *Platform for Women 1999-2000*. Its main objective is "supporting equality in politics, decision-making processes, economy and social life".

PART F: INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

14. Please indicate whether your NSO is/has been involved in the preparation of the listed country reports. If involved, please describe the role played by your NSO (provide sex-disaggregated statistics, write report, etc.).

Report	NSO involvement		If yes, NSO's role
	Yes	No	
Beijing Platform for Action		x	
CEDAW	x		Provide sex -disaggregated statistics
MDG	x		Provide sex -disaggregated statistics

PART G: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SHARING

15. In the past five years, has any of the NSO staff attended a course, of at least 4 weeks duration, related to the development of gender statistics? Yes No

16. In the past five years, has any NSO staff attended a seminar/workshop/conference related to the development of gender statistics? Yes No

If yes,

a. Attach a list of the seminar(s)/workshop(s)/conference(s) attended, indicating the following: Title, year, institution organizing the seminar(s)/workshop(s)/conference(s), institution funding staff attendance.

Title	Year	Institution
Gender Budgeting (national workshop)	October 2006, Tirana	Women's Center Tirana
Workshop on gender and agriculture	June 2006, Norway	FAO & ministry of agriculture of Norway
A round table with the producers of statistics "Engendering Statistics. A tool for change	July 2006	INSTAT & SIDA
Workshop on gender and agriculture	July 2006, Bratislava	FAO & ministry of agriculture of Check republic
LFA- Engendering Statistics(national)	2005	SIDA
Gender and development	2004	Women's Center Tirana
Work Session on Gender Statistics	18-20 October 2004 Geneva	UNECE

17. In the past five years, has any NSO staff participated in a study tour/exchange visits related to the development of gender statistics (as beneficiary or host)? Yes No

18. In the past five years, has any NSO staff participated in a regional or international forum on gender statistics? Yes No

19. Is there a publication on gender statistics from any NSO that you have found particularly attractive or useful as a model publication? Yes No

If yes,

a. Provide the name of the publication and the publishing country.

- Women and Men in Armenia: A Statistical Booklet

b. Describe what aspects of the publication have made it particularly attractive.

- The outline

- The format of the tables

20. Are there any handbooks or manuals, by a regional or international agency, that you have found particularly useful? Yes No

If yes,

- a. Provide the title(s) of the handbook(s) or manual(s) and the publishing agency.
 - Guide to gender sensitive indicators (catalogue No E94-266/1997)
 - Gender sensitive indicators: A key tool for gender mainstreaming (Woman and population division) June 2001
- b. Describe what aspects of the handbook(s) or manual(s) have made them particularly useful.

PART H: DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

21. Prepare a brief (5 pages or less) paper discussing one major initiative by your NSO or women's machinery/ministry conducted with external funding that is considered to have been particularly effective in promoting any of the following aspects of the development of gender statistics:

- Mainstreaming gender in the institutional arrangement of your NSO
- Promotion of dialogue between producers and users of gender statistics
- Adoption of gender sensitive concepts and methods in data collection (such as censuses, surveys)
- Production of gender statistics and dissemination of reliable gender statistics
- Presentation of statistics in formats easily accessible to a wide array of users
- Sensitization of key user groups

In discussing the initiative, please address the following questions:

- a. What was the primary objective of the initiative?
- b. What type of external development assistance did your NSO receive?
- c. What made the initiative particularly effective?
- d. What was/were the main outputs? (Please bring copies if possible)

Provide your **recommendations** for improving development assistance aimed at supporting the development of gender statistics.

- e. What areas should be prioritized?
- f. Where are the gaps?
- g. What types of initiatives are most effective?

Gender disaggregated statistics and analysis: the role of INSTAT

INSTAT is the main institution responsible for collection and dissemination of the statistical information and plays an important role as well in the development and the improvement of the gender statistics.

INSTAT, since 1998, publish every year the statistical publication "Woman and Man in Albania". This publication aims to provide statistics disaggregated by sex in different main fields as Education, employment, demography etc., as well as the other publication to try to present the existing information disaggregated by gender: employment market, Education indicators etc. Even there is a lot of work to do in the field of gender statistics, INSTAT challenge to answer to all actual requirements regarding the development of the gender statistics.

The production of the gender statistics requires not only the collection of the official data based on gender. Another criterion is also that the concepts and the methods used for the data collection must

reflect in an adequate way the issue of gender in the society. So the production of the gender statistic comprises all the statistical system and also the information from different sources and fields.

The gender statistics are not produced and improved in an isolated form. This work must be integrated in the development of the whole national statistical system. So the improvement of the content, method used, classification and measurements must be preformed during the daily work. Respecting this approach we can improve our sources of information as administrative registers, surveys, censuses etc. The gender statistics itself does not offer only the tool for a general comparison between man and woman, but makes possible to measure and evaluate the contribution of woman and man in the society. Gender issues should be integrated in the process of production of all official statistics starting with the identification of needs for data and until those data are published and disseminated.

There are two main data sources in Albania: administrative records collected from the ministries and other institutions and statistical information provided from the population census and other types of surveys like LSMS, MICS, Reproductive health etc.

Regarding the administrative record even there have been some progresses there is still a lot to do. In this context INSTAT is working in order to emphasize as much as possible the importance of the sex disaggregated data and to influence the work of the ministries and other public institutions to gather data according to gender specifics.

The surveys carried out by INSTAT during the recent years and the population census in 2001 has increased the possibility to have more and reliable data disaggregated by gender.

The 2001 census contribute in the improvement of the status of the data by sex in the education and employment areas. This process continues with the surveys like LSMS which make possible the comprehension of the woman and man situation related with poverty, education, health and employment. Even though some progresses are evident, there is still a lot to do. This fact was pointed out also in the Common Country Assessment 2004 report prepared by UN agencies in Tirana in collaboration with INSTAT. This document stressed the importance of the further qualitative and quantitative improvement of the statistical information. In this context the implementation of a Labor force survey will provide valuable information regarding the situation of woman and man in the labor market.

The data analyses

As it was mentioned before, the gender perspectives must be integrated in the whole process of the data production. An important step forward is the analysis and the presentation of the information.

In parallel with the improvement of the gender-disaggregated statistics, INSTAT is making efforts to enlarge its capacities on the analyses of the information. In collaboration with national and international partners in 2004 it has been published 4 analytical reports based on the data of census 2001 and LSMS. One of the reports was on **“A gender perspective in statistics: does internal migration affect the lives of Albanian women and men differently?”**

The success of those studies can be considered as good start.

Identified problems and needs

On a general level, there is a lack of awareness of gender issues in Albania. As a consequence, and despite the existence of modern and non-discriminatory legislation related to gender, there are gaps in the

implementation process. Legal provisions for women's rights do not automatically guarantee equality between men and women. Trafficking and domestic violence presents great problems.

In the last NSSED document, there were not any specific objectives related to gender issues. But as well in the NDSI conceptual document gender is still considered only as a cross cutting issue. There is also a lack of a national information system related to gender issues to provide a structure to the planning and production of gender statistics. The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are weak. Although there exists a statistical capability to monitor and analyse, the current production of gender data faces some difficult problems:

- Lack of data generally in almost all areas.
- Lack of coverage. Data for the public sector is available, but there is no mandatory obligation for the private sector to supply data. There are great difficulties to measure the informal labour market.
- The quality of the administrative records is uncertain. The labour market registers presents a great problem.
- Lack of disaggregated data by region and sex. Registers from e.g. hospitals and public centres are not sex disaggregated.
- Lack of statistical tools (including definitions, nomenclatures, sampling methods etc).
- Lack of computers and networks.

Recommendation

Some **recommendations** for improving development of capacities on producing and analyzing Gender Statistics

- Develop capabilities for better analyses of the statistical information
- Need to ensure foreign technical support
- Lack of financial and human resources
- Increase of the level of public administration participation in the working group on GS