

GLOBAL FORUM ON GENDER STATISTICS
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Background Document
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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
activities conducted during 2008 aimed at improving gender statistics

Prepared by

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Over the last twelve months the UNECE has continued to provide a range of activities aimed at improving gender statistics in our region. Our work can be grouped into the following areas.

Framework for the exchange of practices and development of standards

Annual work sessions, task forces and the Gender Focal Point Network provide an ongoing framework for the exchange of practices and development of standards in the UNECE region.

This year's UNECE work session on gender statistics was held in Geneva from 6-8 October 2008. Papers and presentations are available at www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.10.gender.htm. The topics discussed were:

- indicators for gender based violence
- economic indicators for gender analysis
- measurement of gender discrepancies within other sub-population group
- usage of statistical data for gender analysis at national and international levels
- gender statistics training for statisticians

Current priorities in standards development are:

1. **indicators on violence against women** - the Expert Group Meeting of October 2007, jointly organized by UNECE, UNSD and UNDAW made an initial proposal for a core set of indicators to measure violence against women. This proposal was illustrated and discussed at the October work session. Currently the UNECE actively contributes to the work of the Friends of the Chair group.
2. **a standard approach for calculating gender pay gap** – we have conducted a review of different methods and sources to calculate gender pay gap and have developed a broader framework for a standard and comprehensive approach.

Support to countries and capacity building

Through the joint World Bank Institute (WBI) / UNECE Project on Gender Sensitization (2007-2009) we have been working to improve gender statistics in the UNECE region. This project involves nine countries: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The project aims to improve gender sensitization of national statistical systems in all areas of work by identifying and responding to specific and concrete information needs of the countries. Recent focus has been on developing gender relevant data on employment and on upgrading capacities to survey violence against women.

Activities to achieve these goals during 2008 include workshops and meetings for producers and users of statistics, training materials (such as training modules, activities, multimedia presentations and a manual).

Workshops and meetings

1. February 2008 – National training in Bosnia and Herzegovina on labour statistics
2. May 2008 – National training in Kazakhstan on informal employment
3. June 2008 – National training in Kyrgyz Republic on violence against women
4. August 2008 – study tour for two staff of the Tajikistan statistical office to visit Moldova and study their approach to measuring informal employment
5. October 2008 - a two-day workshop following the annual gender statistics work session. This workshop focused on topics that had been previously identified as important to the project participants:

- Advocating for gender statistics
- Planning surveys on violence against women
- Gender pay gap
- Presenting and communicating gender statistics
- How to organize national workshops

Papers and presentations are available at www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.10.gender2.htm

New training materials

- Additional support to countries is provided through training materials, activities and videos (multimedia presentations). There are now nine training videos available in both English and Russian. We are currently developing a repository for all UNECE training materials online.
- The **Handbook on “Developing Gender Statistics – A Practical Tool”** was presented to the October 2008 Gender Meeting and Workshop, referred to above. The voluminous Handbook – the present draft version has 267 pages - summarizes the work from numerous seminars, workshops and meetings on this issue. It will be finalized by a UNECE Gender Task Force by March 2009.

UNECE Gender Statistics Database

A Task Force on the Gender Database conducted a review during 2007 that led to the addition of many new indicators and tables over the last twelve months. This data has been collected from official international sources and national statistical offices through the Gender Focal Point network using pre-filled Excel spreadsheets.

New information is now available on:

- Working patterns of couples
- Employment rate by age of youngest child, number of children and marital status
- Child care coverage
- Time use
- Employment by occupation groups
- Economically inactive population
- Number of 1st marriages by 5-year age groups
- Researchers by sector
- Computer and internet use
- Percentage of population in life-long learning
- Ambassadors, members of executive boards, police staff and members of constitutional court
- Victims of homicide by relationship of perpetrator to victim

Visit w3.unece.org/pxweb/DATABASE/STAT/Gender.stat.asp

Tangible results

- Kazakhstan is preparing to run a survey on violence against women
- Kazakhstan and Bosnia and Herzegovina have both changed their labour force survey to better capture informal employment.