Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Gender Statistics
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UNSD Questionnaire on National Gender Statistics Programmes and Activities *

Prepared by

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UNSD Questionnaire on National Gender Statistics Programmes and Activities

PART A: BACKGROUND

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Director of Survey on Conditions and Quality of Life Division

PART B: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

1. Is there a special unit/desk/focal point responsible for gender statistics in your National Statistical Office (NSO)?
   _________ Yes  ______ X____ No

   If no: How is gender statistics promoted/developed within the NSO? Which section/department/division has the responsibility for gender statistics?

Even though within ISTAT there is neither unit/desk/focal point responsible for gender statistics nor a real policy for the promotion and development of gender statistics, many surveys are conducted on specific gender issues. The most relevant sector in this respect is that of social statistics. In fact, it is gender that conditions the social sphere, which, in turn, is interpreted from the point of view of gender. In the economic field, however, there is less sensibility and capacity to look at phenomena according to gender.

PART C: GENDER STATISTICS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

User-producer dialogue

2. Has your NSO established a user-producer group for gender statistics?
   _________ Yes  ____ X_____ No

   While a special user-producer-unit does not exist, permanent contacts are offered to the institutions that make most use of gender statistics for their activities.
Materials and capacity-building activities

3. List all materials and activities produced/conducted by your NSO in the area of gender statistics, including those that have addressed issues related to the mainstreaming of gender into statistics. Include such materials and activities as: technical handbooks and manuals, dissemination materials (analytical publications, wall-charts, brochures, etc), other resource materials, training packages, workshops, seminars, and conferences. For each material and activity, provide the title, type of material or activity, and reference year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type of material</th>
<th>Reference year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violenza di genere e statistiche ufficiali in Italia</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Chamber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partecipazione politica e astensionismo secondo un approccio di genere</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Chamber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian survey on violence against women</td>
<td>Article</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistical Journal of the UNECE 22 (2005)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conciliazione dei tempi di vita e denatalità</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Chamber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come cambia la vita delle donne</td>
<td>Book</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Which of these materials and activities have been most effective in promoting the development of gender statistics? What specific aspects have made the material and/or activity particularly effective? What was the purpose and what were the accomplishments?

The documents listed are all research material of a very popular character and represent a new model for diffusing statistical information as the data are being accompanied by explanations and comments. They are user-friendly, transparent, and easily obtainable by trade unions, political parties, associations and representatives of the institutions that are the principal users of gender statistics. The main result produced by these documents is that the explanation of the figures leads to a clearer understanding of the phenomena and to a better use of the data.

5. In the past five years, has any NSO staff participated in a regional or international forum on gender statistics?

    [ ] X Yes [ ] No

If yes,

   a. List the regional or international forums on gender statistics in which your NSO has participated.

   UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics, 11-13 September 2006, Geneva, Switzerland
   FAO, Meeting on Gender Equality, 22 November 2005, Rome, Italy
   UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics, 18-20 October 2004, Geneva, Switzerland
   Joint UNECE-UNPD-UNFPA-WHO Training Session on Gender Statistics, 21 October, Geneva, Switzerland
UNECE/UNDP Task Force Meeting on the Gender Statistics Website for Europe and North America, 25-26 September 2002, Geneva, Switzerland

UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics, 23-25 September 2002, Geneva, Switzerland

UNECE/UNDP Workshop on Gender Statistics for Policy Monitoring and Benchmarking, 9-10 October 2000, Orvieto, Italy

UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics, 11-13 October 2000, Orvieto, Italy

b. Indicate what aspects of the regional or international forums listed above have made the forum particularly beneficial to the development of gender statistics in your country.

Violence

Collection and compilation of gender statistics

6. Has your NSO been involved in or conducted a survey, or a component of a survey (survey module), on specific gender issues?

   _____X_____ 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Primary institution</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violence against women Survey</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>ISTAT</td>
<td>One time survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Use Survey</td>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>ISTAT</td>
<td>Every five years survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and Social Subjects Survey</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>ISTAT</td>
<td>Every five years survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

   _____X_____ Yes

7. 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?

   _____X_____ Yes          __________ No

   If yes,
   a. Please describe a specific initiative, if any, that you consider has been particularly successful.

   Paper for the Council of the European Union on “Indicators on the representation of women and men in economic decision-making centres” put forward by the Italian EU Presidency.
What has made the initiative successful?

The above mentioned document has been adopted as recommendation by the EU Council.

What organizations are/were involved in the initiative?

The Council of the European Union, the Permanent Representatives Committee, ISTAT.

What has been the role of the NSO?

ISTAT proposed the indicators, analyzed the questionnaires collected by the Greek Presidency and wrote the final report.

8. On what specific gender issues have users requested statistics in the past five years? What is been done to address the gaps?

Violence, Time Use, Political participation.

Which of these requests have been met and which have not been met?

All requests have been met.

PART D: INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

9. 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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>NSO Involvement</th>
<th>If yes, NSO’s role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beijing Platform for</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Member of the Italian Delegation to the Beijing Conference 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Member of the Italian Government Delegation in New York.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The ISTAT’s staff edited the Statistical Appendix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Participation within the Working Groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART E: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

10. In the past five years, has your NSO hosted a study tour/exchange visit related to the development of gender statistics?

__________ Yes  _____X_____ No

11. Has your NSO provided technical support on the development of gender statistics to other government agencies within your country or to other countries?

_____X_____ Yes  __________ No

Seminars of diverse nature have been organized with the participation of the Italian regions, the Ministry of Equal Opportunities, and various foreign countries (Cuba, Arab countries).

PART F: GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. Provide your recommendations for improving international and national programmes aimed at supporting the development of gender statistics: Where are the gaps? What areas should be prioritized? What types of initiatives are most effective?

Italy hopes this important meeting to be followed by a relaunching of gender statistics, which has gone through a period of fierce crisis on the international level. Maximum progress had been reached in the field of gender statistics at the Beijing Conference, after which, however, UNSD has pulled back. The danger is that if UNSD withdraws, the National Institutes of Statistics of the different countries act accordingly. An important example is that of the World’s Women. Once an important instrument for comparison between the gender statistics on the international level, and extremely useful for understanding the different realities from the gender angle, it has by now become just a list of data disaggregated according to gender. Yet, it would be most useful to refashion the World’s Women into an efficient instrument for the interpretation of social and economical phenomena from the point of view of gender.

It is necessary, then, to call a halt to this disengagement and to bridge the enormous gap between, on the one hand, social statistics, with its strongly developed gender approach but at a permanent risk of financial cuts, and, on the other hand, economic statistics, which is less threatened by cuts but in which the gender approach stands rather neglected.

Moreover, being of the opinion that the gender perspective should be transverse and not only – and necessarily – guaranteed by gender units inside organs and National Institutes of Statistics, Italy emphasizes the necessity of creating a high-level body, in order to revive gender statistics and provide a permanent platform for comparison on a high level, with the participation of the most authoritative experts of the relevant international organizations as well as those of countries, both advanced and developing, which have distinguished themselves in applying a gender approach to statistics. Such High Level Group should become an instrument that monitors the conduct of the various interested parties, so as to prevent them moving away from the positive positions obtained, and, in addition, guarantees maximum cooperation between the parties involved, and, finally, provides a framework for discussion on which new emerging themes to measure.

Finally, Italy proposes the creation of a World Forum on gender statistics, and declares itself prepared to act as host. The intention of this initiative is to restart from the statistic proposals of Beijing, the most advanced to date, and then to go beyond, by reproducing and exploiting the best past experiences in gender statistics.