EIGE's gender statistics

Supporting instruments for gender analysis

1. Introduction

Promoting gender equality is a core activity for the EU: equality between women and men is a fundamental EU value[1], an EU objective[2] and a driver for economic growth[3].

Efforts are required of all actors if we are to achieve real equality between women and men in all spheres of life within the EU and elsewhere.

The need to produce and share EU-wide, comparable, reliable gender statistics and indicators has been highlighted by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission and is part of a significant political commitment to gender equality and gender mainstreaming at the international level.

In the Council Conclusions on the European Pact for Gender Equality 2011–2020, Member States and the Commission, in particular through Eurostat, are encouraged to further develop existing statistics and indicators disaggregated by sex and to fully utilise the capacities of the European Institute for Gender Equality[4].

2. Use of Gender Statistics

Gender statistics is an area that intersects traditional fields of statistics to identify, produce and disseminate statistical evidence reflecting the lives of women and men, related directly to the relevant policy issues.

Gender statistics should document women's and men's participation in and contributions to all social and economic areas and **reflect the underlying causes and consequences of gender inequality.**

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[1] Article 2 TEU

[2] Article 3 TEU

[3] OECD, *Closing the gender gap: act now*

[4] http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/119628.pdf

Used for understanding the roles and realities of women and men in society, the economy and/or the family, gender statistics are necessary to formulate and monitor policies and action plans, observe trends in gender equality, and inform the public.

Mainstreaming gender issues into statistics requires adequate comprehension of a conceptual framework underpinning current issues and challenges related to women and men in society. In addition to disaggregating data by sex, the following elements are particularly important for mainstreaming gender into statistics:

- gender statistics should reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society by:

  o focusing on specific areas of concern in which women and men may not enjoy the same opportunities or status (such as work status in the labour market and participation in higher education) or where women's and men's lives may be affected in different ways due to their gender (such as maternal mortality, gender- based violence and occupational injuries);

  o taking an intersectional approach by looking at population groups where gender inequality is likely to be present or more pronounced such as migrants or some ethnic minorities.

- the concepts, definitions and measurement used should allow for an adequate reflection of the consequences of gender inequality in society - namely the gendered differences in women's and men's situation, the impact that gender role has in the individual life and in society overall;

- data collection tools should be aware of stereotypes and social and cultural factors that may introduce gender bias into data;

- analyses and presentations of statistics should be properly contextualised and reveal meaningful data for policymakers.

As recommended in the Beijing Platform for Action[5], the coverage of gender issues by official statistical systems and the adequacy of such systems should be regularly reviewed, updated and improved. The review should make clear whether relevant gender issues, as defined by major data users, are covered by existing data collection programmes and made available to users.

3. EIGE's gender statistics database

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[5] paragraph 207 (b) of the Beijing Platform for Action (United Nations, 1996)

In response to this increasing call for gender specific and sensitive data, since 2012, EIGE has been working on consolidating information into a common database, publicly available from the end of 2015. EIGE's gender statistics database stores and disseminates gender statistics across EU and beyond, at the EU, Member State and European level.

The database supports the measurement of whether, and to what extent, gender equality is being achieved. It also acts as a reliable resource of information/evidence for the formulation and monitoring of policies beneficial to both women and men and facilitates effective decision-making towards the advancement of gender equality. Additionally, the database provides a platform for the dissemination of developments in the field of gender statistics and promotes the inclusion of the gender perspective into all fields of statistical activities at both the national and international levels.

It contains comparable and harmonised statistics at the EU level, from sources such as Eurostat, DG Justice and Consumers, Eurofound and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA). A number of national sources have been also included, namely under particular areas where the availability and data collection is scarce, which is the case of gender-based violence and violence against women.

Internally the database works as the statistical information system on gender, therefore it reflects EIGE's areas of work and priorities.

The considered data and metadata relate to 6 entry points:

- Thematic areas
Based on possible areas of interest on gender equality from the user's perspective and the structured frameworks provided by the data sources where the data is available.

- Policy areas
Structured in line with the established policy areas of the EU and priorities of the EU institutions.

It is a particularly relevant entry point for EIGE's main stakeholders who are policymakers within EU institutions and the Member States.

- EU strategies
Closely related to 'Policy areas this section organises data according to the priorities defined at EU level, including 'EU 2020', 'Horizon 2020' and the 'EU strategy for equality between women and men 2010-15'.

- Gender Equality Index
This section organises data according to the domains and subdomains of the Gender Equality Index.

- Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)
The organisation of data follows the 12 areas of concern of the BPfA.

- Women and men in decision-making

Disseminates data which has been collected since 2003 by the Gender Equality Unit of the European Commission – currently under DG Justice and Consumers. The purpose of this data collection is to monitor the numbers of women and men in key decision making positions.

4. Relevant resources

About EIGE's gender statistics database:

http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/MH0214932ENN.pdf