



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CES/GE.30/2006/SP/25
28 August 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Group of Experts on Gender Statistics

Fourth session

Geneva, 11-13 September 2006

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

DISSEMINATION, MARKETING AND USE OF GENDER STATISTICS

Dissemination and Marketing of Gender Sensitive Data – Czech Experience

Submitted by Czech Statistical Office

I. INTRODUCTION AND SHORT EXCURSION TO THE HISTORY OF GENDER STATISTICS IN THE CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE

1. The Czech Statistical Office cannot be called “an old hand” in the area of gender statistics like for example Scandinavian statistical offices.
2. There have always been statistics, which reflected the need of data divided by sex (demographic statistics, some parts of social statistics, especially from household surveys and Time-Use Surveys). But for long time there was no demand for general and cross-sectional collection of gender sensitive data.
3. It is perhaps possible to call the Reproductive Health’s Survey, which was carried out by the Czech(-o-Slovak) Statistical Office several times (last time in 1992), as the first childish steps towards consolidated and general gender statistics as a separate statistical topic. In 1997 the Czech Statistical Office took a part in internationally (UN) coordinated Family and Fertility

Survey. It was great opportunity to depict the great changes of reproductive behaviour and its determinants and background, which started from 1993 and were in run during the survey period.

4. Czech FFS was special in comparison with other countries' surveys. There were general intention to ask both women and men for their attitudes towards reproduction, family roles, sexual life and health patterns etc in all countries involved. Furthermore, in the Czech Republic survey design was to interview partners of interviewed women. It means that in the Czech FFS existed relation between part of women and their men. This was great opportunity for in-depth analysis of couples (for example comparison analysis of partner's opinion on division of labour, roles etc.).

5. In 2000 the Czech Statistical Office in cooperation with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (a body responsible for equal opportunities policy of the Czech Republic and coordination of gender policies of all governmental and other public bodies) published firstly a book called Women and Men in Figures. It is cross-sectional publication collecting great volume of available and interesting official information divided by sex. Editorial board was established, being conducted of statisticians and officials responsible for different statistical areas. This publication was aimed at experts (sociologists, gender-analysts, academic sphere etc) to serve as hard-data source and a base for special surveys and secondary analyses. Based on that publication it became to be a bilingual gender statistics yearbook (nowadays it is called Focused on Women and Men) and it is freely available on the web of our office – see <http://www.czso.cz/eng/edicniplan.nsf/p/1413-05>). Last year it was printed in 500 copies but it was shown that it is too much for paper print (majority of users is familiar with availability of the electronic version of the book and it is also more suitable for further utilization) and in this year it will be reduced for less than half.

6. When UN ECE asked the first time the data for its database (in 2001), it became necessary to have a specialist with gender statistics. This questionnaire covered so much areas of statistical work and also some areas out of statistical system (decision-making), that international cooperation department which is responsible for distribution and recollection of incoming questionnaires was hardly able to manage it. It led to choosing the lady, who was responsible for analytical work on FFS, to be more or less what is nowadays called Gender Focal Point. It was probably the time when gender statistics in the Czech Statistical Office was constituted.

7. This constitution was validated one year later (at the end of 2002) when our unit was established. It is called Specific Population Statistics Unit and it covered international migration statistics and foreigners statistics besides gender statistics, but this was the way, how the gender statistics was built in namely in the Czech statistical system. For a half of a year it was part of Demographic Statistics Department, in June 2003 it became independent under Social Statistics Section¹ unit (competences corresponding to departments' but less people in the staff) because it was proved that scope of gender statistics exceeds demographic statistics area hugely. The Unit has nowadays 7 people (including me) and is responsible for:

¹ Hierarchically Czech statistical Office is constituted from bottom to the top: unit-department-section-vicepresident-president)

- Processing and adjustment of stock and migration data on foreigners delivered from Foreign and Border Police (it doesn't seem much but 1 person is working on it for full time);
- Running of the web page Foreigners in the Czech Republic and making of data and analytical publications in that area;
- Gender data collection, dissemination and analysis;
- Data on minorities and socially excluded groups of population (on the beginning);
- Social statistics cross-sectional and complex international questionnaires agenda.

8. In 2003 the Czech Statistical Office joined the Swedish-Czech Twinning project for Improvement of the Public Institutional Mechanism for Applying, Enforcing and Monitoring Equal Treatment for Men and Women. The result of this project in the area of statistics was brochure Women and Men in Data. This brochure was aimed to general public; it meant that gender sensitive information was presented in brief and mostly by graph (there was a few tables but they were very brief and general). Each graph and table was accompanied with short methodological and analytical explanation. Basically the content of the brochure was derived from UNECE recommended gender indicators (but some information was added to follow a neutrality principle, which I will talk about later. This brochure was created in cooperation with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which also organised substantial part of a distribution of the brochure. Many printings were sent to secondary grammar and technical schools and thematically close departments (sociology, gender, demography etc.) of universities. First (pilot) edition was in June 2003 and it was 1500 printings. Second (revised and extended) edition accompanied by English version was released in November in about 30 thousands of printings (English version in 2000 printings).

9. Brochure was published again in Autumn 2005 (updated version, English version inclusive). It was published in 70 thousands printings. Towards the future we think of publishing similar format each 3 years (in alternation with cross-sectional brochures on (i) ageing and generation relationship and (ii) foreigners in the Czech Republic, because data in that area are not so flexible).

10. The Czech Statistical Office has separate paper called Concept of Gender Statistics in the Czech Republic from the last year. It was agreed by managerial board and committee and it belongs to the official materials of the Czech Statistical Office and it has its own Action Plan for realisation in following two years.

11. Our unit prepares special gender analysis every year (some from last census, some from LFS and its ad-hoc modules, ICT survey, some from new EU-SILC survey etc.). From this year on we plan to prepare gen(d)eral analysis where very short summary of development in each chapter will be (corresponding to the Focused on Women and Men) and variable deeper analysis of one or two chapters depending on the current hard data available.

II. GENDER STATISTICS POLICY

12. General mission of the Czech Statistical Office is to "yield a reliable and consistent image about the state of the arts and development of the society according to developing needs of users of statistical service in conditions of changing environment, based on acquired data.

CZSO co-ordinates state statistical service in the Czech Republic.” One of basic general principle of official statistical work is independence and neutrality. We are trying to build up our gender statistics on these principles also. It seems to me a bit difficult task to achieve neutrality for several reasons:

- In my opinion, the system of gender indicators recommended by UN ECE is not neutral because it covers only those areas where disadvantage is on women’ side and omits the areas where men are disadvantaged (for example participation on child-care especially after divorce, cumulating of risk factors for hard attack or vascular diseases – stress etc.);
- There are many very active Women’ lobbyist and activist organisations but very few from the other side. Strong feministic pressure shifts the equilibrium and neutrality;
- Some of aggressive feministic organizations misuse a term “gender” and therefore it gives to gender a radical feministic sound and for that reason public and some colleagues from other statistical areas sometimes take gender statistics just as an instrument for the feministic fight;
- Everyone has some sex and it influences her/his perspective and therefore it could not be neutral at all.

13. In the Concept of Gender Statistics and during its practical realisation we’re trying to get as close as possible to the neutrality principle. According to the feministic organisations we are probably “too machistic”, according to our colleagues from other areas of statistics we are too feministic, so we have to hope that we are all right.

14. Our main goals on the field of gender statistics are:

- In cooperation of relevant departments to collect and complete statistical data (especially by sex and age), which will reflect the gender attitudes of society;
- To compile, analyse and present such data;
- To collect and operate the time series in the area;
- To bring a gender perspective to those parts of statistical system, where it is not reflected even though it could and should be;
- To produce a gender yearbook;
- To collect data for international gender statistics, especially for UN ECE gender web pages;
- To cooperate with governmental (especially with Ministry of Labour and Social Affaires) and non-governmental bodies working on the field of gender and equal opportunities;
- To follow the development in the area of equal rights and try to suggest statistical methods for appropriate measurements;
- To inform general public on gender aspects of various areas of statistics;
- To cooperate with international organisations on unification of indicators definition and methodology of the data collection and processing.

15. We are trying to get all the gender sensitive data available and to treat them well to show a reliable picture.

III. DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION OF GENDER SENSITIVE DATA AND PUBLICATIONS

16. A brochure was printed in 70 thousand copies. We made a deal with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on sharing the costs of brochure edition. To get the information involved in the brochure to wide public, we decided to give a piece of brochure to each household interviewed under LFS, EU-SILC and GGS as some kind of present reward for patience and willingness to cooperate in the official surveys. The brochure was also sent again to schools and universities. By this way, the information could touch wide public and, personally, it was very pleasant and encouraging to go by bus and see some people reading our brochure and discussing the information involved with their partners. We plan to do the same in following years with above-mentioned brochures on foreigners and ageing and generations relationship.

17. Moreover, every brochure release is followed by press conference where we summarise the basic findings and changes from previous release. Press conferences have very solid attendance (as it is typical for social, demographic and labour market statistics and also demography and labour market connotations of gender statistics are of course the most interesting for journalists). Information from the brochure and the press conference are widely cited in majority of mass media and magazines also for more than a week or two after the press conference. Journalists who come to the press conference would get the brochure, text version of the content of the press conference, presentation and a CD with all related publications of the Czech Statistical Office (and electronic version of graphs covered in the presentation for easy usage).

18. Last time when we made the press conference we found that majority of journalists presenting our data has substantial problems to understand and interpret well the data about labour market and especially data on income (GPG). The same way of misinterpretation of meaning of GPG and its relationship with labour market discrimination was present in following commentaries of NGOs. We tried to educate journalists and gender analysts in labour market statistics and its consequences and organised a seminar for them in February 2006. There we explained in detail the methodology of each component of labour market statistics, made analysis and synthesis of data available and took the attendants deeper to the structures and consequences. We tried to explain that GPG is connected much more with the segregation of jobs than the wage discrimination and that it is not possible to use macro-aggregate indicator for analysing the discrimination phenomena, which have to be analysed on micro-level (lower earnings for the same job). After our presentations, wide discussion raised and it seemed that all attendants understood what we had tried to tell them.

19. It was announced on all invitations and also during the seminar, that this is a seminar and not a press conference. Even though there was a one journalist who asked us to summarise the two hours seminar because he needs a short article for his newspaper, not to spend the time on the seminar uselessly. It was rather funny situation.

IV. PROBLEMS WE MEET

20. We are a part of National Statistical System and therefore our possibilities are limited concerning finances, projects participation, type of data and depth of analysis acceptable. It is

necessary to distinguish between hard official data and soft data from sociological or public opinion surveys. Sometimes it seems to be a problem to explain the differences and limitations of both kinds of data collection to NGOs working on the field of equal rights. We also have to be neutral and could not take any part in activist campaigns. Moreover we have to explain and put the record straight, when NGOs or scientists do not interpret hard statistical data correctly and we are asked for some kind of comment.

21. Maybe these factors could be a reason for misunderstanding between NGOs and us, which resulted in not very friendly picture which was painted about the situation in gender statistics in CEDAW shadow report. The report seems to me very unfair and out of reality. Authors wrote this on the basis of subjective feelings from one editorial board of the yearbook (Focused on women and men; it is necessary to say that it was not very successful and pleasant meeting of editorial board, but still it is one feeling from one board without any later or previous correction). They had not contacted us before they sent the report to the UN and we were not allowed to explain any information settled in the Report and eliminate the untruth or misinterpreted information. We aren't of course very lucky to be shown in such unreal and terrible light. We considered authors of the report unreliable. It is a shame I think to break the trust and cooperativeness and to demotivate people working on the official gender statistics this way, but I hope that this is not a general problem among NGOs in the field of equal rights.
