

**Economic and Social
Council**Distr.
GENERALCES/2002/30
20 March 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**Fiftieth plenary session
(Paris, 10-12 June 2002)**UNECE-UNDP-GUS SEMINAR ON SOCIAL MONITORING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT,
WARSAW, POLAND, 17-19 OCTOBER 2001**Note by the secretariat**I. Introduction**

1. In the context of their common project on Human Development Statistics and Social Trends Reporting in Eastern and Central Europe and the CIS, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS of the UN Development Programme (UNDP/RBEC) will conduct in 2001/2002 six sub-regional workshops intended to improve the capacity of governments to monitor and evaluate social and socio-economic conditions as a guide to development policy and planning. More specifically, this will require exploring statistical requirements, availability and quality of statistics. The workshops should facilitate the production of National Human Development Reports (NHDRs) insofar as these are the principal instruments of periodic statistical reporting on living conditions broadly defined.

2. The Warsaw seminar was the first of the series of regional workshops organised by UNECE and UNDP in this context. The seminar was attended by seven South-eastern European countries: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Yugoslavia, as well as Poland as the host country. The 40 participants from these countries were statisticians and NHDR analysts. Staff and consultants from the UNECE, the UNDP, and the ILO also participated. The seminar was organised with the assistance of the UNDP Office in Poland and the Central Statistical Office of Poland (GUS), and with technical support from UNECE and UNDP/RBEC. It was hosted by the GUS.

3. The seminar discussed in-depth three major components of social and socio-economic conditions rather than covering the full range, namely (i) income, poverty, and employment, (ii) non-income aspects of living conditions and their linkages to poverty, and (iii) gender equality.

GE.02-30853

4. The seminar was opened by Mr. Witkowski, Vice-President of the GUS; Mr. de Bernis, UN Co-ordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Poland; Mr. Slay, Director of the UNDP/RBEC Support Centre; and Mr. Chapron, Regional Adviser, Statistical Division of UNECE. All speakers welcomed the organisation of the seminar as an effort toward a better monitoring of the social aspects of economic growth. Measuring all aspects of human development is essential for policy makers, and requires more information than economic indicators. Finally, one of the merits of the meeting would be to reduce the gap between analysts and statisticians.

Session 1 - General framework of the seminar: What is meant by monitoring and evaluation?

5. The discussion in this session was based on *Background Paper N° 1: What the Workshop is About ...and Some Definitions*.

6. The meeting was introduced to the operational definitions to be used throughout the seminar. A systematic framework for monitoring was identified followed by a brief overview of the main components involved. These included goals, targets and strategies. The meeting was particularly alerted to the difference between goals, described as broad based objectives such as the eradication of poverty or the elimination of gender inequality, and targets, defined in more concrete and measurable terms.

7. In relation to targets, the importance of identifying a baseline and benchmark to assess change in time was also emphasised. Strategies were defined as the instruments by which the stated goals are achieved. In this context programmes and projects were described as the concrete process for implementing these strategies. It was concluded that in the context of the seminar, monitoring would refer to the collection of data and other statistical information for the purpose of measuring progress towards targets.

8. Monitoring is followed by evaluation, which in this context includes the analysis of the data collected in the monitoring process. The importance of evaluating the effectiveness of strategies in relation to both final and intermediate targets was strongly emphasised. The meeting was alerted to the importance of analysing all possible factors and their impact on social development in designing a monitoring framework. The importance of developing sound institutional structures in countries for improving monitoring and evaluation was also emphasised. Statistical capacity building in the area of social statistics was advocated as an essential contribution in this direction. An improved collaboration between data producers and data users, especially policy makers and analysts, was also called for.

9. A special emphasis was put on the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all monitoring activities and exercises, including poverty reduction strategies and the National Human Development Reports. The concepts of gender and gender issues were briefly outlined (more details would be considered in Session 6). Equal opportunities for both women and men were identified as one of the corner stones in this respect.

10. In relation to the gender dimension of poverty, it was stated that there is little consensus on how to measure the different vulnerability to poverty of women and men. It was recognised that the negative impact of the transition on women had been particularly strong, especially in relation to social security, family allocations and access to secure employment. The different impact of civil war on women and men was also stressed. As a more detailed discussion of gender equality and its relevance for the region was to take place in Session 6, it was only to make sure that a gender perspective was mainstreamed throughout the discussion that the gender equality concept had been introduced into the first session.

Session 2 – Measuring poverty (currently used methods). Is there a best method?¹

11. The discussion in this session was based on *Background Paper 2: Monitoring Income and Poverty*. In addition, Poland presented a paper on *Poverty Measurement in CSO's Practice*, Romania presented a paper on *Poverty in Romania*, and FYROM circulated a report on *Poverty in the Republic of Macedonia 1997-2000*. Yugoslavia made an oral presentation of the current situation in the field of household surveys on living conditions.

12. Introducing the topic, it was explained that poverty is now measured in the countries attending the seminar (as elsewhere) by poverty lines based on a wide variety of methods, used singly or in combination.

13. Each of these methods is subject to arbitrary criteria and yields widely different values. It is possible, through the choice of suitable methods, and with comparatively slight variations in definition and concepts (e.g., using income rather than expenditure, or persons rather than households) to arrive at very high or very low figures of poverty. Similarly, poverty measurement can be manipulated, by varying method and concepts, so as to appear to grow or decline. It was hoped that the seminar would result in proposals for a common methodology along more rational and less arbitrary lines.

14. In Poland, poverty is now calculated according to a variety of methods. The 'classical' approach makes use of minimum absolute standards, such as the minimum subsistence, a 'legal' minimum or a relative poverty line based on income. Alternatively, a so-called, multi-dimensional approach is used, that considers not only income/expenditure, but also non-monetary factors such as the possession of household goods, housing conditions, and the self-assessment of poverty (subjective measurement).

15. In Romania, also, several methods are used: two distinct objective absolute lines, an objective relative line, and a multi-dimensional approach similar to the fuzzy set theory in Poland, incorporating a relative income/expenditure line, housing conditions, possession of durable household goods (see Session 5).

16. There was agreement that poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon in the sense that many of the poor in terms of income also lack adequate housing, consumer durables, access to health care or certain forms of education, and that they might be socially excluded. Disagreement has arisen in the past rather on how such multi-dimensionality should be presented, whether it might be expressed in terms of a synthetic index (such as the Human Poverty Index) or in more transparent and disaggregated form. Because the correlations among factors such as income, health, housing or education are imperfect they should be kept separate in analysis, so as to make it possible to study interrelationships and determine the nature of the required intervention.

17. There was agreement that as possible a common method should be used in calculating poverty. Such a method should reflect the multi-dimensionality of poverty. It should avoid arbitrary elements, be relatively easy to calculate, based on readily available data and readily understood by non-expert users (such as the general public, the government, the media, etc.). Transparency in this sense was held to be essential.

18. Care should be taken in the collection of data on poverty to include those in direct need, but often ignored, such as the homeless.

19. The discussion yielded no conclusion as to which method would satisfy these criteria. Possible solutions were proposed as follows:

- a) To show the income/expenditure distribution of a country in full, and how each segment

changes over time. Conventional absolute or relative poverty lines could then be imposed on this distribution, if desired, but as all the changes in income are shown, their exact location in the distribution is not crucial. The multi-dimensionality of poverty would next be displayed in contingency tables in which the income/expenditure distribution is associated with other variables, such as housing conditions, consumer durables, self-assessment, education, health status. In this manner, the contingency table would contain all available information on the various aspects of poverty and their interrelations (details of this proposal were provided in Background Paper 2).

b) Alternatively, the extent of poverty might be calculated, as is currently done in Poland and Romania (see the papers above) using a variety of indicators in parallel, including relative income-related poverty, housing conditions and consumer durables as well as the subjective assessment of poverty.

20. There was agreement also that alternative methods might be used simultaneously depending on the purpose of the measurement. The purpose might be to identify those in critical need, or the poorest 10 per cent, or those *considering* themselves poor, although with enough income to meet basic needs, or to monitor change over time, etc. Not only the method of calculating poverty, but also the nature of the subsequent intervention might be very diverse, depending on the purpose.

21. Whatever method might be chosen to calculate the poor, the various categories of poor should be identified in terms of socio-economic categories. As possible, individuals and households should be disaggregated by sex and other crucial characteristics, such as ethnicity, refugee/IDP status or geographic area.

Session 3 - Monitoring gainful employment / unemployment / underemployment

22. The discussion in this session was based on *Background Paper No.3 Monitoring Productive Employment*, a draft note by ILO *Monitoring Work: An Approach*. In addition, the Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia presented a paper on *Employment and unemployment in the Republic of Macedonia in the transition period*.

23. The meeting was initiated with a presentation on the concept of “decent work” from the ILO. Although still in its conception phase, this paradigm refers not only to traditional wage employment but also to the broader concept of occupational work, such as household activities that have previously been unaccounted for. In the context of aggravating inequalities and poverty incidence in the region, it was proposed that transition economies should use the “decent work” paradigm as a key and pivotal element in the promotion of socio-economic security and social development in addition to supplementing traditional measures of the employment market.

24. The presentation discussed the various forms of insecurity in the world of work and offered an analytical framework to determine a set of indicators with the purpose of monitoring policies addressing such issues. A special emphasis was given for income and representation securities, which were proposed to be policy priorities because of their strategic content.

25. Most participants agreed with the theoretical adoption of such a framework but various doubts were raised as to the capacity of states within the region to implement it in practice. In addition, questions were raised about the usefulness of setting up institutions, legal frameworks and employment agencies with the mandate of promoting socio-economic security within an environment with incompatible macro-economic policies.

26. Although the meeting was reminded that this analytical framework was still in the process of being conceptualised, it was argued that steps could currently be taken in order for statistical offices and policy analysts to take socio-economic security into account. Such steps include the identification and the inclusion of socio-economic security issues into current labour force surveys. To familiarise themselves with questionnaires including socio-economic security issues and for any additional information, participants were encouraged to consult the ILO In Focus Programme on Socio-Economic Security website at www.ilo.org/ses

27. The meeting also discussed various issues pertaining to currently used indicators of labour market conditions. It presented the opinion that the measures of unemployment using administrative and official data sources were inadequate in describing the employment market for the region. To this end, participants agreed that labour force surveys were a better source of information than official registers for the calculation of unemployment rates. Not only do the former reflect more accurately the amount of workers, but they are also more likely to reflect the employment in the shadow economy that is not well taken into account by statistics based on official registers.

28. The meeting also voiced additional concerns about unemployment rates computed with data from labour force survey in describing the situation of workers in countries in transition. Among these was the fact that people not able to find reasonably remunerated work, but willing to accept such employment opportunities if offered, often stopped actively seeking employment and thus were not included in the unemployment rates. It was argued that these “discouraged” unemployed should be identified as economically active or unemployed in order to avoid an underestimation of unemployment rates that has been found in various National Human Development Reports in the past.

29. It was also argued that one should provide data on the duration of unemployment and employment by principal sector of activity with corresponding average earnings in these sectors to provide a more realistic description of the employment market.

30. Pertaining to the measurement of poverty, it was argued that employment and related income data collected by labour force surveys should not only relate to individuals but also to households. Although such action was argued to be a difficult task for national statistical offices, the fact that the number of earners within a household often determines the existence of poverty was said to be an important reason why such data would be of help for policy analysts.

31. The Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shared its experience in its quest to build up employment market monitoring capacities. The FYROM Statistical Office explained that they had introduced, with recommendations of the ILO, labour force surveys as a complement to administrative data sources in 1996. Their results seem to confirm the broad trend of increasing unemployment throughout the region during transitions processes to a more market driven economy.

Session 4 - Monitoring poverty policies and poverty reduction strategies

32. The discussion in this session was initiated by a short oral presentation by UNDP on the formulation and monitoring of poverty reduction strategies. In addition, Bulgaria presented a paper on its experience: *Poverty Reduction Strategies – Bulgarian Experience*. Poland presented a paper on *Monitoring of Poverty Policies and Poverty Reduction Strategies*. Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia also reported on their attempts at formulating and monitoring poverty reduction strategies in their respective countries.

33. The meeting was reminded that the Session 2 had shown the difficulty of reaching a broad-based consensus on adequate indicators and measures of poverty. This being this case, it was argued that

formulating and monitoring poverty reduction strategies at the national level was consequently an even more arduous and complex task to perform.

34. Although the acknowledged heterogeneity of country experiences throughout the region, observations on broad regional trends were presented. It was noted that dynamic growth throughout the region in the mid-1990's had not been matched with similar advances in human development, as seen by increasing unemployment and incidences of poverty. Poverty reduction strategies had, in many cases, been incompatible with austere macro-economic policies put into place during transition. The effectiveness of poverty reduction strategies was thus argued to be function of the ability to include them in broader macro-economic environment.

35. As an example, participants were reminded of the promising framework of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers that various countries of the sub-region are currently drafting in co-operation with the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Not only do these Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers promote pro-poor macro-economic growth strategies by enabling the participation of civil society in the policy formulation process, but they also include a monitoring framework for these strategies. The meeting agreed that such monitoring frameworks are an essential part of effective poverty reduction strategies and stressed the importance of such capacity building in order to achieve the desired results.

36. Although not part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers framework brought forward by the WB-IMF-UNDP, the presentation from Bulgaria explained the attempts of its government and various NGOs to systematically monitor the effects of their poverty reduction strategies. The conclusions in their paper put in doubt the sustainability of labour-intensive infrastructure investments as a way out of poverty. Unless these policies provided significant marketable qualifications to its participants, these solutions were said to provide only temporary solutions. It was argued that attempts to link these types of projects with vocational training should also be done in co-ordination with the demands of the private sector to have beneficial impacts.

37. The presentations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia showed that the process of poverty reduction strategy monitoring is still in its initial phase in many countries of the region. Although strategies for the reduction of poverty have been drafted in June 2001 in these two countries, they have yet to be adopted by their respective governments and thus have not been implemented as of yet. The Croatian presentation shared their concern that too little emphasis was given to the monitoring section of such poverty reduction strategies, which was clearly underdeveloped in the initial draft of the project.

38. Finally, the presentation of the Polish paper gave an overview of the institutions implementing their poverty reduction strategies and measures to monitor their effects. Although information on the poverty and unemployment was reliable in Poland, the authors argued that the knowledge on the institutions and their activities to reduce poverty is still underdeveloped.

Session 5 – Monitoring non-income aspects of poverty (health, education, housing etc.) and the presentation of Millennium Development Goals

39. The discussion in this session was based on *Background Paper N° 5 Monitoring Non-Income Components of Human Welfare*. In addition, Poland presented a paper on *Multidimensional Approach to Poverty Measurement*, Romania presented a paper on *Indicators for Monitoring Family and Child Welfare*

in Romania: Income and Non-Income Components. A Guidance Note of UNDP on *Reporting on the Millennium Development Goals at the Country Level* was also introduced by UNDP at the end of the session.

40. The meeting was reminded that, in Session 2, it has been recognised that poverty, as defined on the basis of income, interacts with many dimensions of the living conditions of individuals and households. Adopting the broader point of view of human welfare is helpful for a relevant monitoring of poverty.

41. The traditional approach starts with the selection of components of human welfare. An illustrative, non exhaustive, list of main components was proposed: health, housing, education, personal security (crime), security from armed conflict, environment, civil and political rights, and social exclusion/inclusion.

42. Each component has then to be represented by indicators. No standard list of indicators was recommended. As a matter of fact, indicators reflect national as well as international concerns, and the former may differ significantly from one country to another. However, the selection of indicators should be made according to certain principles.

43. The following principles in selecting indicators were introduced to the meeting: relevance to national issues, availability of accurate data, sensitivity to recent change, economy in indicators, transparency, and disaggregation.

44. Finally, some issues that are typical, for each component, in Eastern and South-eastern Europe were presented as an illustration of social concerns that indicators should reflect.

45. The Polish paper on the multidimensional approach to poverty measurement breaks the basic dichotomy poor/non-poor. It introduces a third category of households between poor and non-poor. These households are neither clearly in or out of poverty, but they are threatened by poverty to various degrees. An indicator of "poverty threat" is defined. The mobility of households between "poor" and "non-poor" over time can be assessed against the main non-income components of living conditions.

46. The Romanian analysis of family and child welfare is based on a list of monetary and non-monetary indicators that have been selected for monitoring of welfare in Romania, incorporating a relative income/expenditure line, housing conditions, possession of durable households goods. The purpose is to evaluate the efficiency of poverty reduction policies. The concept of child poverty used in the Romanian approach covers children living in poor households, street children, and children living in institutions.

47. In the course of discussion, the subjective method was criticised as a measure of poverty on the grounds that in one country at least empirical studies had shown that such self-assessment was more closely related to the current political situation and to expectations for the future than to poverty. Romania provided an example of such self-assessment of poverty, based on opinion polls conducted over several years, that reflect expectations of people, influenced by recent or expected political changes, rather than the objective level of income and living conditions.

48. There was some consensus, especially among NHDR experts, that a clarification is needed. However, the objective measurement of living conditions, on the one hand, and information on perception by households of their current and expected welfare, on the other hand, are not mutually exclusive.

49. At the end of the session, UNDP briefly introduced the guidance note on the reporting on the Millennium Development Goals at the country level. The meeting was informed that the mandate has been given to UNDP to monitor the changes in the fields covered by the Millennium Development Goals. This

will imply the definition of targets associated to the goals, and indicators corresponding to targets at the country level, in co-operation with country teams. The meeting noted that this approach should be well co-ordinated with the work in progress, under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission, on statistical indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals.

Session 6 - Monitoring gender equality

50. The discussion in this session was based on *Background Paper No.6 Monitoring Gender Equality* and a series of exercises, which encouraged participants to reflect on the main gender issues in their countries. In addition, Poland presented a country report on *The Possibilities of Monitoring of Gender Equality on the Basis of the Central Statistical Office Data* and the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina made available a study prepared on *Women and Men in Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

51. The meeting was reminded that gender equality is defined as equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for both women and men in all areas of life. Gender equality therefore concerns men as much as women.

52. The distinction between sex and gender was emphasised. Sex refers to the biological differences between women and men, while gender refers to the socially constructed differences between the sexes. Sex-based differences are fixed and unchangeable whereas gender differences are shaped over history and change over time and across cultures.

53. Gender issues exist in all spheres of society and cover all aspects and concerns related to how women and men interrelate, their differences in access and use of resources. Producing statistics that adequately reflect gender issues is more than breaking statistical series down by sex, it involves taking into consideration the different socio-economic realities faced by women and men in society in the collection, compilation and presentation of the statistics as well as in the methodologies used.

54. To understand the underlying causes and consequences of gender issues statisticians, analysts, policy makers and other users have to work together to identify the needed information and indicators. This concerted effort should result in a selection of indicators reflecting a strategy, which takes into account the following dimensions: relevance to gender concerns, user-friendliness, transparency, feasibility and reliability. The importance of choosing indicators that can be periodically monitored was also stressed.

55. The meeting agreed that monitoring of gender equality in all major policy areas is much needed in the region. Both statisticians in National Statistical Offices and National Human Development Report analysts have an important role to play in this process, beginning with the identification of the most pressing gender concerns, their causes and consequences.

56. The meeting discussed a number of gender issues in different areas for which all countries in the sub-region expressed concern. Among these were women's dual role in society as caregivers and breadwinners, political and economic empowerment, health concerns that led to differences in life expectancy and the vulnerability of women to domestic violence and trafficking. The strong fall in fertility, which was common to all the countries in the sub-region, was also discussed and largely attributed to the negative consequences of the transition and the civil war, which often had affected women more than men. Economic hardship had also led to a large emigration from some countries, sometimes facilitated by illegal trafficking. It was recognised that effective monitoring for some of these issues would not be possible with currently existing data.

57. The importance of promoting statistical capacity building for enabling the social monitoring process was strongly emphasised. This would entail both developing a stronger statistical culture in society, a re-

engineering of data collections to better reflect new societal realities, a better collaboration between government departments and a stronger awareness of the need for policy relevant statistics. The improved collaboration between statisticians and analysts was suggested as a tool in this respect. Another proposal was to mainstream a gender perspective into all the analysis of the National Human Development Reports.

58. Several participants gave examples of the policy impact statistics and analysis such as those in the NHDR had had in raising awareness about social problems in society. Government policies were instrumental in speeding up change, particular in areas where traditional stereotypes were strongly felt and opportunities of women and men unequal. Although policy formulation is done by policy-makers rather than by statisticians and analysts their input is needed for evidence-based and effective gender policies to be put in place.

59. The meeting was encouraged to consult the ECE/UNDP Regional Gender Website, which when completed would provide a framework for regional comparisons and inspiration for national monitoring. A Brochure on the Website distributed at the meeting gave information on the contents of the website and more details could be obtained at www.unece.org/stats/gender/web

60. The Polish presentation gave an overview of the sources used by GUS for monitoring progress in gender equality. The Central Statistical Office has made considerable efforts to extend the scope of information by including relevant questions on gender issues in different surveys. Most of the indicators recommended in the ECE/UNDP Regional Gender Website could now be provided by GUS.

Session 7 – The monitoring framework

61. The discussion in this session was based on the *Background Paper N°7 The Monitoring Framework*. A detailed description of the methods and sources used in Poland for collecting statistics for social monitoring was also presented, giving particular emphasis to the changes introduced in the production of official statistics during transition. Cooperation between the Central Statistical Office of Poland (GUS), other national and international agencies and the academic world was stressed.

62. Integration of the various social as well as economic sectors was highlighted as essential. The Polish *multipurpose living conditions survey* conducted in 1997 was offered as an example. Other permanent, periodical and module surveys were conducted in Poland in some of the main areas of policy. A description of these surveys and their scope was offered. Practices by GUS in promoting a ‘culture’ of statistics among users, and in particular among analysts, policy makers and the media were described. Statistical, analytic and synthetic publications were identified as means to this end. Press conferences also played an important role.

63. A brief overview of the Albanian monitoring experience was then presented. Some of the challenges experienced in developing a sound statistical framework to monitor social development were reviewed. The experience of introducing international classifications and new concepts, such as unemployment, was described. New surveys had been introduced, such as the consumer price survey and the household budget survey. Despite these recent improvements, data remained inadequate especially in social sectors -a situation possibly exacerbated by inadequate funding, duplication of efforts and a lack of coordination in monitoring.

64. It was also stressed that the Albanian poverty reduction strategy should be monitored. An improved statistical understanding of poverty in Albania would be essential for this purpose. The meeting was particularly alerted to the need of ‘educating’ analysts and policy makers in the use of statistics.

65. The meeting was asked to suggest ways of improving the cooperation between producers of statistics and NHDR analysts. In this respect a greater coordination of statistical activities is needed. The importance of not overburdening National Statistical Offices with 'untested' data requests was stressed. A clearer division of roles and responsibilities was advocated.

Concluding Session

66. The meeting concluded that it was not possible to agree on a single method on how to measure poverty. However two proposals were put forward: first to present income distributions and relate these data to other variables through contingency tables; second to report different measures of poverty in parallel. In relation to employment, the meeting was reminded of the importance of linking individual data to households so that households with no employed members could be identified. The challenges of measuring employment, unemployment and underemployment were stressed giving particular weight to the role of the shadow economy. In relation to the poverty reduction strategies the meeting acknowledged the need for a more concerted effort between NSO and NHDRs.

67. In relation to non-income poverty, the meeting took stock of the recommendations of the Millennium targets, recognising, however, the importance of tailoring these targets and goals to better address the needs of the region. With regards to how to monitor the Millennium targets it was proposed that the best way would be to have UNDP and ECE together prepare, every 3-4 years, a regional publication with the relevant indicators.

68. The importance of monitoring the burden of poverty on women and men separately was again emphasised. The national reports presented during the workshop had clearly shown that as a result of the economic consequences of transition, government expenditures had been much reduced in areas such as family allocations, education and health which affected women more than men. Due to the fact that there are no standard measures for showing the gender dimension of poverty, the best way of illustrating differences between women and men may be to integrate individual and household data, and as stated above showing income distributions as well as other non-income dimensions of poverty.

69. The UNDP Office in Poland expressed his support for the activities of the seminar and stressed the importance for UNDP of monitoring gender issues in particular domestic violence, trafficking and the different life expectancy of women and men.

70. The country delegations expressed their appreciation for the work conducted throughout the seminar and the importance of the topic it addressed. Several participants expressed the opinion that, in future, the seminars should be conducted in a more interactive way, possibly breaking down the discussion in smaller workgroups. The idea of increasing the possibility of exchange between the various country delegations was also advanced.

71. Finally, regarding the need to improve collaboration between UNDP analysts and statisticians from National Statistical Offices it was suggested that it might be helpful for both sides to agree on a written "Memorandum of Understanding" between the two offices outlining a series of collaborative steps.

Evaluation

72. An evaluation questionnaire was returned by 26 out of the 27 experts from the South-eastern European countries. The global evaluation is positive. Nearly all experts evaluate the quality of the seminar in general as 'good' or 'excellent'. The duration is evaluated as 'adequate' by 23 experts, and 'too short' by 3 experts. With regard to the structure of the seminar, the majority of experts think that the timing of the various sessions was 'about right'. However, 6 to 11 think that sessions on 'Measuring Poverty',

‘Monitoring Poverty Policies’, and ‘Monitoring Non-Income Aspects of Poverty’ should have taken more time. With regard to the usefulness of the seminar for the work on social monitoring and human development reporting, nearly all experts are rating ‘good’ or ‘excellent’. All 26 experts would like to have another seminar on the same topic in 2002, and 21 think it should be similar to the Warsaw seminar. 14 questionnaires include written comments and suggestions. These call for more interactive work, in sub-groups, based on case studies.

¹ A part of the discussion in this session was continued in Session 5 - Monitoring non-income aspects of poverty.