

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

**PROGRESS ON THE COMPILATION OF GENDER STATISTICS AND
INDICATORS IN FINLAND**

Paper submitted by Statistics Finland¹

Introduction

The development of gender statistics and indicators in Finland at the end of the 1990s is based on two documents: "Outline plan for the development of statistics on equality between the sexes/ Gender statistics, 1996-2000" by Statistics Finland, and the "National Plan of Action for the Promotion of Gender Equality of the Government of Finland", approved in February 1997. Both these documents are based on the Platform for Action approved in August 1995 at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women. The outline plan for the development of gender statistics in Finland has already been presented in the ECE work session on gender statistics in 1998. The progress made after the work session is reported in this paper. However, since the resources for the implementation of the outline plan have to be negotiated separately every year, some of the projects have been prolonged and some postponed to the future. For implementing the projects of the Plan of Action of the Government, Statistics Finland has co-operated with the Council for Equality and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. This has resulted in progress in basic statistics on violence, a survey on violence against women, and the Gender Barometer. The realisation of the outline plan is in good start, as is indicated by the progress in statistics on decision-making, gender indicators and production of compendiums describing the position of women and men in Finland ("Naiset ja miehet Suomessa 1998" and "Women and Men in Finland 1999"). In addition, an Internet homepage of statistics on gender equality in Finland has been set up. Statistics on the economic participation/economic input of women and men are still waiting for

¹ Ms. Eeva-Sisko Veikkola, Statistics Finland

improvement of description and coverage. The resources for gender statistics have been doubled in the last five years. There are now three persons working on gender statistics at Statistics Finland.

All in all, one can say that the progress in Finland concerning gender statistics was quite positive at the end of the 1990s. In the following sections some of the main results will be reported. In addition, the development of the co-operation with the Nordic and Baltic countries and the neighbouring regions of Russia will be described briefly.

Gender equality indicators

The Plan of Action for the Promotion of Gender Equality of the Government of Finland defines the areas of the gender indicators as following "Statistics Finland will design, in co-operation with users, equality indicators to gauge bias in education and work, earned income, the distribution and availability of services, participation in society, decision-making, health and crime." Work on gender indicators has started in the areas of decision-making and working life. A pilot set of indicators in decision-making does exist and the first indicators will be published during this autumn. Pia Pulkkinen will report more deeply the work on indicators on decision-making in her paper "Identification of national gender issues through indicators-case decision making in Finland". Work on indicators on participation in working life is in progress. Among the documents used in the development work is the National Plan of Action for Employment (NAP). Representatives of the prominent users have been acting as an advisory group. Contacts with the EU project on employment indicators has been kept with the Finnish member of the EU project. A draft list of the indicators exists and it will be tested during the autumn.

Preventing violence against women

A study on violence against women was carried out as a postal inquiry by Statistics Finland in co-operation with the Council for Equality in the second half of 1997. A systematic sample of 7,100 Finnish and Swedish-speaking women aged 18-74 was drawn from the Central Population Register. The response rate was 70.3%. The results are published under the title "Faith, Hope, Battering. A Survey of Men's Violence against Women in Finland", Markku Heiskanen - Minna Piispa, Statistics Finland-Council for Equality, SVT Justice 1998:20, Equality between men and women, Helsinki 1998. The main questions tackled in the report are: How prevalent is violence by men against women? How much of it is there in different population groups? How prevalent is violence experienced by women in a relationship and what is it like? How prevalent is violence that occurs outside relationships and what is it like? How concerned are women about the risk of becoming a victim of violence in different situations in everyday life? How prevalent is sexual harassment?

The improvement of the coverage of the basic statistics on domestic violence will depend on the results of the analysis of two different information collection methods, and the funds available. A study on the expenditures of the violence will be published this autumn.

The Gender Barometer

The National Plan of Action defines the target of the Gender Barometer in the following way: "The Finnish Government wishes to monitor citizens' impressions about gender equality and changes in the situation. Therefore, a new tool, equality barometer will be developed and produced at least every other year to provide information on the experiences of women and men regarding gender equality in personal relationships, family life, organisations, working life and society."

The 1998 gender barometer is the first in what is to become a series. It is the baseline with which the results of subsequent barometers, carried out at regular intervals, will be compared, the aim being to reflect the trend in male-female relations in Finland. The barometer seeks to analyse, by means of men's and women's estimates, attitudes, and personal experiences, the division of labour and power between men and women and how acceptable the division is in various situations arising in society. The basic assumption of the barometer is that women and men are sufficiently alike to permit an examination of the implementation of equality, yet that they also clearly differ, as the results of the 1998 barometer demonstrate. The data for the barometer were collected by means of a telephone survey in January 1998 in conjunction with the Statistics Finland's Labour Force Survey. The interviews were computer-aided, i.e. the interviewer read the questions from a computer and recorded the replies as the interview proceeded. The sample consisted of about 2,400 persons aged 15-74. Acceptable replies were received from 77% of the sample (943 women and 929 men). The survey proceeds from estimates of and attitudes to society in general to the interviewee's assessment and experiences of her/his own workplace or educational institution, then to the division of labour and spending within the family, and finally to very personal feelings. The results are published under the title "The Gender Barometer 1998. Equality between Men and Women in Finland", Tuula Melkas, Statistics Finland -Council for Equality, SVT Living Conditions 1999:1, Gender Statistics. The second barometer will be produced in 2001.

Working life

Quality of work life surveys have been undertaken in Finland as early as 1977. Analysis of the results from gender perspective, i.e. working conditions of women and men has been in focus in all of them. The latest publication on gender equality in working life was compiled in 1999 ("Gender Equality in Working Life", Anna-Maija Lehto – Hanna Sutela: Statistics Finland, SVT: Labour Market 1999:22). The publication exploits the extensive interview material collected by Statistics Finland's Quality of Work Life Surveys - especially the latest one conducted in autumn 1997 - containing data on approximately 3,000 wage and salary earners. The Quality of Work Life Surveys from 1977 to 1997 outline the long-term changes in Finnish women's and men's working conditions and experiences of equality. Findings of the 1997 survey have been published in a report entitled "Efficient, More Efficient, Exhausted". The issues analysed in the publication are work and family, fair treatment and social relationships at workplace, gender pay differential, fixed-term employment relationships, and information technology.

A study on women's position in the Finnish labour market in the 1990s, as well as the differences in women's and men's labour market positions and reasons for them was carried out as a co-operative project by the Ministry of Labour and Statistics Finland. Women's labour market

position has been examined with the help of, among other things, the rate of employment, unemployment, rate of part-time employment, type of employment relationship and the concept of occupational segregation. The study is chiefly based on Statistics Finland's Labour Force Survey and Quality of Work Life Survey statistics. The results are published under the title "Naiset Suomen työmarkkinoilla 1990-luvulla", Lotta Savola, Tilastokeskus, SVT, Työmarkkinat 2000:4, Sukupuolten tasa-arvo 2000:001 . The publication is in Finnish, but it contains an English abstract. An English summary of the main results is available as well.

International progress

The Nordic co-operation in gender statistics continues. A third publication of statistics on women and men in the Nordic countries was completed in summer 1999 ("Women and Men in the Nordic Countries 1999: Facts and figures 1999", The Nordic Council of Ministers, TemaNord 1999:514). It was mainly financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

As a result of the gender statistics expert meeting in connection of the "Women and Men in Dialogue" conference of the Baltic countries in Valmiera, Latvia in August 1997, a contact network of gender statisticians of the Baltic and Nordic countries and the neighbouring areas of Russia was established. Contacts will primarily be held via e-mail and mail. Finland will host the first contact meeting of the network on 21-22 September 2000. The Nordic Council of Ministers will support the meeting financially. The network contains gender statisticians from the Nordic and Baltic countries and from St. Petersburg, Karelia and Murmansk.

References:

Naiset ja miehet Suomessa 1998, Tilastokeskus, Sukupuolten tasa-arvo 3.Helsinki 1998.

Women and Men in Finland 1999, Statistics Finland, Gender Statistics 7.Helsinki 1999.

Faith, Hope, Battering. A Survey of Men's Violence against Women in Finland, Markku Heiskanen- Minna Piispa, Statistics Finland- Council for Equality, SVT Justice 1998:20, Equality between men and women, Helsinki 1998.

The Gender Barometer 1998. Equality between Men and Women in Finland, Tuula Melkas, Statistics Finland- Council for equality, SVT Living Conditions 1999:1. Gender Statistics, Helsinki 1999.

Gender Equality in Working Life, Anna- Maija Lehto- Hanna Sutela, Statistics Finland, SVT, Labour Market 1999:22, Helsinki 1999.

Naiset Suomen työmarkkinoilla 1990-luvulla, Lotta Savola, Tilastokeskus, SVT, Työmarkkinat 2000:4, Sukupuolten tasa-arvo 2000:001, Helsinki 2000.

Women and Men in the Nordic Countries 1999:Facts and figures 1999, The Nordic Council of Ministers, TemaNord 1999:514, Copenhagen 1999.

Outline plan for the development of statistics on equality between the sexes/gender statistics, 1996-2000, Statistics Finland.

From Beijing to Finland. The Plan of Action for the Promotion of Gender Equality of the Government of Finland, Publications of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health 1997:20, Helsinki 1997.