Online discussion: Updates to Gender Statistics Database: Environment & Transport, COVID-19, EU Funds

Introduction

On 7 December 2021, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) hosted an online discussion about its Gender Statistics Database. The discussion focused, firstly, on recent expansions of the data related to some of the core challenges affecting the EU today, including the green transition and the European Green Deal. It, secondly, looked at newly collected data regarding women and men in decision-making related to COVID-19 and EU funding.

The objective of the discussion was to inform stakeholders about the work EIGE is doing and the key messages coming from data, as well as to get inputs from participants about the usefulness of the data, how it can be used to inform policy, and what further developments could be considered.

Part 1: Environment & Climate Change and Transport, 09.30-11.00 (CET)

European Commission action on gender equality related to Environment & Climate Change and transport

Three guest speakers discussed ongoing work at the European Commission to improve gender equality in the relevant areas including through the Taskforce on Equality and two platforms to bring together actors to share best practice and implement measures.

Marina Garcia Alonso, Taskforce on Equality, (DG CLIMA)
Marina Garcia Alonso gave an outline of the Taskforce on Equality and discussed the importance of equality to the European Commission and within the green transition more specifically and the importance of data in informing this process.

Ruth Lopian (DG Mobility and Transport - DG MOVE)
Ruth Lopian gave a presentation on the sustainable and smart mobility strategy and how it reflects equality mainstreaming. She discussed the importance of a transport gender policy as only 22% of EU transport workers are women. Ruth Lopian then outlined a flagship initiative: an EU Platform for change to increase the number of women in transport jobs, which was launched in 2017. Platform members propose a variety of actions, several of which target harassment as this is one element preventing women from entering the sector. Others concern mentoring, awareness raising or gender balance plans. All information is available on the DG MOVE website on EUROPA (https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/social-

issues/women-transport/women-transport-eu-platform-change_en). It is an active platform that meets around three times a year to discuss and exchange information about good practices.

Joana Simão Costa (DG ENERGY)
Joana Simão Costa discussed the importance of energy to this debate and the relevance of EIGE's data as, even if the data concerns environment and climate, energy (production and use) is responsible for more than 75% of the EU GHG emissions – so almost any decision about climate is a decision about energy. Women are underrepresented in the energy sector but there is not enough data to know the extent to which they are underrepresented. DG ENERGY worked with a contractor to collect sex-disaggregated data and faced several difficulties as there is no extensive reporting of data and the data available does not consider this level of disaggregation. Joana Costa Simão shared graphs showing the results from the study, on the representation of women in the energy sector which showed that the further up the career ladder, the fewer the women.
DG ENERGY has started an equality platform for the energy sector, the first platform of this kind for the energy sector, based on DG MOVE's EU Platform for change. The platform aims to create a network of stakeholders and give them a space to discuss and showcase measures, including data collection and availability.

EIGE's data on environment & climate change and transport

EIGE regularly monitors the gender balance in key positions of power in the **environment and climate change** arena within the EU. With key datasets with a time-series back to 2012, the data can be used to help monitor progress with implementation of Area H of the Beijing Platform for Action through the indicators proposed by EIGE and adopted by the Danish Presidency in 2012. Working closely with DG MOVE to meet their needs for additional data in this area, EIGE has expanded its statistical activity on environment and climate change.

This has been achieved through further disaggregating existing data. Most recent statistics collected show that the share of women in national delegations to UNFCCC had a very small increase of women delegates from 46.1% to 52.9% for SBs, and from 40.6% to 48.0% for COP. A similarly small increase is seen in the share of women members of EU parliament committees related to the environment, which have increased from 38.2% to 41.1%.

Further data has been newly collected from European NGOs and extracted from external sources. For example, Eurostat's Farm Structure Survey revealed that only 28.7% of farms in the EU are managed by women, with a considerable variation in ownership of farms by women across the EU, from

44.7% in Latvia to 5.2% in the Netherlands.

Regarding decision-making in the **transport** sector, EIGE has been working with DG MOVE to address the lack of relevant data on decision-making in the sector. The new datasets made available on EIGE's Gender Statistics Database have been developed through disaggregation of existing datasets covering both national and EU levels.

The data shows that DG Move is well gender balanced with an equal number of women and men directors and members of cabinet. However, only 37.3% of members of the EP's Transport and Tourism Committee are women, only 15.5% of transport ministers are women and only 26.5% of parliamentary committee members are women.

Discussion Questions:
1. **Existing data on environment and climate change**, shows a mixed picture. Gender balance is greater amongst the European Commission and in European level NGOs than in national politics and European social partner organisations. To what extent do you think this is a structural issue affecting different types of organization (e.g., parliaments or social partners) rather than a sectoral issue? How does this impact on the messages that can be delivered through the data?

2. With the exception of the European institutions, **existing data on transport** reveals more significant gender imbalances. How can the information be used to generate wider awareness of the issues affecting the sector?

3. Regarding the **further development of data** in the areas of environment/climate change and transport: Are there specific issues related to decision-making in environment and climate change or in transport that you would like to see covered?

4. In transport, for example, it could be possible to delve further into the situation within the different sub-sectors (aviation, maritime, railways, and road transport) and how these are regulated in each country. Would this be a worthwhile addition to EIGE's data? What other transport-related issues might be considered?

Discussion
In the discussion, a participant from Malta asked if data is available about gender equality and private sector engagement or disaggregated at sub-sector level. EIGE noted this data is not available but there is data on the private sector through the blue-chip index.
The same participation from Malta also asked about practical steps they could take to increase the number of women in these sectors. EIGE signposted to their statistical notes and other resources on measures that have been implemented and noted there have been a lot of soft measures

have done a lot to improve representation of women in decision-making. Another participant suggested one measure that could be important is DGs raising awareness through their website.

Statistics Finland shared a link to a book published by Statistics Finland in 2021 'Gender Equality in Finland' which has a section on the environment.

Break, 11:00-11:20 (CET)

Part 2: Covid-19 decision making bodies, 11:20-12.00 (CET)

EIGE is developing datasets on the decision-makers involved in managing responses to COVID-19. Some of this data derives from disaggregation of existing datasets, while other data is being collected specially.

At the EU level, there is reasonable gender parity. EU agencies (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control & European Medicines Agency) are led by a woman president and executive head, and 42.4% of their combined members are women. Similarly, three out of five of the European Commission's coronavirus response team are women.

At national level several new indicators have been developed. These include a new indicator on national government ministers dealing with health/COVID; this shows that women are positively represented as they account for 45.6% of members of parliamentary committees on COVID/health but only 32.7% of MPs. The new indicator on national scientific COVID advisory committees, shows that women make up only 38.8% of president/chairs, although data is ongoing and only collected from 15 Member States at present.

Part 3: EU Funds - Resilience and Recovery Facility, 12.00-12.30 (CET)

EIGE is currently collecting data, as part of a feasibility study, designed to inform stakeholders on the gender balance amongst key decision-makers regarding EU funds, focusing on the key/strategic decisions and funding allocation processes for each of the main EU funding streams, including the Resilience and Recovery Facility (RRF).

Data is being collected from official websites where available, but is heavily reliant on contact persons in relevant organisations. Findings regarding fund allocation at national level remain very tentative because a low response rate is hindering data collection. EIGE noted that one of the purposes of this event is to encourage participation in the data collection.

At EU level, data is available from specific groups in the 3 EU institutions involved in the negotiation procedures and with significant influence in the

final formal decisions. At General Affairs Council, of the 28 Member, 10 are women; at DG for Budget, the Director General is a man, both deputy directors are women, and 2 of the 3 directors are women; and at the Committee on Budgets, the chair is a man and 10 of 41 Members are women.

Key questions for discussion:

1. What are your views on the relevance of the data being collected? How might it be used?

2. How often should such data be collected?

3. Data on COVID-19 decision-making could, for example, just be a one-off. Would that be enough or should some future updates be considered?

4. For EU-Funding, the key decisions about fund allocations are taken early in each programming period. Is one collection per programming period enough or should there also be intermediate updates?

5. What are your views on the coverage of the data being collected? Is it enough?

6. What other organisations/bodies might be covered?

Discussion

In the discussion, most participants specifically commented on the usefulness to the data. A participant from European Parliament's Research Service said she will share the data with MEPs. A participant from Bosnia and Herzegovina said they will share the powerpoints with relevant stakeholders in their country, including national statistical institutions and gender institutional mechanisms. They also noted they are part of IPA III beneficiaries and that it is extremely important to them to follow EU trends. They further noted, they use data on WMID from EIGE's gender statistics database and publish the data in their 'Women and Men' publication.

A participant from Bosnia and Herzegovina stressed it is important that this useful data is shared widely so impact can be maximised. In discussing dissemination methods, Statistics Finland recommended using social media and short stories.

A participant from European Parliament's Research Service expressed interest in further data collection on the content of the national recovery plans and other funds from a gender perspective. A participant from France mentioned wanting data on access to information and transparency.

Statistics Finland recommended developing linkages with She Figures which also includes data on decision-making. Other interlinkages were also discussed. Statistics Portugal shared that they collect and publish about 20 indicators on decision-making in their gender database. Statistics Finland said their publication on Gender Equality in Finland has a section on power and decision-making, as well as a section on the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, which is available in English, and a summarised version is on their webpage. Statistics Finland said they will share their findings about funding with EIGE.

Key Takeaways

1. DG MOVE and DG ENERGY have set up platforms to discuss, share and develop best practices to increase the representation of women in the transport and energy sectors respectively.
2. Participants agreed that EIGE's data collection in the areas of Environment & Transport, COVID-19 and EU Funds provide useful insights in gender inequalities in these areas and were keen to share the data will colleagues and establish linkages with their own initiatives. Participants stressed the importance of effectively communicating and sharing the data to increase uptake.
3. Participants highlighted new areas that could be explored further in EIGE's primary data collection, such as gender perspective in COVID-19 Recovery Plans, and sought practical advice from EIGE on how to fill in gender gaps.