Metadata for Gender Statistics: A practical example from the European Institute for Gender Equality

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Outline

Gender Statistics

`A field of statistics which cuts across the traditional fields adequately reflecting differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in all areas of life`

collected and presented **disaggregated by sex** as a primary and overall classification

reflecting **gender issues**

based on **concepts and definitions** that adequately capture all aspects of women and men's lives

data collection methods consider **stereotypes and social and cultural factors** that may induce gender biases

Why a Gender perspective?

data **disaggregated by sex** are not exhaustive

social relationship between women and men are more relevant than biological differences

important instrument for **Monitoring & Evaluation**

fundamental tool to **mainstream gender** and develop **gender sensitive policies**

Mainstreaming gender into statistics

Data collection → Statistical production → Statistical Analysis → Publication & Dissemination

Women and men in all their diversity equally involved/considered throughout the process

EIGE's
Gender Statistics
Database
is a **one-stop source**
for gender statistics
and information
**on various aspects
of (in)equality
between women
and men**

eurostat

EIGE
European Institute
for Gender Equality

National data

European Commission

European Parliament

EUROBAROMETER

OECD

Eurofound

United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change

FRA
EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

World Health
Organization

EIGE
European Institute
for Gender Equality

EIGE's Gender Statistics Database

Collection of statistical data and associated metadata pertaining specifically to the area of gender statistics.
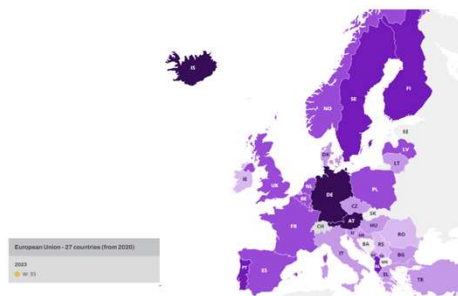
8 entry points/ Highest-level themes

Database logical structure based on the **SDMX standard** for the organisation, production and exchange of statistical information
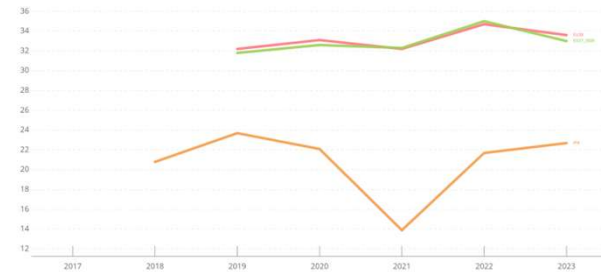
The Database Structure

- Basic (lowest-level) organising elements ('building blocks') - Data sets

- Displayed to users with the help of data set views (DSVs)

- DSVs define data visualisations:

maps

customisable data tables

line charts

bar charts

Sources of indicators in the Database
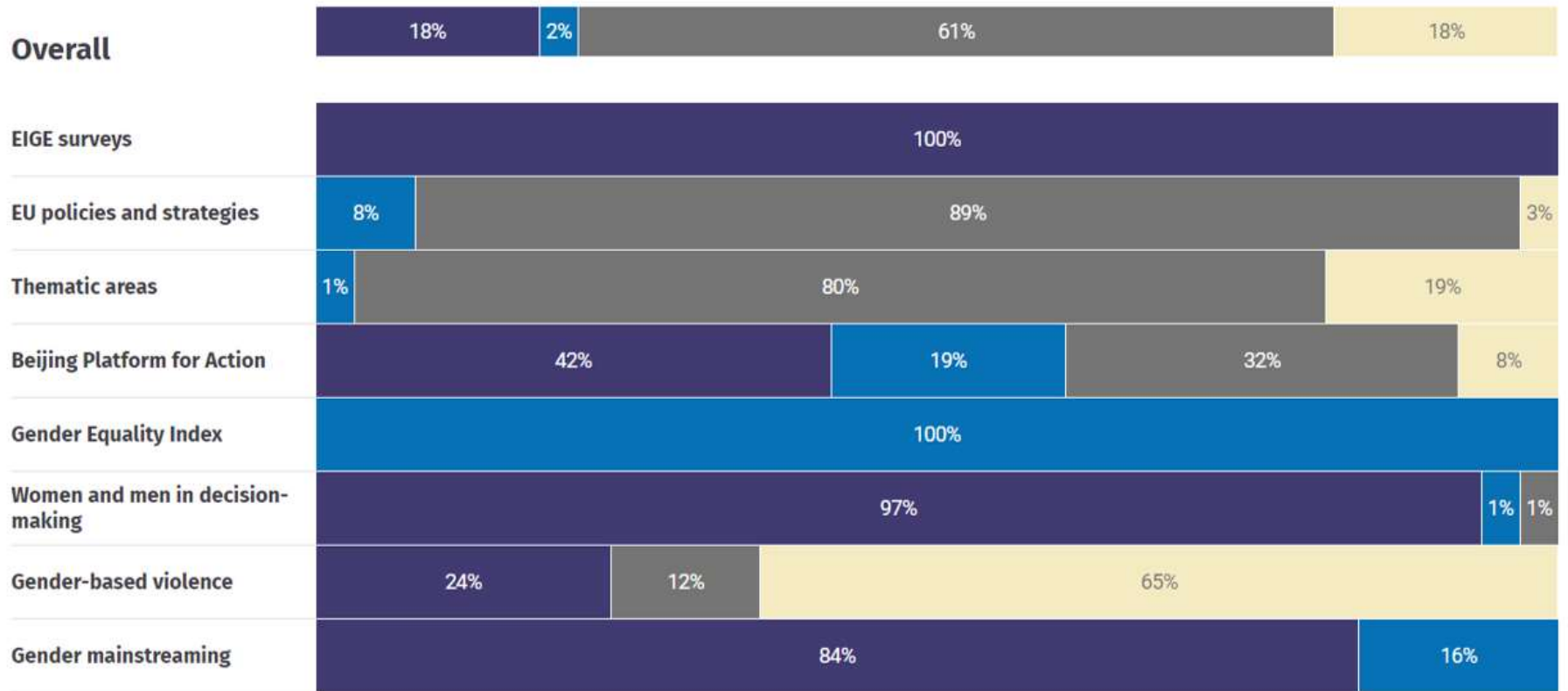
	Data directly collected by EIGE	Data computed by EIGE	Data from Eurostat	Data from other sources
Overall	18%	2%	61%	18%
EIGE surveys	100%			
EU policies and strategies		8%	89%	3%
Thematic areas		1%	80%	19%
Beijing Platform for Action	42%	19%	32%	8%
Gender Equality Index		100%		
Women and men in decision-making	97%	1%	1%	
Gender-based violence	24%		12%	65%
Gender mainstreaming	84%	16%		

Presentation of data and metadata in the Database

Data disaggregated by sex (and often also by additional characteristics)

Microdata anonymised and properly labelled

All data accompanied by appropriate metadata

Extensive Metadata

An integral part of EIGE's Gender Statistics Database

Assessing and ensuring data quality

Key methodological information on the source of the indicator, coverage, frequency of updates and comparability

Understanding, interpreting and analysing gender statistics

Structural Metadata

A structured description of the way the statistical data and the reference metadata are organized

Embedded in the data (e.g. The names and codes of data sets and dimensions and the code lists of criteria and attributes)

End user does not necessarily have to be aware of most structural metadata

Reference Metadata

Additional descriptive information on the concepts used, the data collection and generation methods employed and the quality of the data

Extensive, mostly free-form description of the data, including (but not necessarily limited to):

- what the data purport to measure
- how these measurements have been made
- how the measurements should be interpreted
- who is responsible for collecting and disseminating the data
- how often the data are updated and disseminated
- where the updated data and additional information can be found
- how high the quality of the data is

Metadata

- Shows data origin and other relevant data characteristics

- Analyses the gender-specific issues

- Helps to interpret the data and gender statistical analysis

Unit (unit)

Code	Value
PC	Percentage

Sex (sex)

Code	Value
T	Total
M	Men
W	Women

Age (age)

Code	Value
Y15-19	From 15 to 19 years
Y15-24	From 15 to 24 years
Y15-29	From 15 to 29 years
Y15-39	From 15 to 39 years
Y15-59	From 15 to 59 years
Y15-64	From 15 to 64 years
Y15-74	From 15 to 74 years
Y_GE15	15 years or over
Y20-64	From 20 to 64 years
Y25-49	25-49
Y25-59	From 25 to 59 years
Y25-64	From 25 to 64 years
Y25-74	From 25 to 74 years
Y_GE25	25 years or over
Y40-59	From 40 to 59 years
Y40-64	From 40 to 64 years
Y50-59	From 50 to 59 years
Y50-64	50-64
Y50-74	From 50 to 74 years
Y_GE50	50 years or over

Conclusion

Metadata enables users to apply gender statistics to their work in a more **confident**, **accurate**, and **effective** manner

Integrating gender into statistical processes involves collecting gender-sensitive **data**, using gender-sensitive **indicators** and **methodologies**, and reporting comprehensive **metadata** to improve gender statistics.

Metadata must explain the **gender-specific quality considerations**

Gender-specific quality considerations

Are sex-disaggregated statistics available?

Are additional breakdown variables available (i.e. by sex and age)?

Are there questions on gender relevant topics?

Do the working definitions used by the data producer fully cover the concept?

Are all types of gender-related violence included in the operational definition of gender-based violence?

Does the sample adequately cover all groups of women and men?

Is the sample large enough to adequately describe small relevant groups and to allow for simultaneous disaggregation by sex and other relevant variables?

Is gender-neutral language used when referring to concepts such as occupations?

Is the questionnaire designed in a way that takes into account gender perspectives and avoids gender biases?

Are interviewers properly trained to avoid asking questions in a leading way, particularly one that is gender stereotyped?

Do questions try to avoid bias arising from cultural differences in norms and perceptions?

⚠️ **Do metadata provide adequate information on how gender issues have been addressed?**

What is measured becomes visible

What is visible can be explained, monitored and improved

Let's talk

Connect with us!

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come in for a chat!