

Press Release

Women and Men in Albania, Publication 2018

Tirane, 07 June 2018: "Women and Men in Albania" is the latest publication of INSTAT, supported by UN Women and funded by the Austrian Development Agency, through which the Albanian reality comes into view regarding population, health, education and decision making, bringing into focus gender equality. Present at the conference with the same title were Deputy Prime Minister, Mrs. Senida Mesi, Mr. Brian Williams, UN Permanent Coordinator in Albania, and Mr. Heinz Habertheuer, representative of the Austrian Development Agency in Albania. INSTAT General Director, Mrs. Delina Ibrahimaj, emphasized the importance that this publication has for state institutions, businesses and the population.

The publication contains important evidence for policymakers and decision-makers working on gender issues and includes an ever-increasing range of gender statistics in Albania. "Of the various innovations, from this publication we can mention the inclusion of domestic movements for men and women in the population chapter, as well as some data on Albanian families with gender analysis," said Ibrahimaj. While, UN Permanent Coordinator in Albania, Mr. Brian Williams, said that UN Women's support to INSTAT over this issue is of particular importance, addressing goal number 5 of the global Sustainable Development Goals, the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

In her speech, Deputy Prime Minister, Mrs. Senida Mesi, said that the government and she personally are fully committed to advancing gender issues and empowering women's role. She considered this publication as a very important instrument for building appropriate policies and strategies, serving as a support mechanism for international gender equality policies

On the other hand, representative of the Austrian Development Agency in Albania, Mr. Heinz Habertheuer, emphasized the increased participation of women in decision-making. According to him, the number of women in the labor market continues to be low, while most women are discouraged to work. Habertheuer said that the lack of a structured childcare service is causing burdens especially for employed women.

The publication has analyzed decision-making statistics, which show how strong women are becoming in politics and business, as well as in everyday life. Concretely, by the end of 2017, the level of women's representation in parliament has reached the highest 29% since 2013, and the percentage of women leading enterprises is 30%. The proportion of women among councilors of municipalities is 36.9%. Women's participation in diplomatic missions in 2017 has been comparable to men, where the percentage of women ambassadors was 27.0%, while women in the position of Minister were 57.0%.

According to the publication "Women and Men in Albania", it turns out that more boys are born than girls, but on the other hand, women live longer than men. Namely, women live on average about 3 years more than men. Health is another topic addressed by the publication, where emphasis is placed on the diseases affecting most Albanians and abortions.

"In Albania, for both men and women, bloodstream diseases, continue to be the cause of deaths by 56.8% in women and 50.7% among men," the publication reads.

Focusing on health, Mrs. Ibrahimaj stressed that "these figures should serve policy makers to make better decisions about budget planning in healthcare. As seen, there is a need to have a gender budget in the country where policies are also focused on the implementation of gender equality in practice."

Abortions are another aspect of health when it comes to gender analysis. The data shows that for each 5.9 births, an abortion occurred at the same time, mostly in the age groups 20-34 years, which are mostly spontaneous (77.4%).

When it comes to education, the boys dominate pre-university, but higher education is dominated by girls by about 60%.

Women are half of the population of this country and consequently they are a very important part of social development, where integrating policies and increasing their access to decision-making or other areas of life should be a priority.

Therefore, our awareness is that only through an objective reflection based on statistics, an approach to empowering women and girls to overcome structural barriers and gender equality be achieved.

INSTAT is an independent public institution, the official coordinator of the National Statistical System of Albania, whose mission is to produce neutral, transparent, timely, appropriate, reliable and comparable statistics for decision-makers, researchers and academics in Albania, as well as in the international community.

UN Women in Albania works closely with the government and civil society to create and implement the necessary laws, policies, programs and services to improve women's status and achieve global gender equality standards.

The Austrian Development Agency supports projects and programs to combat poverty, to ensure peace and the environment, with a total funding of EUR 500 million to improve living conditions in developing countries.