Data excellence in the Vienna City Administration

Gender statistics and data on equality

StaDt✚Wien

Why gender statistics and data on equality are important …

Data play a key role in the Vienna City Administration's day-to-day work. Such data need not necessarily take the form of studies; annual reports or performance reports frequently rely on data as well. Examples include counts of citizen contacts, customer surveys, and internal evaluations, etc. Many Vienna City Administration employees keep directories and registers and contribute to the generation of administrative data, for instance when evaluating applications submitted by citizens. Keeping tally sheets of users of a specific service, too, falls under the heading of working with data. What is more, data and statistics are important on the policy level; they help to identify trends and developments in society that may call for new political measures and legal provisions. Here are a few examples of where data are used regularly within the City of Vienna's reporting system:

Performance reports, performance contracts, science reports, gender budgeting reports, the Vienna in Figures yearbook, the Equality Monitor, the Integration & Diversity Monitor, the Vienna Social Report, etc. Statistics are able to point out structural inequalities within the population, highlight positive and negative changes for specific population groups over time and thus contribute to public administration efficiency and customer focus. In order to be able to map the great diversity of people and their living circumstances as closely as possible, data have to be broken down by different characteristics (such as gender, origin or disability), and statistics need to be generated accordingly.
In keeping with the gender mainstreaming and diversity strategy, gender and equality aspects have to be taken into account as a routine measure.

Gender statistics and data on equality

Gender statistics are not separate statistics or special forms of statistics. Quite on the contrary, the aim is to make all statistics gender-sensitive with a view to identifying differences between the genders, if any. For this reason, the term gender statistics first of all refers to breaking down personal data by biological gender (women/men), both when gathering and when analysing the data. However, gender statistics means more than that: It means including insights from women's studies and equality research into the formulation of the questions asked for statistical purposes. Doing so can result in additional questions being asked as well as in changes or enhancements to the particular statistics.

Gender statistics and data on equality are complementary, as data on equality take account of additional attributes. By linking attributes such as nationality and country of birth, language, disability, age, parenthood, income, working hours, education, living arrangements etc., it is possible to obtain more detailed information on access, barriers and discrimination. If, for example, a customer survey only looks at the totality of women/men, it does not take account of the fact that young women/men have needs and lives that are different in many respects from those of women/men over the age of 60 (attribute: age).

In practice …

A well-established metric in market research is footfall counting. As a rule, this is done by means of a manual count, for instance in shopping streets, frequently taking into consideration a number of context factors, such as time of day, weather, season, etc. Gender and equality aspects, however, are hardly ever considered. When it comes to customer focus and building design issues, it is not only relevant to know whether women or men frequent the shopping streets, but also to have additional information about the approximate age structure, the number of people with a physical disability, the use of prams and push-

chairs, etc. The question as to who is not represented at all and can thus not enter into the data sample is highly relevant, too. Only once you have gathered all of this information will it be possible to have an accurate picture of the users, their needs and any existing barriers. The situation is similar for counts made to establish the use of green spaces, means of transport, footpaths and bike lanes, etc. Unless you have all the relevant data, it will not be possible to get pertinent answers to questions of usage, possibility of participation and economic efficiency.

Statistics Act and Statistics Decree

The Vienna Statistics Act (Vienna Legal Gazette No. 37/1987 as amended) governs the procurement of the statistics for Vienna both as a federal province and as a municipality, covering issues such as the collection, processing and publication of data. The Statistics Decree (MA 5-336/2012) provides rules for the cooperation of Vienna's various municipal departments with Municipal Department 23 when it comes to statistics and register counts. Please do not forget to forward your statistical analyses and evaluations to Municipal Department 23 and/or consult with Municipal Department 23 before placing orders with external entities for data collection and/or evaluation.

Data protection

Personal data which cover attributes such as religion, beliefs, sexual orientation or disabilities are treated as sensitive data or data subject to special protection. For this reason, it has to be ensured that when a data record relating to persons is processed statistically, it is not possible to draw inferences from it as to the identity of such persons. If you want to know more about data protection, please contact your data adviser and the staff of Municipal Department 26.

Asking the right questions – generating knowledge

Gender and equality issues have to be taken into account already at the stage when you ask yourself "What do I want to know?". The first question to ask is whether gender is relevant in this context, the next whether there are further equality aspects (origin, age, etc.) that need to be taken into consideration. If you need more in-depth advice, do not hesitate to contact the staff of the units in charge of these issues (MD-OS Gender Mainstreaming Bureau, Municipal Department 17, Municipal Department 57, etc.).

How do I obtain data?

1) Are there any existing data and where can you find them?

The first port of call should be Municipal Department 23 – Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics. High-level data on the City of Vienna can be found, for example, on the website of Municipal Department 23 and in the Vienna in Figures yearbook. If you have more specific questions, the staff of the units concerned will be able to provide you with data. Of course, excellent data sources are available also outside the City Administration (e.g. Statistics Austria).

2) Collecting data

If no data exist that satisfy your questions, you have two options. If the questions are of a complex nature, it is possible to commission studies. Otherwise, you can collect data on your own, for instance by conducting user counts by keeping a tally sheet, conducting customer surveys or statistically recording all cases being handled by a given unit.

3) Commissioning studies

If you commission studies that also comprise data and empirical contents, you should not only keep in mind the basic rules of public procurement, but also take account of the basic principles of Vienna's equality and diversity policy (e.g. definitions, anti-discrimination) in awarding, carrying out and reviewing such a study. External contractors commissioned with studies by the City of Vienna should also collect and analyse data based on gender and other equality attributes. Gender-fair language should be used – i.e. women and men should be addressed directly – in questionnaires, in interviews as well as in the text parts for such a study.

Documenting data

A good documentation makes it easier to understand and interpret data. It should provide general information (e.g. data source), details on the data collection method used (e.g. full/partial) and data quality (e.g. validity and objectivity).

Analysing, interpreting and presenting data

To be able to offer insights, data have to be edited using different techniques (calculation of mean values, variances, growth rates, etc.) before they can be interpreted in terms of content. Data interpretation as such is about providing an answer to the initial question based on figures and data. To do so, it is necessary to ascertain the facts (e.g. what can/cannot be answered), to describe developments and changes, to identify correlations and to find causes. Data presentation relies on graphics and tables, which have to be appealing, easy and quick to understand, well-structured and informative. Please keep in mind that not every type of chart or table is suited for presenting all kinds of data. Also make sure to take account of accessibility.

Tips

Check your data sources

Always ask yourself how reliable the data source is. You don't want to be spreading myths. Are references available about the source? What do you know about the source? Is the entity or institution in question well-reputed?

Space is not a problem

If a table becomes too large to be shown in the text body of a document because you have included gender statistics and data on equality, you can always show only a section of the table in the text and enclose the whole table as an annex.

No separate sections

Do not use separate sections in statistics and reports to present gender- and equality-related contents, but include them in the main sections in keeping with mainstreaming objectives.

Avoid bias

Whenever possible, a survey should include all relevant population groups, as otherwise it might give rise to undesirable bias. This will make it difficult to draw inferences relating to the entire underlying universe.

Combine several attributes

When examining complex correlations within society, such as unemployment, it is advisable to use combinations of several different attributes. One such question, for example, might be whether women with an immigration background or men who are single parents are more/less affected by unemployment.

Further information

Equality Monitor (Municipal Department 57) (German only)

https://www.wien.gv.at/menschen/frauen/stichwort/gleichstellung/gleichstellungsmonitor/

Integration and Diversity Monitor (Municipal Department 17)

https://www.wien.gv.at/english/social/integration/basic-work/monitoring.html

Quality of living in Vienna 1995 – 2013 (Municipal Department 18) (German only)

https://www.wien.gv.at/stadtentwicklung/studien/b008411.html

Vienna in Figures (Municipal Department 23)

https://www.wien.gv.at/english/administration/statistics.html

Social reporting (Municipal Department 24) (German only)

https://www.wien.gv.at/gesundheit/einrichtungen/planung/soziales/sozialberichterstattung.html

Gender Mainstreaming (Executive Group for Organisation and Security, MD-OS)

https://www.wien.gv.at/english/administration/gendermainstreaming

Equal opportunities report (Gleichbehandlungsbericht, GBB) (German only)

https://www.wien.gv.at/menschen/gleichbehandlung/themen/gleichbehandlungsbericht-2011-2013.html

OGD – Open Government Data (German only)

https://open.wien.gv.at/site/open-government-data-in-vienna-2//