

# **IMAGES Country Study Documentation**

# **Serbia**

**2018**

# IMAGES

The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) is co-coordinated by Promundo and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), with many key partners and contributors worldwide.

The repository of IMAGES survey questions and related documentation on [www.menandgendersurvey.org](http://www.menandgendersurvey.org) is curated and managed by Promundo with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Please visit this website for a list of partners who have contributed to IMAGES over the years.

For more information on the IMAGES study go to [our website](#).

# 1

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The IMAGES Serbia study addresses key issues in the field of men and gender equality, which include partner relations, the dynamics of family relationships, and the key health and social aspects of men.

The IMAGES study conducted in Serbia is based on three important theoretical pillars. The first pillar consists of the knowledge about men and masculinities accumulated for decades particularly in the field of critical studies of men and masculinities (CSMM) which rely on feminist theories and feminist knowledge. The other part consists of similar reports and research conducted by PROMUNDO in cooperation with its numerous partners around the world, which also resulted in a series of scientific texts and publications. Finally, the third pillar is made up of knowledge relating to the accumulated results of research on the division of roles in micro-spheres and especially in parenting. These findings are to a certain extent incorporated in this questionnaire (in 20% of the questions), but even more in the interpretation of the results.

# 1

## KEY OBJECTIVES

In Serbia, there is also an attempt to develop a specific theoretical approach that connects the critical studies of men and masculinities with the “theory of semiperipherality” and determination of the specificities of the dominant gender regime from that perspective.

The interconnectedness of these findings creates a relatively consistent system of insights into the empirical reality of the everyday life of men in Serbia. In other words, this research does not start from the "zero point", but enters into the already existing system of knowledge, both internationally and contextually, with the aim of improving it, developing and introducing updated knowledge as well as new concrete empirical data that will be usable in the creation of gender policies. Such a theoretical approach also influenced the creation of a hypothetical framework, which, more implicitly than explicitly, shaped the interpretation of these data. It was rather unlikely to do it explicitly since the IMAGES study framework already existed.

# 1

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The first hypothesis is that changes in the micro-sphere are directed towards establishing an egalitarian pattern of behaviour and an egalitarian division of roles in the process of constant strengthening and that they are unstoppable. These changes are gradual, more pronounced in younger than in older generations of men and more in higher educated than in lower educated men. The changes affect different areas of private life with various intensities, starting mainly from paternity where they are most present.

Another hypothesis is that attitudes towards equality of women and human rights are changing towards the steering away from gender stereotypes, which is more pronounced in younger generations of men and among higher educated men.

The third hypothesis is that there is a tension between discourses and practices, especially expressed between macro-discourses (meta-discourses on gender issues) and micro-practices.

# 1

## KEY OBJECTIVES

Behavioural changes in the micro-sphere and changes in attitudes about gender issues are heading towards progressive transformation, but misogynous formulations are retained in public discourses, thus showing resistance to change.

The fourth hypothesis is about violence. Violence is widespread in many forms and modalities, and while women are incomparably more often victims in intimate partner relationships, men are victims of other men in the public sphere.

The fifth hypothesis concerns health and is based on the assumption that men, precisely due to their gender role, are more susceptible to risky behaviours (drugs, alcohol, smoking, fights, etc.) than women are.

The sixth hypothesis refers to possible "points of reversal", that is, fields of activity and life in which new patterns of behaviour are established (egalitarianism).

# 1

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The assumption is that these points are related to the individuals (male and female) who, in a positive sense, break out of the classic gender roles, including “happily divorced” men or men who choose atypical professions (caring, nursing professions).

The seventh hypothesis relates to the dynamics of change and to the bearers of change in the total population. It is assumed that younger men, as well as those more educated, are more prone to make a positive change in the direction of egalitarian values and non-violence, but also that the change is not simply linear due to the impact of "transition" and stopping of progressive movement toward a higher level of gender equality.

# 2

## DATA COLLECTION

In the period November-December 2017 in Serbia, a quantitative and qualitative research was conducted. It consisted of two components: 1. Quantitative research (questionnaire-based survey) and 2. qualitative research (interviews and focus groups).

The questionnaire was designed on the basis of similar IMAGES questionnaires and contains about 80% of the questions from them and about 20% of context-specific questions. It was a structured questionnaire, mostly with closed-type questions. Also, many other "standard" questions were slightly changed to be adjusted to the context, which is also a common IMAGES practice. The logic of the survey research is almost completely shaped by the IMAGES approach.

The technique of the questionnaire-based survey, which covered 1,060 men and 540 women, was "face-to-face," using tablet computers. The interviewing lasted for about 45 minutes on average and was conducted by the interviewers who had experience in similar surveys and had undergone additional training.



# 2 DATA COLLECTION

The survey was conducted in the respondents' households. A pilot survey was conducted before the main field survey and the comments were incorporated in a new version of the questionnaire. The survey was conducted in the territory of Serbia (excluding Kosovo, UNSCR 1244).

The qualitative analysis included 15 interviews and 3 focus groups. The interviews were conducted with 5 respondents from each of the following groups: 1. activists, pro-feminist, heterosexual, 2. "happily divorced" men who maintain good relations with their ex-wives and who care about their child/children after divorce, 3. female university students who are being educated for "atypical" occupations (at the faculties of mechanical and electrical engineering). The first two groups represent the men who differ from the majority of men in Serbia, and the third group represents the women who also differ from the majority female population. A similar logic was applied in the selection of focus groups.

# 2

## DATA COLLECTION

Three focus groups included: 1. Secondary school male pupils preparing for "typical female" occupations, such as nurse or teacher, 2. male students of the faculties of pedagogy, andragogy and teaching who represent a minority in the highly feminised educational profiles, and 3. students of the Faculty of Theology, because of the great and growing influence that religion has in the lives of a large number of young people and because of the real impact that they will have as future priests in their religious communities.

This selection of interviewees and the first two focus groups was based on the idea that it was necessary to search for the "points of reversal", that is - to map the most advanced practices and discourses in the field of gender equality. On the other hand, the focus group with the students of the Faculty of Theology aimed at identifying the points where it was possible to open a dialogue for defining the "smallest common denominator" in terms of reaching an agreement on the basic humanistic principles, even while retaining different ideological positions ("to agree on not agreeing").

# 2 DATA COLLECTION

The aim of the qualitative research was to contribute not only to determining the extent and way of the functioning of different emancipatory practices (both privately and through professions), but also to the mapping of prevailing discourses on gender in/equality, in order to make the language, definitions, stereotypes and misogyny visible and tangible (discourse of conflict and irreconcilable differences, discourse of extremism, exclusion), just like the negative consequences they produce (violence, discrimination, gender “war”, lack of empathy and solidarity, etc.).

# 3

## SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

The quantitative research was carried out on a nationally representative sample of 1060 men and 540 women 18-60 years old. The qualitative component of the research included 3 focus groups and 15 individuals. The survey was conducted in the territory of Serbia (excluding Kosovo).

# 4

## RESPONSE RATE

The participation refusal rate was about 50%, which is considered a relatively good response, since it rarely exceeds 60%. It is important to note that the interviewers did not encounter any problems in the field related to the refusal or completion of the questionnaire, which certainly was partly due to the fact that the respondents were allowed to answer sensitive questions by using the tablets to write the responses by themselves.

# 5

## WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

No additional information available in this section.

# 6

## MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

No additional information available in this section.

# 7

# QUALITY CONTROL

No additional information available in this section.



# 8

## INTERVIEWER TRAINING

Interviewers had experience in similar surveys and had undergone additional training.

# 9

## DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

No additional information available in this section.

# 10 ETHICAL APPROVAL



No additional information available in this section.

# 11

## NOTES ON STUDY

The study and its dissemination were conducted within the Joint Project Integrated Response to Violence against Women and Girls in Serbia II, through the partnership of UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP and the Government of the Republic of Serbia and led by the Coordination Body for Gender Equality. The overall objective of the Integrated Response to Violence against Women and Girls in Serbia II is the development of social and institutional environment that will contribute to zero tolerance and elimination of violence against women in Serbia. Joint actions of UN agencies and Governmental bodies contribute to solving the problem of domestic violence and violence in partner relations, enhance support to women, girls and their families and create society which does not tolerate violence.

The project is implemented with the generous support of the Government of Sweden. This activity was coordinated by Center E8, UNFPA Country Office in Serbia and Ministry of Youth and Sports. IMAGES Serbia was additionally supported by CARE International Balkans and Oak Foundation.



# IMAGES

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