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SAGA newsletter 1

SAGA update: June 2016

This update covers the first year of implementation of the SAGA (STEM and Gender Advancement) project, a joint initiative by the UNESCO headquarters, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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Foreword

Welcome to the SAGA newsletter, which will inform you about the progress of our project activities throughout its duration.

Project Overview

SAGA is a global UNESCO project supported by the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Its aim is to contribute to improving the situation of women and reducing the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in all countries at all levels of education and research.

The objectives of SAGA are:

- to analyse how policies affect the gender balance in STEM,

- to undertake inventories of science, technology and innovation (STI) gender equality policies,

- to develop new and better indicators to provide tools for evidence-based policy-making,

- to build capacity in Member States for data collection on gender in STEM, and

- to prepare methodological documents to support the collection of statistics.

SAGA news 1

SAGA project kicks off

Following a preparation period, the SAGA Project was officially launched on 16 and 17 March 2015. On these dates, the steering committee members met at a kick-off meeting in Paris, ushering the project.

First Advisory Committee Meeting

In September 2015 the first meeting of the SAGA Advisory Committee (AC) took place in Montreal, Canada. This committee is made up of nine prominent international experts in STI policy and in gender equality, from organizations with a stake in the subject. The role of the AC is to provide advice and make recommendations to the SAGA Steering Committee, contributing to identifying appropriate methodological approaches on STEM policy instruments and indicators.

The main objective of this meeting was to identify methodological approaches for surveying STI policy instruments that impact gender equality and for selecting gender in STEM indicators.

Central points were intensely discussed; for example a list of policy questions

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that the project will try to answer. Furthermore, the basic concepts and definitions, conceptual framework, indicators and sex-disaggregated data to collect in order to respond to the specific questions driving policy on women and science were pointed out. The discussions and conclusions of the meeting gave the SAGA team extremely beneficial feedback to improve some of the aspects of the project implementation.

As the SAGA project moves forward, additional meetings will provide ongoing feedback and lessons learned to further refine the initiative's approach to implementing its methodologies.

In September 2016 the Second SAGA AC Meeting will be held during the first Latin American and the Caribbean Science Open Forum (CILAC) in Montevideo, Uruguay.

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Inside this update

The SAGA team

The SAGA Steering Committee is the internal UNESCO team for management and oversight of the project. It is a technical committee composed of UNESCO specialists in relevant subjects.

Steering Committee Members

Ernesto Fernández Polcuch

L. Anathea Brooks

Martin Schaaper

Project Officer

Alessandro Bello

Statistical and Research Assistant

Kim Deslandes

How can we improve gender related STI policies in order to have more women in STEM?

There is an urgent need to define and collect more policy-relevant indicators on all aspects of the role of women in STEM, and to address new issues.
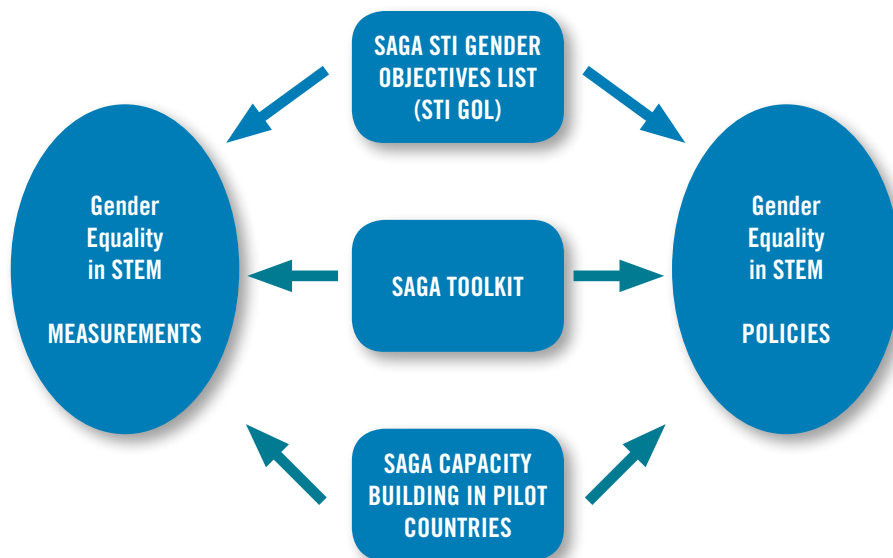
To do so, SAGA has elaborated a new methodology and set of instruments to support policy-makers worldwide in setting up, implementing, monitoring and evaluating gender equality policies in STI.

The SAGA approach is implemented through the SAGA Science, Technology and Innovation Gender Objectives List (STI GOL) and the SAGA Toolkit.

The STI GOL is an innovative tool that enables the categorization of policies and policy instruments, and assists in analysis aimed at preparing regional or country profiles. At the same time, it allows for identifying gaps in the STI policy mix, thereby supporting policy-makers.

The SAGA Toolkit is designed for governments and policy-makers. It provides practical tools to monitor and evaluate gender equality and to integrate gender aspects in STI policies, a field where sex-disaggregated information is still lacking and relies primarily on anecdotal evidence.

The SAGA Matrix

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        SAGA STI GENDER
        OBJECTIVES LIST
           (STI GOL)

Gender                         Gender
Equality      SAGA TOOLKIT     Equality
in STEM                        in STEM

MEASUREMENTS                   POLICIES

        SAGA CAPACITY
        BUILDING IN PILOT
           COUNTRIES
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SAGA Advisory Committee

The SAGA Advisory Committee is composed of selected senior international experts in STI policy, indicators and gender equality. The AC provides strategic input and advice towards the achievement of the objectives, and helps ensure that the results are shared widely.

- Alice Abreu, Director of GenderInSITE

- Gloria Bonder, Coordinator of the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender and the UNESCO Regional Chair on Women, Science and Technology in Latin America

- Alessandra Colecchia, Head, Economic Analysis and Statistics Division, OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation

- Saniye Gülser Corat, Director, Division for Gender Equality, Office of the Director-General, UNESCO

- Marlene Kanga, President Elect of the World Federation of Engineering Orgnisations (WFEO)

- Shirley Malcom, Head, Education and Human Resources Programs, American Association for the Advancement of Science

- Verdiana Grace Masanja, Senior Adviser Strategic Development, Research and Innovation, Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Education - INATEK (Rwanda)

- Roberta Pattono, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission

- Papa Seck, Statistics Specialist, UN Women

SAGA publication series

A series of working papers will be published online to make SAGA research tools publicly available. The SAGA publication series will serve as material for the capacity-building activities to be carried out in pilot countries across the world.

Moreover, the series will allow for the SAGA methodologies to be used by policy-makers, researchers, NGOs, and other stakeholders with interest in gender equality in STEM, as well as to promote SAGA and its activities, as part of the communication strategy. The publications are made available through the SAGA website at http://www.unesco.org/new/en/saga/.
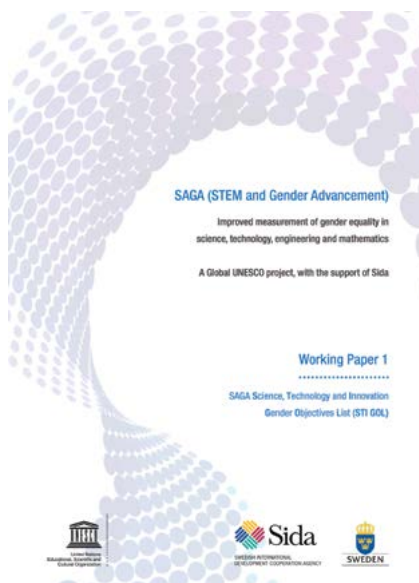
Some of the documents in the series are:

Working Paper 1: SAGA Science, Technology and Innovation Gender Objectives List (SAGA STI GOL) consists of a matrix that classifies instruments and policies into different gender objectives or impacts, thus aiding in the identification of gaps in the policy mix. Download the SAGA STI GOL following this link.

Working Paper 2: SAGA Toolkit, provides a series of tools for improved measurement of gender in STEM and to support the design of better STI policies. (Upcoming).

Working Paper 3: Inventory and gap analysis of STI Gender Equality Policies in Latin American countries, a study of the situation of women in STEM in Latin America in which an inventory of its policies and instruments is carried out and some indicators are presented. Furthermore, a gap analysis of the identified tools using the STI GOL concludes the country and regional study. This working paper will serve as a model for future country profiles. (Upcoming).

Technical paper: An inventory of methodological approaches, and a gap analysis of STI gender-related policy instruments. This paper presents how available global and regional databases of STI policy instruments are addressing gender equality. It also contains an inventory and gap analysis of the STI instruments focused on gender equality in the aforementioned databases. (Upcoming).

SAGA (STEM and Gender Advancement)

Improved measurement of gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

A Global UNESCO project, with the support of Sida

Working Paper 1
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SAGA Science, Technology and Innovation
Gender Objectives List (STI GOL)

SAGA Country Reports: These reports will provide a comprehensive overview of the situation regarding gender equality in STEM within each country studied. In addition, a snapshot of the national context will provide supplementary and comparable information. Furthermore, each country will be examined using the SAGA STI GOL, allowing us to produce the gap analysis. (Upcoming).

Photo: Scott Bauer, U.S. Department of Agriculture - CC0

Participation in conferences

SAGA series of working papers and main outcomes are being presented in several conferences on gender in STEM. Among them:

- "Commission on the Status of Women", in New York (14-24, March 2016);

- "Gender Summit 8 North & Latin America 2016" in Mexico City (28-29, April 2016).

Progress and next steps

Initiation Phase March - September 2015

- Inception meeting
- First AC meeting

Planning Phase October 2015 - July 2016

- SAGA STI GOL
- SAGA Toolkit
- Inventory and gap analysis of STI policy instruments
- Pilot country selection and capacity building activities planning

Execution Phase August 2016 - December 2017

- Capacity building in the pilot countries
- Report with results from the capacity building activities
- Proposed standard practice for surveys on gender policy instruments and indicators on STEM
- SAGA Country Reports

Closing Phase - Technical Paper January 2018 - December 2018

- Technical Advisory Panel on Technical Paper
- Peer review, finalization and publication of the Technical Paper
- Official launch of Technical Paper

All activities of the initiation phase have been completed. Moreover, the scope of the project has been expanded to include the development of a SAGA Toolkit and different SAGA Country Reports.

In the first stage of the SAGA project, inventories and gap analyses of existing statistics, indicators, and policy instruments for gender in STEM have been

produced. An experimental methodological approach, consisting of relating indicators and policies through a list of gender objectives, enables Member States to identify gaps in the policy mix. This SAGA approach is based on the SAGA STI GOL and the SAGA Toolkit.

As of May 2016, capacity building activities will start in second half of 2016 in pilot countries currently being selected.

Finally, in the last stage, data from SAGA pilot countries will be analysed, incorporated into the UIS STI Statistics database and the UNESCO Global Observatory of Science Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN) database, and the results will be evaluated. A Technical Paper containing methodological proposals, lessons learned and best practices will be published and widely disseminated.

Pilot countries:
Be part of the change, be part of SAGA!

SAGA will carry out capacity building activities in selected pilot countries from around the world.

These countries will have the opportunity to use innovative tools to set up, implement, monitor and evaluate better indicators and improve gender-related STI policies. The aim of these activities, which will result in country reports, is to build capacity for data collection on gender in STEM.

By participating in the SAGA project, these pilot countries will thus have at their disposal enhanced tools to measure and analyse the status of women and girls in science in their country, using innovative methodologies and tested indicators on gender equality in STEM, and allowing for informed decision-making processes on such issues.

SAGA Pilot Countries will have the opportunity to:

Meet experts

By participating in SAGA, countries will be able to take advantage of hosting and organising events and meetings with international experts on STI and gender, an ideal opportunity to raise awareness and address gender equality in STEM.

Collect STI indicators

As a result of the SAGA capacity building activities, countries will benefit from enhanced tools for measuring the status of women and girls in science. The indicators produced will be incorporated into the UIS STI database.

Improve STI gender policy

SAGA Pilot Countries will have the opportunity to identify gaps in the current policy frameworks and gain the skills to improve STI gender equality policies. The outcomes will be featured in the UNESCO GO-SPIN database.

SAGA partners

Other global and regional efforts addressing gender in STEM have joined forces with the UNESCO SAGA project, such as initiatives from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Yfactor. IDB´s project on gender equality in STI in Latin America and the Caribbean is being developed in parallel with SAGA, with a representative from SAGA taking part in the IDB Advisory Committee meetings, and vice versa.

In the case of Yfactor, a worldwide survey on gender in STEM, SAGA has collaborated in the development of the 2016 questionnaire by using material from the SAGA Toolkit.

UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE), as continuation of the project "Strengthening STEM curricula for Girls in Africa, Asia and the Pacific" (currently being implemented in Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya and Nigeria), agrees to implement the SAGA STI GOL (Science, Technology and Innovation Gender Objective List) with particular focus on Objective 2 (Engage girls and young women in STEM in Primary and Secondary Education, as well as in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Additionally, SAGA has laid the groundwork for future collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
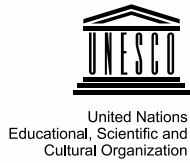

L. Anathea Brooks presents SAGA during the 60th Commission on the Status of Women, 2016, UN HQ, New York. Photo: Mehrangiz Bijanpoor.

Collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices

SAGA will undertake pilot country studies in collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices.

Field Offices staff will participate in the capacity building exercise and are central to expanding the coverage of SAGA to countries in the different regions.

Photo: Argonne National Laboratory - CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Contact us

If you have any feedback about the SAGA project, please contact us at:

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For more information, please visit:

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/saga