

**Online event “Time Use Surveys and their application for the measurement of the Care Society”
Community of Practice for the Measurement of the Care Society RTC-CEA**

Thursday, October 9th, 2025
10:00am - 11:30am (Chile time UTC -3)

Online open event

<https://eclac.webex.com/weblink/register/r4d5155e7e57744d9a2e9e99dc300f7db>

Concept note and preliminary agenda

BACKGROUND

Time use surveys (TUS) are fundamental tools for highlighting women's overall contribution to economies and demonstrating the gender division of labour and the unequal social organization of care work. In this regard, Latin America and the Caribbean have made remarkable efforts, particularly through the production of statistical information on total working time¹, taking into account both time spent on paid work and time spent on unpaid domestic and care work. This perspective has made it possible to highlight time as a crucial dimension for understanding gender inequality in the region and as an important category in the design and evaluation of public policies on care².

Both regionally and globally, countries' experiences have led to the creation of standards and agreements for measuring time use. At the regional level, the *Classification of Time Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean* (CAUTAL 2016), together with the *Methodological Guide on Time Use Measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2021), have been adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas and recognized synergistically by the Regional Conference on Women. At the global level, the *International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics* (ICATUS 2016) provides methodological guidelines for the collection of internationally comparable data and supports the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. These standards are key milestones in fostering the comparability of measurements and providing good practices in data classification and standardization.

Despite the progress, challenges remain, such as the lack of effective comparability between countries and territories, and sometimes over time, due to methodological variations in definitions, instruments, and collection periods, as well as low measurement frequency in some countries. While many countries

¹SDG Complimentary Indicator C.5.4, which is part of the regional framework for monitoring the 2030 Agenda and the set of indicators of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

²Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030: implementing the information systems pillar of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030* (LC/CRM.15/4), Santiago, 2022.

in the region have opted for the activity list format for time use data collection, technological advances in data collection and coding have facilitated the implementation of activity diaries, which have become more widely used worldwide, particularly in the European Union region.

Finland has one of the oldest Time Use Surveys in Europe, conducted since 1979 at approximately ten-year intervals, with its most recent edition covering the 2020–2021 period. In line with the methodology of Eurostat’s Household Budget and Time Use Survey (HETUS), it is based on activity diaries collected over a 12-month period to reflect seasonality. Furthermore, Finland, through its statistical office Statistics Finland (*Tilastokeskus*), participates in the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), having also contributed to the development of the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use*.

In Latin America, progress has been made in recent years in implementing new rounds of time use surveys in different countries. Colombia is currently implementing the fourth round of its National Time Use Survey (ENUT), covering the period 2024–2025 and conducted by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE). The Colombian ENUT, conducted every three years using the activity listing methodology, measures time spent on paid and unpaid work, as well as personal activities, based on the structure of the System of National Accounts (SNA). The statistical operation is also linked to the monitoring of the SDGs and includes a differential and intersectional approach that strengthens the analysis with a gender perspective. This new application incorporates methodological advances and addresses challenges identified from lessons learned during the third round of the survey.

At the same time, Mexico recently published the results of the seventh National Time Use Survey (ENUT) for the year 2024. The ENUT, produced by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), classifies activities to measure the daily time that people spend on both productive activities—including paid and unpaid work—and non-productive activities—related to study, personal care, and entertainment. This survey is one of the main inputs for the Satellite Account of Unpaid Household Work in Mexico (CSTNRHM), as well as for other satellite accounts of the System of National Accounts (SNA). While this new edition maintains comparability with the previous 2014 and 2019 editions, it also incorporates relevant updates, such as the inclusion of new variables and improvements in the characterization of the population, due to new information requirements and the need for conceptual improvements.

In a context of diverse progress milestones and challenges, it is necessary to create spaces for the exchange of measurement experiences between both regions, which can facilitate the generation of knowledge and the mainstreaming of good practices. The Bi-regional Care Pact between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union³ promotes cooperation in public policies and comprehensive

³ Draft proposal for the Bi-regional Care Pact between Latin America and the Caribbean (February 2024). Available at: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/biregional_pact_for_care_draft_february_24_2024.pdf

care systems between countries in both regions. It encourages comparative studies and analyses on the use of time devoted to care, as well as the calculation of satellite accounts to measure unpaid domestic and care work in households. This is in line with the Regional Gender Agenda and its efforts to strengthen time use measurements. The aim is to promote its periodic implementation, its institutionalization as part of regular statistical production, and its use to highlight and value the care economy in its unpaid dimension⁴.

Within the framework of this bi-regional initiative and considering that several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are currently advancing in pilot projects and new rounds of time use surveys, it is particularly relevant to facilitate spaces for exchange between both regions to discuss experiences and good practices in the application of TUS and its usefulness in measuring the Care Society. The aim is to identify key elements for advancing data comparability in both regions and expanding the community of actors involved in the analysis of time use and care.

This meeting is part of the activities of the Community of Practice for Measuring the Care Society, which is part of the Knowledge Transmission Network of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (RTC-CEA). The main objective of this community is to provide spaces for the exchange of experiences and knowledge on the measurement of care, contributing to the strengthening of statistical data production for the construction of care societies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

- Discuss experiences and best practices in the application of Time Use Surveys in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union, addressing the statistical process from data collection and analysis to results.
- Promote mutual learning about methodologies and experiences in applying TUS in both regions, identifying common challenges and exploring differentiated regional approaches.

EVENT FORMAT

Online meeting through Webex platform. Link: <https://eclac.webex.com/weblink/register/r4d5155e7e57744d9a2c9e99dc300f7db>

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Spanish and English.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

⁴ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2025). The Care Society: Governance, Political Economy and Social Dialogue for a Transformation with Gender Equality (LC/CRM.16/3).

1. **Welcome and opening words (5-10 min)** – Olga Barquero, Head of Institutional Cooperation Unit, National Institute of Statistics of Chile (INE Chile), Knowledge Transmission Network of the Statistics Conference of the Americas (RTC-CEA)
2. **Panel on regional experiences (45 min)**
 - a. **Time Use Surveys in Finland and Contributions to Methodological Innovation (15 min)** – Juha Haaramo, Senior Statistician at Statistics Finland (*Tilastokeskus*).
 - b. **Methodological and conceptual adjustments to the Fourth ENUT in Colombia (15 min)** – Andrea Ramírez, Deputy Director General of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia.
 - c. **Results of the latest Time Use Survey in Mexico (15 min)** – Norma Navarro, Director of Conceptual Design for Special Surveys at the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico.
3. **Dialog, questions and answers (30 min)** – Moderated by: Karen García, Statistician at ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs.
4. **Closure and next steps (5 min)** – Lucía Scuro, Senior Social Affairs Officer at ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs