

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

First Meeting of the 2004/2005 Bureau  
Washington, D.C. (United States), 18-19 October 2004

Item 11: Review of the work  
of various Steering Groups  
And Task Forces working  
Under the auspices of the  
CES

**THE JOINT ECE/EUROSTAT PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING  
THE CES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2010 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES  
(Progress report by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses)**

**Note by the ECE Secretariat**

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. In February 2004, the CES Bureau reviewed a progress report submitted by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses (SG), and approved the proposals of the SG on the structure of the new recommendations, the areas selected for in-depth review, the structure of the questionnaire to be sent to countries to obtain information on the extent to which they complied with the 2000 recommendations, and the timetable for the work leading to the finalization of the new recommendations.
2. The present note summarises the activities carried out under this programme in the period from February to September 2004, and the planned work between September 2004 and the end of the programme in June 2006.

**II. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE PERIOD FEBRUARY-SEPTEMBER 2004**

3. In the period between February and March 2004, the ECE secretariat developed the questionnaire along the lines approved by the SG, and sent it out to ECE member countries. At the same time, a draft agenda for the November 2004 Work Sessions on Population Censuses and Housing Censuses was approved. The main topics included in the agenda are presented in Annex 1.
4. The SG also agreed with the ECE proposal to organise a one-day seminar on new methods for population censuses (Geneva, 22 November 2004) back-to-back with the two work sessions in November 2004. Several countries expressed an interest in this area and it is expected that the seminar would contribute to meet this demand. The seminar, which will be attended not only by delegates of NSIs but also by demographers and statisticians who work in the census field, will consider presentations of the new approaches developed by the United States, France, Israel and the Netherlands to carry out their population censuses. A panel will discuss and “challenge” the new approaches. The panel discussion will be followed by floor discussion.
5. In the period April-May 2004, the ECE secretariat processed the information received by countries through the questionnaire that collected information on the extent to which the countries complied with the 2000 recommendations. During the period May-September 2004, this information was analysed by the members of the SG and other working groups participating in the census programme. Several reports were drafted on the methods and definitions used by member countries in the 2000 round and on plans for the 2010 round of censuses. These reports will be the basis for discussion at the November 2004 Work Sessions to be held in Geneva.

6. In September 2004, ECE and Eurostat presented the work plan leading with the preparation of the new CES census recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses at two meetings organised by UNSD in New York: the “United Nations Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses” (13-14 September) and the “United Nations Expert Group Meeting to Review Critical Issues Relevant to the Planning of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (2005-2014)” (15-17 September 2004). This was an opportunity to coordinate the census activities in the ECE region with the activities promoted by UNSD at global level (including the preparation on the new “global” recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses) and with other activities promoted in other regions.

### III. NEXT STEPS

7. In the course of October 2004, the draft reports will be reviewed by the SG and will be posted on the ECE website as background documents for the Work Session on Population Censuses (23-25 November 2004) and the Work Session on Housing Censuses (26 November 2004).

8. It is expected that the two November 2004 Work Sessions will provide guidelines on the specific issues that need to be reviewed or added to the old recommendations. They will also decide on the process to be established to assure that the revision is properly done according to the work plan approved by the SG in January 2004. The Seminar on new methods for population censuses (22 November 2004) should also provide useful indications with regard to the new expanded part of the census recommendations on census methodology.

9. In the period from December 2004 to May 2005, the working groups and experts participating in the programme will work on draft new census recommendations according to the decisions taken at the November work sessions. After a review by the SG, during the summer of 2005, the draft new recommendations will be sent to member countries for review.

10. In November 2005, a Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses will review the draft new recommendations based on the inputs of the working groups and comments provided by countries. It is expected that, at this stage, the new recommendations will be in “almost final” version, and only minor changes will be necessary.

11. Between December 2005 and March 2006, the new recommendations will be finalised by the ECE, Eurostat and the SG, taking into account the outcome of the November 2005 meeting. A draft will be submitted to the Bureau at its February 2005 meeting for comments and endorsements. Finally, in March 2006, the final draft of the census recommendations for the 2010 census round will be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for approval at the June 2006 plenary session.

**Annex – Draft agenda of the November 2004  
Work Sessions on Population and Housing Censuses**

**Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Population Censuses  
(23-25 November 2004, Geneva)**

1. **Presentation of the work of the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses and draft work plan**
2. **Census methodology - Different approaches to census-taking, their relation to administrative, legislative and technological framework and their impact on operational aspects and population universes**

*Issues to be covered in this session include: possible ways in which registers can be used for censuses; possible use of sampling techniques; the so-called “rolling censuses”; publicity campaign; methods and techniques for data collection and processing; census evaluation; and other issues to be identified by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses.*

  - Presentation of results of the questionnaire, including plans by countries for the 2010 round
  - Discussion of critical issues and problems experienced by countries in the 2000 round
  - Identification of issues to address, with directions to draft the new recommendations
3. **Topics for the 2010 round of population censuses - Discussion on parts of the recommendations that need substantial revision**

*Topics to be discussed in this session include: place of usual residence; migration; families and households; institutional households; education; employment; persons living alone; homeless; and other topics to be identified by the Steering Group.*

  - Presentation of results of the questionnaire, including plans by countries for the 2010 round
  - Discussion of critical issues and problems experienced by countries in the 2000 round
  - Discussion and agreement on directions to draft the new recommendations
4. **Structure of the 2010 recommendations**
  - Discussion on a draft proposal for the structure of the new recommendations
5. **Further work required for the finalization of the new recommendations**
  - Definition of outstanding tasks, selection of contributors and time schedule

**Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Housing Censuses  
(26 November 2004, Geneva)**

1. **Topics for the 2010 round of housing censuses**
  - Presentation of results of the questionnaire, including plans by countries for the 2010 round
  - Discussion of critical issues and problems experienced by countries in the 2000 round
  - Discussion and agreement on directions to draft the new recommendations
2. **Further work required for the finalization of the new recommendations**
  - Definition of outstanding tasks, selection of contributors and agreement on time schedule

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