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Item 7(d) Progress reports on the ECE Steering Groups

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

Note by the ECE Secretariat

BACKGROUND

- 1. In October 2004, the CES Bureau reviewed a progress report submitted by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses on the work on the new recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses in the ECE region.
- 2. The present note summarises the activities carried out under this programme in the period from October 2004 to January 2005, including the outcome of the census meetings organised in November 2004. The note also describes the activities currently being carried out and planned between February 2005 and June 2006.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2004-JANUARY 2005

ECE Seminar on new methods for population censuses (Geneva, 22 November 2004)

3. The seminar was attended by experts from 52 ECE member countries and seven countries from outside the region (for a total of about 100 participants). It reached its objectives of reviewing the innovative approaches emerging in the region to conduct population censuses. During the meeting, the advantages and disadvantages of each method were openly discussed and participants could benefit from the experience of countries such as the United States, France, Israel, the Netherlands, and Germany to critically review the census methods used in their countries. The papers presented at the seminar can be found on the ECE website at http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2004.11.censussem.htm

Joint ECE-EUROSTAT Work Session on Population Censuses (23-25 November 2004)

- 4. The work session enjoyed the same wide participation as the seminar. The meeting reviewed to what extent countries in the ECE region implemented the ECE Recommendations in the 2000 round of population censuses, and discussed the preparation of the new ECE recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses.
- 5. The agenda included substantive sessions on the following census topics and related sections of the census recommendations: census methodology; census technology; place of usual residence and other geographic characteristics; international migration and related characteristics; families and households; employment; and education. In each session, invited papers from countries and the ECE secretariat were presented, with the aim of reviewing the experience of the 2000 round of censuses and introducing issues to be considered in the 2010 recommendations.
- 6. The outcome of each session resulted in the identification of changes that need to be included in the new recommendations in terms of adding new topics or updating the existing ones. Included in the output of the meeting was the suggestion to develop more explicit definitions of usual residence, total

population, and ethnic group and to add the following topics (as non-core): remoteness, reasons for migration, underemployment (in the context of time usually worked), extended time of leave, computer literacy, volunteer services, disability, agricultural characteristics of households, possession of computer and internet connection, and car parking. Participants also agreed to update or clarify the following topics: status in employment, main source of livelihood, educational attainment, educational qualifications, literacy (exploring the possibility of introducing notions of functional literacy), household and family characteristics.

- 7. The draft structure of the 2010 census recommendations was also discussed. Participants supported the proposal of the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses to include new expanded sections on census methodology (including a quality assurance framework) and technology. It was agreed that the purpose of these sections, rather than to recommend a specific method or a technology, should be to illustrate the advantages and disadvantages of each approach and describe the conditions under which the approaches can be successfully implemented.
- 8. With regard to population topics, the meeting proposed to create a new structure and to regroup existing topics under new headings (on geographical characteristics, migration characteristics and ethno-cultural characteristics) in order to provide a more comprehensive approach to the listed issues and not only to single topics.
- 9. The report of the work session with the summary of the discussion and the draft structure for the 2010 recommendations with the proposed changes, can be found on the ECE website at http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2004.11.census1.htm

ECE-EUROSTAT Work Session on Housing Censuses (26 November 2004)

- 10. The work session reviewed the implementation of the 2000 ECE recommendations and discussed the preparation of the 2010 recommendations.
- 11. The meeting agreed that the essence of the structure used in the 2000 recommendations for housing censuses should be retained for the 2010 recommendations, but that definitions and classifications for the following topics need to be revised: occupancy status, number of rooms (definition of room to be reviewed), living floor space, equipment and amenity standards, and type of building. Participants also proposed to add methods of cooling and access to housing area as new topics.
- 12. The meeting proposed that, in the preparation of the new recommendations on housing, feedback will be requested from the ECE Steering Group on the Coordination of International Housing Statistics (appointed by the CES) and if possible from the ECE Committee on Human Settlements.
- 13. The report of the work session, with the summary of the discussion and the main changes proposed for the 2010 housing census recommendations, can be found on the ECE website at http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2004.11.census2.htm

FUTURE WORK ON THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14. The Work Session on Population Censuses and the Work Session on Housing Censuses proposed that the work on the new ECE census recommendations be carried out by the following Task Forces:
 - A. Task Force on Census Methodology (Leader: United States)
 - B. Task Force on Census Technology (Leader: Australia)
 - C. Task Force on Geographical Characteristics (Leader: Ireland)
 - D. Task Force on Demographic Characteristics (Leader: Hungary)
 - E. Task Force on Migration and Ethno-cultural Characteristics (Leader: Switzerland)

- F. Task Force on Economic Characteristics (Leader: ILO)
- G. Task Force on Educational Characteristics (Leader: UNESCO)
- H. Task Force on Families and Households (Existing task force, Leader: Norway).
- I. Task Force on Disability (Leader: Secretariat of the Washington Group on Disability Stat.)
- J. Task Force on Agriculture (Leader: FAO)
- K. Task Force on Housing (Leader: UK)
- 15. After the November 2004 meetings, the UNECE secretariat contacted the countries to verify their interest in joining the Task Forces and finalised the membership (see Annex). The Task Forces began their work in January 2005 on the basis of draft Terms of Reference proposed by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses. These draft Terms of Reference are presented as an Annex to this note.
- 16. The proposed timetable for the preparation of the new recommendations is as follows:
- **20 May 2005**: first draft to be submitted by the Task Forces to the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses
- **6-8 June 2005** (tentative dates): <u>Meeting of the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses</u> to review the first draft submitted by the Task Forces and finalise the structure of the new recommendations
- 30 June 2005: Steering Group to send to the Task Forces comments on the first draft
- **20 August 2005**: second draft to be submitted by the Task Forces to the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses

Early September 2005: Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses to review (possibly in electronic form) the second drafts and finalise the document of the Draft new census recommendations

23 September 2005: Draft new census recommendations to be submitted for translation for discussion at the December meeting

12-16 December 2005 (tentative dates): <u>Joint ECE-Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses</u> (Geneva) to discuss the Draft new census recommendations

January to March 2006: finalisation of the New census recommendations by the Steering Group, taking into account the outcome of the December 2005 meeting

March 2006: New census recommendations submitted for translation

June 2006: submission of the 2010 census recommendations to the Conference of European Statisticians

OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE POPULATION CENSUS PROGRAMME

Coordination with the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses

- 17. At the November 2004 Work Sessions, UNSD presented the plans for the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, which includes the preparation of a revised version of the "Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses" (or "Global census recommendations").
- 18. The Work Session agreed that the material presented in the current version of the "Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1" should be considered in the preparation of the new census recommendations for the ECE region, bearing in mind that this document

will be revised. There was also general agreement on the need to coordinate the two processes leading to the revision of the ECE and Global Recommendations.

- 19. The restricted time schedule for the ECE 2010 Recommendations may result in the ECE Task Forces delivering their outputs before the Global Recommendations are finalized. ECE and UNSD are working together to assure that the work carried out for the ECE Recommendations be considered in the Global Recommendations and that, at the same time, the ECE Task Forces be aware of the issues raised in other regions so as not to take conflicting approaches to those that will be included in the Global Recommendations. One of the proposals is to include some of the ECE task forces in the working groups created to work on the Global recommendations.
- 20. The CES Bureau may want to discuss the best approaches to assure full coordination between the work on the revision of the ECE census recommendations and the Global census recommendations.

International Monitoring of Population and Housing Censuses

21. In late 2004, the representatives of the Council of Europe, Eurostat and the ECE discussed the possibility of establishing a joint permanent Advisory Group for Census Monitoring to address the requirements of census monitoring in the ECE region. The three organizations were involved in the past in the monitoring of census operations on an ad-hoc basis (the latest were in Moldova and in the TFYRM). The idea would be to create a permanent joint Council of Europe-ECE-Eurostat Body to respond to future requests and coordinate the monitoring in a more efficient way. Draft terms of reference of the group and a draft Memorandum of Understanding are under preparation.

Annex

Draft Terms of Reference for the Task Forces working on the recommendations for the 2010 censuses in the ECE region

I. BACKGROUND

- 1. The Joint ECE-Eurostat Work Sessions on Population Censuses (23-25 November 2004) and on Housing Censuses (26 November 2004) proposed that the work on the new recommendations for the 2010 round of population censuses in the ECE region be carried out by the following task forces (hereafter called "Task Forces") under the coordination of the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses (hereafter called "Steering Group"):
 - A. Task Force on Census Methodology (Leader: United States)
 - B. Task Force on Census Technology (Leader: Australia)
 - C. Task Force on Geographical Characteristics (Leader: Ireland)
 - D. Task Force on Demographic Characteristics (Leader: Hungary)
 - E. Task Force on Migration and Ethno-cultural Characteristics (Leader: Switzerland)
 - F. Task Force on Economic Characteristics (Leader: ILO)
 - G. Task Force on Educational Characteristics (Leader: UNESCO)
 - H. Task Force on Families and Households (Existing task force¹, Leader: Norway).
 - I. Task Force on Disability (Leader: Secretariat of the Washington Group on Disability Stat.)
 - J. Task Force on Agriculture (Leader: FAO)
 - K. Task Force on Housing (Leader: UK)

II. ROLE OF THE TASK FORCES

- 2. With reference to the draft structure of the new census recommendations discussed at the Work Session on Population Censuses (see Annex II to the report of the meeting, at http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2004.11.census1.htm), the Task Forces are expected to work on the following sections of the new census recommendations:
 - A. Task Force on Census Methodology:
 Introduction to the recommendations (part of the text could be presented in an annex to the recommendations) Sections: 2. Methodology; 3. Quality Assurance Framework; 4.

 Consultation with data users; 5. Publicity and information campaign.
 - B. Task Force on Census Technology:
 Introduction to the recommendations (part of the text could be presented in an annex to the recommendations) Section 6. Technology.

¹ The CES Bureau approved the creation of the Task Force on Families and Households in October 2003, with the objective to evaluate household and family issues and develop improved recommendations on families and households with reference to population censuses and to major European surveys such as EU-SILC and LFSs. The original Terms of Reference of the Task Force on Families and Households can be found at: http://www.unece.org/stats/SteeringGroups/0412.pdf. The present note includes updated Terms of Reference only with reference to the work of the Task Force on the population census recommendations.

page 6

C. Task Force on Geographical Characteristics:
Population topics - Section 1. Geographical Characteristics.

D. Task Force on Demographic Characteristics: Population topics - Section 2. Demographic Characteristics.

E. Task Force on Migration and Ethno-cultural Characteristics:
 Population topics - Section 3. Migration Characteristics; Section 4. Ethno-cultural Characteristics.

F. Task Force on Economic Characteristics: Population topics - Section 5. Economic Characteristics.

G. Task Force on Educational Characteristics:
Population topics - Section 6. Educational Characteristics.

H. Task Force on Families and Households:
 Population topics - Section 9. Household and family characteristics of persons; Section 10.
 Characteristics of family nuclei; Section 11. Characteristics of private households.

Task Force on Disability:
 Population topics - Section 8. Disability characteristics (to develop a proposal on a possible new section on this subject).

J. Task Force on Agriculture:
 Population topics - Section 12. Agricultural characteristics (to develop a proposal on a possible new section on this subject).

K. Task Force on Housing: Housing topics: All sections.

- 3. In carrying out their work, the Task Forces should follow the recommendations and suggestions contained in the reports of the November 2004 Work Sessions on Population Censuses and on Housing Censuses, and possibly further recommendations and suggestions formulated by the Steering Group.
- 4. In carrying out their work, the Task Forces should consider the material presented in the current version of the "Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1" (United Nations Statistics Division, 1998), taking into account that this document is under revision. Other relevant material already available should also be taken into account when possible, to avoid duplication and increase the efficiency of the work of the Task Forces.
- 5. The Task Forces should discuss the modalities of a possible participation in the work on the revision of the "Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses" (or Global Census Recommendations) coordinated by UNSD.

III. TIMETABLE AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

6. The timetable for the work of the Task Forces and the expected outputs are as follows:
January to mid-May 2005: Work on a first draft text for the new census recommendations
20 May 2005 (at the latest): Submission of the first draft to the Steering Group
July to mid-August 2005: Work on a second draft text for the new census recommendations, reflecting comments and requests by the Steering Group
20 August 2005 (at the latest): Submission of the second draft to the Steering Group

IV. SYSTEM OF WORK AND POSSIBLE MEETINGS

- 7. The Task Forces are expected to work mainly via email, under the coordination of the Task Force's Leader. It is discretion of the Leader to propose a meeting of the Task Force. In this case, the Leader of the Task Force is responsible for the organisation of the meeting (with the support of the Secretariat of ECE and Eurostat) and for providing information to the members of the Task Force.
- 8. The Task Force's Leader is responsible for communication between the Task Force and the ECE Secretariat.

V. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCES

9. The following experts offered to participate in the Task Forces (updated 17 January 2004):

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page 8

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9. Possible changes in the composition of any of the Task Forces will be communicated by the ECE Secretariat to the respective Leader.

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