

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2014/2015 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 21-22 October 2014

Item 8(c) of the Provisional
Agenda

FOLLOW-UP TO THE CES 2014 SEMINAR ON MIGRATION STATISTICS

Note by the Secretariat

This note provides information on follow-up to the CES seminar on migration statistics, held in April 2014. The Bureau also reviewed and approved the terms of reference for the Steering Group on Migration Statistics provided in the Addendum.

I. BACKGROUND

1. In January 2014, the Bureau reviewed the proposed terms of reference for the Steering Group on Migration Statistics. Given the importance of migration statistics in the UNECE region, the Bureau felt the Steering Group should be more active in identifying emerging issues and more involved in ensuring that the work is focused and progresses effectively. The Bureau asked the UNECE Secretariat to revise the terms of reference to take into account the comments by the Bureau and the outcome of the 2014 Conference of European Statisticians (CES) seminar on migration statistics, and report back to the Bureau in October 2014.

2. The Conference of European Statisticians held a seminar on migration statistics in April 2014. As an outcome of the seminar, the Conference agreed on a number of actions that should lead to improved measurement of migration, as follows:

- a) Improve the harmonization of concepts and definitions across and within countries;
- b) Increase cooperation between countries, including data exchange;
- c) Develop a harmonized framework for assessing data quality;
- d) Continue international efforts to develop methodologies for measuring emerging patterns of migration;
- e) Improve measurement of the economic and social impact of migration and the socio-economic conditions of migrants;
- f) Increase the use and integration of multiple data sources for measuring migration, including the use of administrative records and improving cooperation with register authorities;
- g) Involve users of statistics in the work for developing migration statistics. Enhance collaboration with other international organizations and the Global Migration Group (GMG);
- h) Create mechanisms for follow-up on the implementation of methodological guidance related to migration statistics.

3. A joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics was held in September 2014 in Chisinau, Moldova. On this occasion, eight members of the Steering Group met to discuss the terms of reference of the group and its future work. In addition, a special session on future work was held at the Work Session, attended by 73 participants from 34 countries and 7 international organizations. The meeting also considered ways to implement the recommendations of the 2014 CES seminar on migration statistics.

II. PLANS FOR FUTURE WORK

4. The members of the Steering Group on Migration Statistics discussed the terms of reference taking into consideration comments from the Bureau, the CES seminar on migration statistics and the discussions held at the joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics. The members suggest updating the terms of reference by:

- a) Expanding the objectives of the Steering Group to include initiation and coordination of international efforts to develop methodologies for measuring emerging patterns of migration;
- b) Linking the planned activities of the Steering Group to the recommendations of the 2014 CES plenary session on migration statistics.

5. Based on the Steering Group's proposal, the 2014 Work Session recommended to establish task forces to pursue methodological work on the following topics:

- a) Integration of multiple data sources for measuring migration, including data sources within a country and between different countries, and collecting good practices in communication between national statistical offices and producers of administrative data;
- b) Assessment of the quality of migration data.

6. Particular interest was expressed in integrating multiple data sources to improve measurement of migration, with over 10 countries and international organizations expressing their intention to participate in such a task force. Terms of reference for this new task force will be developed and submitted to the February 2015 Bureau meeting for approval.

7. In addition, methodological work continues in two ongoing task forces.

- a) The **Task Force on Measurement of Socio-economic conditions of Migrants** plans to submit its final report to the February 2015 meeting of the Bureau with a view of presenting it to the 2015 CES plenary session for endorsement;
- b) The **Task Force on Measuring Circular Migration** continues as scheduled and plans to finish its work by spring 2015.

* * * * *