

TERMINAL REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Project number & title	Preparation for the 2020 round of population censuses and the production of better migration data in CIS countries
Project manager	Andres Vikat
Start of implementation	April 2013
End of implementation	December 2015
<p>Summary (max.2 pages) of overall assessment <i>Please provide, to the extent possible, both quantitative and qualitative information on each of the following questions:</i></p> <p>1. <i>How, in your view, the project funded from the voluntary contribution of the Russian Federation has helped UNECE to implement its mandate and meet demands/expectations of its member States?</i></p> <p>Through the outcomes of the high-level seminar and two workshops for census experts, CIS countries contributed strongly to the preparation of the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, and ensured that the recommendations are applicable to their countries and aligned with their data needs. Applying the recommendations in the 2020 round of censuses would ensure that the collected data are of even greater value for policymaking and have high level of international comparability. The census recommendations are a flagship of UNECE statistical programme. Member countries attach great importance to it because of the fundamental role of the census in a country's statistical system.</p> <p>UNECE is mandated to work towards improving the quality and availability of statistics on international migration. The high-level seminar and two workshops for migration experts provided a thorough review and exchange of experience on the procedures and challenges of collecting migration statistics and the discrepancies in the applied definition. The challenge of weak coordination between migration statistics producers was addressed by engaging the different producers as well as users in the project events. All the material was synthesised into a handbook that provides practical guidance to statisticians and other professionals in producing and using migration data from administrative sources and household surveys. While relying on the internationally agreed concepts and definitions, the handbook is specifically tailored for CIS countries and builds on their examples. It is thus expected to be of great practical value for the producers of migration data in those countries.</p> <p>The project facilitated the active participation of census and migration experts from CIS countries in UNECE-wide expert meetings, which has allowed them to learn from a wide range of country experience, including the most advanced. This has contributed to statistical capacity-building in their countries.</p> <p>2. <i>What practical benefits have project activities brought to “clients” in beneficiary countries (Russia, CIS, and Central Asia)? Provide 2-3 concrete “tangible” examples (e.g. new legislation/policy measures, institutional strengthening, new “products” such as standards, training materials, etc.). Support these examples by assessments from partners in projects implementation, beneficiaries of the project in Russia and/or CIS, etc).</i></p> <p>Statistical offices in CIS countries can proceed with planning their 2020 census using the “Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses” that take into account their situation and align with their data needs.</p> <p>Statistical offices and other producers of migration statistics in CIS countries have the handbook “Use of administrative sources and sample surveys to measure international migration in the CIS region” that is tailored for CIS countries and builds on their examples.</p> <p>The papers presented by CIS experts in the project workshops and at the adjacent UNECE expert meetings remain available online and constitute important reference material on the practice in censuses and migration statistics in CIS countries.</p>	

3. *Were there any problems with the execution of the project (including with partners in the Russian Federation), changes to the implementation plan? What are the main lessons learned/best practices in project implementation?*

Project was implemented as planned. A challenge is related to the long administrative procedure for grants at UNECE, which puts a significant restriction on the timing of events. It is therefore preferable to organize meetings in countries with resident United Nations offices where simpler administrative procedures can be applied.

Holding project workshops back-to-back with UNECE-wide expert meetings in the same area was highly appreciated by the experts from CIS countries. This practice should therefore be continued when possible.

Holding one high-level meeting has a rationale in a multi-year project that covers different topics as it can strengthen the commitment of statistical offices to the project activities and reach common understanding of strategic goals.

4. *What could have been done better to raise the effectiveness of the project, enhance its impact and sustainability? How the activities of the project could have been synergized with other related work/activities of UNECE?*

The project was very highly synergized with the activities of the UNECE statistical programme in the area of censuses and migration statistics: (1) it was directly linked to the UNECE-wide process of preparing the census recommendations for the 2020 round; (2) it strengthened the representation and contribution of CIS experts to the UNECE-wide expert meetings; (3) the activities of this project motivated the preparation of a study on the census practices of CIS countries in the 2010 round in another project funded by UNFPA; and (4) selected experts from outside the CIS region were contributing to the project workshops and the high-level meeting with their advanced expertise.

5. *Were the results achieved by the project commensurate to the provided funding? Were any supplementary funds raised to support the project activities and facilitate the achievements of the results?*

Results were commensurate to the funding.

6. *Please attach additional information materials on the project activities such as press clippings, media coverage, publications, websites, etc.*

Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses, Geneva, October 2013:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2013.10.census2.html>

High-level Seminar on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS countries, Gelendzhik (Russian Federation), October 2013: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2013.10.hls.html>

Workshop on migration statistics, Chisinau, September 2014:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.10.migration1.html>

Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses, Geneva, September 2014:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.09.census2.html>

Workshop on migration statistics, Minsk, May 2015; handbook "Use of administrative sources and sample surveys to measure international migration in the CIS region":

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37886#>

ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (optional)