

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Third Meeting of the 2012/2013 Bureau
Luxembourg, 5-6 February 2013

For approval by the Executive Committee
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Item 4(e) of the Provisional
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE TASK FORCE ON AGEING-RELATED STATISTICS**

Prepared by the secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. Ageing has a profound impact on a broad range of economic, political and social processes, affecting virtually all domains of society. Since 2002, countries of the ECE are following the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (the global action plan) where they committed to action in ten key areas. To base these actions on evidence, reliable data on the relevant issues needs to be available by age and sex. The importance of appropriate measurement of ageing and its consequences is further emphasised in the context of monitoring the implementation of the agreed Strategy. ECE member countries reinforced this commitment in the ministerial declaration “Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing” adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Vienna in September 2012.
2. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) discussed an in-depth review paper related to population ageing in November 2012. This paper was drafted after discussions at the CES plenary session in June 2012 in order to obtain input from member countries. During the plenary discussions several participants emphasised the high policy relevance of the topic and some expressed readiness to participate in a task force in this area.
3. The in-depth review paper highlighted issues and challenges in the production and dissemination of data by age, the dispersion of ageing-related statistics, data gaps on important issues related to ageing as well as the need for subjective measures and longitudinal data. The CES suggested creating a joint task force of statisticians and policymakers, which could take as its starting point the work of the ECE Expert Group on the Active Ageing Index and the INSEE-Eurostat Sponsorship Group on Measuring Progress, Well-being and Sustainable Development. The task force could develop recommendations to statistical offices for improving and harmonising the collection and dissemination of ageing-related data.
4. At its meeting in November 2012, the CES Bureau tasked a preparatory group consisting of interested countries and organizations with developing focused terms of reference for a task force on ageing-related statistics.

II. MANDATE

5. The Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics reports to the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) through its Bureau. The Task Force will be created for a period of two years, at the end of which a final report with recommendations will be submitted to the CES and its Bureau.

III. OBJECTIVE

6. The objective of the Task Force is to improve the availability, accessibility and comparability of statistical data in support of ageing-related policymaking in the framework of the ECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

7. The following activities and outputs are planned:

(a) Providing an overview of existing sets of statistical indicators for monitoring the ageing situation and policies;

(b) Providing an overview of international data availability and comparability of ageing-related statistics;

(c) Identifying domains that ageing-related statistics should cover;

(d) Identifying in each domain data gaps that could be addressed using existing sources, through better processing and access to micro-data and linking administrative and survey data;

(e) Developing recommendations to statistical offices for addressing the data gaps;

(f) Collecting and presenting good national practices in disseminating and communicating ageing-related statistics; and

(g) Developing recommendations to statistical offices for harmonising the dissemination and improving the communication of ageing-related statistics.

V. TIMETABLE

9. The following timetable applies:

Jun-Jul 2014	Reviewing existing sets of statistical indicators on ageing, international data availability and comparability and national practices in communicating ageing-related statistics.
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Aug-Nov 2014	Drafting the recommendations on ageing-related statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• addressing data gaps related to ageing• improving data collection of ageing-related statistics• harmonising the dissemination and communication of ageing-related statistics
Dec 2014	Editing the interim recommendations
Jan 2015	Submission of the interim recommendations to the CES Bureau. If the CES Bureau agrees, the report will be sent to all CES members for electronic consultation.
Apr-Jun 2015	Revise interim recommendations based on feedback received.
Aug-Nov 2015	Editing the final recommendations.
Dec 2015	Submission of the final recommendations to the CES Bureau for review. If the CES Bureau agrees, the report will be sent to all CES members for final consultation.
Jun 2016	Present the final recommendations to the CES 2016 plenary session for endorsement

VI. METHODS OF WORK

9. The Task Force will primarily work via email and telephone conferences. It will attempt to organize at least one face-to-face meeting. Participation to the meetings will be self-funded.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

10. The Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics includes representatives of 15 national statistical offices including: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, United Kingdom and United States. In addition, 8 government agencies dealing with ageing from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Georgia, Italy, Portugal, Serbia and United States will participate in the Task Force. The international organisations and academic institutes that are represented include: CIS-STAT, Eurostat, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, European Centre of Gerontology – WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Ageing & University of Malta, and University of Southampton.

11. ECE acts as secretariat to the Task Force.

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