

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK FORCE ON  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP STATISTICS**

**Prepared by the Secretariat**

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) discussed future work on entrepreneurship statistics in February 2016, based on a proposal prepared by OECD (ECE/CES/BUR/2016/FEB/7). The discussion followed up from an in-depth review on entrepreneurship statistics in October 2013 (ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/3), and the endorsement of the Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers by CES in June 2015.

2. The Bureau recognised a considerable interest in entrepreneurship statistics. It was seen as a good example of an area where new statistics can be developed based on data that the statistical offices are already collecting. The Bureau also noted that linking statistical business registers to data on individuals would help to understand, among other issues, the role of women in entrepreneurship.

3. On this background, the Bureau asked a small working group consisting of a few volunteering countries, including Austria, Canada, Finland and Mexico, in cooperation with Eurostat, OECD and UNECE to prepare the terms of reference for a Task Force on entrepreneurship statistics with a clear output and time frame, and report back to the Bureau in the first half of 2016. After receiving the report of the working group, the Bureau approved the terms of reference through written consultation in June 2016.

**II. MANDATE**

4. The work of the Task Force is conducted within the CES work programme. The Task Force reports to the CES Bureau on progress of work. The Task Force will be created for a period from June 2016 to June 2018.

**III. OBJECTIVE**

5. The objective of the Task Force is to develop guidelines on the statistical infrastructure required to support the production of business demography and entrepreneurship statistics. The guidelines should provide:

- a) Guidance on how to develop statistical business registers to support the production of business demography and entrepreneurship statistics, including:
- Definitions and in particular compilation guidelines of key demographic events, including births and deaths.
  - Suggestions of basic demographic statistics that could be produced directly from the statistical business register.
  - Recommendation of basic requirements for the statistical business register for the production of business demographic information, longitudinally, infra-annually and sub-nationally.
- b) Guidance on linking statistical business registers with information from other data sources (administrative/social registers or other statistical registers) for improving the production of business demography statistics with a view to be used as entrepreneurship indicators.
6. The recommendations should include practical examples/results of collection of indicators from volunteering national statistical offices/organisations.
7. The primary target group of the guidelines is business register statisticians. Other key users of the guidelines would include the experts and producers of business demography and entrepreneurship statistics.
8. In drafting the guidelines the Task Force should take into account other international work in this area and relevant existing materials on statistical business registers, business demography and entrepreneurship statistics, such as the 2015 CES *Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers*<sup>1</sup>, the 2007 Eurostat-OECD Manual on *Business Demography Statistics*<sup>2</sup> and the 2010 Eurostat *Business registers – Recommendations manual*<sup>3</sup>. The guidelines should not duplicate existing material but refer to this when relevant.

#### **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

9. The Task Force will agree on the content and structure of the guidelines in detail and organise the drafting of the chapters as well as the pilot data collections. Drafts of the guidelines will be presented to the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Expert Group meeting on business registers, scheduled to take place in September 2017 in Paris, hosted by OECD.

#### **V. TIMETABLE**

10. The activities of the Task Force are planned for the period from June 2016 to June 2018, according to the following tentative schedule:

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unece.org:8080/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2015/ECE\\_CES\\_39\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.unece.org:8080/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2015/ECE_CES_39_WEB.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/std/39974460.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5915609/KS-32-10-216-EN.PDF/398ebf46-64b6-4204-b209-f29357a341d4?version=1.0>

## **Timetable**

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June/July 2016	Establishment of the Task Force
Sep 2016	Outline of the Guidelines on entrepreneurship statistics to be ready
Sep 2016 - June 2017	Drafting of chapters of the guidelines
Late 2016 – early 2017	Face-to-face meeting of the Task Force (in conjunction with the Wiesbaden Group meeting in Tokyo, 8-11 November, or as a separate meeting)
July -Aug 2017	Review and editing of the chapters of the guidelines
Sep 2017	Presentation of draft chapters to the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Expert Group meeting on business registers in Paris, hosted by OECD
Sep 2017	Face-to-face meeting of the Task Force in conjunction with the Expert Group meeting on business registers
Oct 2017	Submission of the draft guidelines to the Bureau meeting in October 2017
Oct-Dec 2017	Revise the guidelines to take into account comments by the CES Bureau
Feb-Apr 2018	Electronic consultation among all countries in CES
June 2018	Submission for endorsement to the CES plenary session

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## **VI. METHODS OF WORK**

11. The Task Force will primarily work via email, wiki workspace and telephone conferences. Face-to-face meetings of the Task Force may be arranged in conjunction with other international events.

## **VII. MEMBERSHIP**

12. The following countries and international organizations have expressed interest in participating in the Task Force: Austria, Canada, Finland, Mexico, Netherlands, United States, Eurostat, OECD and UNECE. Other countries and organizations may be invited to contribute to the work of the Task Force. UNECE acts as Secretariat of the Task Force.

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