Project Concept Note Template for the follow-up meeting of the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum

Ashgabat, 2011

Deadline: 15 April 2011
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Project Title	Strengthening statistics on international migration
Outcome	Increased capacity in SPECA countries to produce high quality statistics on international migration and to use them in policymaking
Indicative Funding Requirements	Total estimated budget: $991,000
Potential Sources of Funding	[Donor(s)]: [Development Bank(s)]: Other Resources: — The United Nations Population Fund may support some of the proposed activities
Expected start date	September 2011
Expected Duration	3 years
Implementing Organisation(s)	UNECE
Country/Countries	SPECA countries
Submitted by	UNECE Statistical Division
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1   Background

The project is intended as a follow-up in Central Asia and Afghanistan to the United Nations Development Account Project "Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impacts", implemented in the region in 2009-2010 by UNECE, in cooperation with UNFPA and other partners of the Global Migration Group. The workshops of the project assessed discrepancies between the internationally agreed standards and the available data and discussed ways of overcoming them. The participants who represented both statistical and policy agencies expressed the need for practical tools and guidelines to improve the production, quality and comparability of migration statistics in the region. A data clearinghouse was proposed as one such practical tool, to implement the "Guidelines for exchanging data to improve emigration statistics" developed by UNECE.

The impetus for this work was provided by the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, organized by the United Nations General Assembly. Ensuing from the High-level Dialogue, the annual Global Forums on Migration and Development (GFMD) have identified the strengthening of migration data and research among its priorities. In 2013, the General Assembly will hold a second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that will take stock of the achievements of the Global Forum process, including advances in migration data.

2   Justification

International migration, particularly labour migration, represents a major challenge in countries of Central Asia and in Afghanistan because of the direct implications for the development of economies and societies, social cohesion, security, and international relations. Being a relatively new phenomenon in that region, it requires coherent policy responses and efficient measures on both national and regional levels. National governments are confronted with a number of difficulties while developing adequate policies to manage migration flows, facilitate economic and social insertion of international migrants and ensure that the rights and freedoms of their citizens abroad are protected. One of such difficulties is obtaining a realistic picture of the on-going migration processes and objectively assessing the real numbers of stocks and flows of international migrants.

Migration statistics can assist policy-makers to develop and implement relevant policies by supplying useful information on issues such as size of migrants' stocks and flows, sex, age, origin, reason and duration of stay of migrants. However, statistical information on international migration is poorly developed in most Central Asian countries as well as in Afghanistan, where basic data are lacking and indicators are not clearly defined. There are often problems in the communication and exchange of information between various departments and agencies responsible for collecting, processing and disseminating migration statistics at the national level. Moreover, even when some data are available, capacity is not yet developed to translate statistical evidence into descriptions, research, and analyses for policy formulation and monitoring.

3   Expected Output(s)

a. Data clearinghouse on international migration in the SPECA region
b. A set of training materials on the production, communication and use of statistics on international migration adapted to the circumstances of SPECA countries.
c. Network of users and producers of migration statistics to facilitate and sustain exchange of experience and data among SPECA countries.
d. Published migration statistics in SPECA countries that are better documented and streamlined with international standards and recommendations.

4   Proposed Approach & Strategy, including Capacity Development Response

The clearinghouse will function as a database that facilitates the collection, dissemination and sharing of data on international migration. It will follow the UNECE guidelines for exchanging data to improve emigration statistics and the respond to the interest in such exchange expressed by countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia at two UNECE capacity development workshops on migration statistics in 2010. Sharing the data through such common platform would help identify inconsistencies and discrepancies from internationally agreed standards and recommendations.

The training and the accompanying materials will demonstrate how the existing production of migration statistics can be aligned internationally agreed standards and recommendations. Training will also cover the communication of statistics. To policymakers and other users of migration statistics, the training will provide a better understanding of migration data and its use for policymaking. Two training workshops will address both policymakers and statisticians; one will address specific issues of statistics and will target statisticians only.

Creation of a regional network for exchanging experiences in migration statistics and the participation in the UNECE work session on migration statistics aims to ensure the sustainability of the exchange of experience and data among SPECA countries.

5   Annual Work Plan

PLANNED ACTIVITIES *List activity results and associated actions*	TIMEFRAME				PLANNED BUDGET
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Amount
1. Data clearinghouse: establishment and initial data collection, 2011			X	X	[1]
2. Data clearinghouse: maintenance, data collection and processing, 2012-2014					[1]
3. Production of training material, 2011-2012	X			X	$20,000
4. Regional workshop for statisticians and policymakers, 2012		X			$68,000
5. Regional workshop for statisticians, 2013		X			$51,000
6. Regional workshop for statisticians and policymakers, 2014		X			$68,000
7. Technical assistance missions to countries, 2012-2014					$73,000
8. Participation in the UNECE work session on migration statistics, 2012 and 2014		X			$38,000
9. Temporary assistance (one expert at the P3 level for 36 months who works on all project activities)					$545,000
10. Programme support cost at UNECE (15%)					$129,000
TOTAL					$991,000

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[1] The cost of this activity is entirely included in the item 10 *temporary assistance*.