



# UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 115 – 11-15 April 2005

## It's just happened ...

### Statistics on International Migration: better count for better policies

Notwithstanding the issuance of the 1998 UN Recommendations on International Migration Statistics, a common approach on the measurement of stocks of immigrants is still lacking at the international level. A joint UNECE–Eurostat Seminar on Migration Statistics was recently held in Geneva (21-23 March) in an attempt to build a unifying framework towards more comparable measures.

Information needs from different perspectives were taken into account (policy-makers, research community, sending countries, etc.) and compared with existing practices, data and statistical sources. Countries currently use different approaches to count stocks of migrants: sometimes they are associated with foreigners, sometimes with the foreign-born; in other cases more elaborate criteria

are in use, as for example origin of parents or ethnic affiliation. Resulting data are impossible to compare, and this makes the comparison of different policies and their outcomes impossible.

Participants in the Seminar (41 countries of the UNECE region and 11 international organizations were represented) agreed to launch a voluntary programme of data exchange in order to compare data and definitions. In fact, what is an immigrant in the host country should in principle be considered and counted as an emigrant in the sending country. On the basis of such an exercise, detailed guidelines will be developed on defining and counting the stock of migrants so that more comparable data would be available in the region.

For more information contact Enrico Bisogno ([enrico.bisogno@unece.org](mailto:enrico.bisogno@unece.org)) or visit <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2005.03.migration.htm>

## Coming up soon ...

### Can ecosystems help to save the world's water?

More than one billion people in the world lack access to clean water, and over the next two decades, the average supply of water per person will drop by a third. Governments have invested and continue to invest large amounts of money in water-related infrastructure to fight this crisis. But flood control, drinking water supply and recreation cannot solely rely on infrastructure. The wise use of ecosystems, such as forests and wetlands, for water management is a sustainable and cost-effective alternative to infrastructure development:

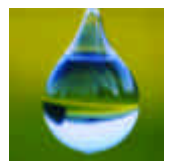


- Wetlands and forests improve the quality of waters, they withhold sediments and reduce erosion;

- Wetlands and forests regulate water flows and water supply, encourage water infiltration in the soil, and help to recharge groundwater sources and store water;

- Wetlands and forests prevent and reduce the risk of water-related disasters, they mitigate flood, store water in areas of flood formation and maintain water supplies in dry seasons and droughts.

On 12 April 2005, during the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Secretariat of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape will organize a special event to discuss this theme and propose tools to integrate ecosystems in water management.



For more information contact Francesca Bernardini ([francesca.bernardini@unece.org](mailto:francesca.bernardini@unece.org))

## Forthcoming meetings - April

- 11-13 Steering Committee for Transport, Environment and Health Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)  
 11-14 Expert Meeting on Statistics and Data on Violence against Women  
 11-15 Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat  
 13-15 Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

## Off the press ...

### Domestic savings and the driving forces of investment in the UNECE emerging market economies

The UNECE series of Occasional Papers is intended to make available to a wider audience papers on matters of topical interest, in order to contribute to the analysis and discussion of economic developments and policies in the UNECE region. No. 4 in the series discusses possible approaches for improving the mobilization of domestic resources for development in the UNECE emerging market economies, focusing on the interrelationship between domestic saving, capital accumulation and economic growth. In particular it highlights the possibility of creating a virtuous cycle of higher domestic saving and investment rates, and higher trend growth.

For more information contact the UNECE Economic Analysis Division

([info.ead@unece.org](mailto:info.ead@unece.org)).

The publication is available from the UN Sales and Marketing Section ([unpubli@unog.ch](mailto:unpubli@unog.ch)).



## Facts and figures:

**Real GDP growth**  
 Selected UNECE economies  
 (Year on year change, per cent)

	2002	2003	2004	2004			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Cyprus	2.1	1.9	3.7	3.7	4.1	4.0	3.1
Czech Republic	1.5	3.7	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.3
Estonia	7.2	5.1	6.2	6.8	5.9	6.1	5.8
Hungary	3.5	3.0	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.8
Latvia	6.4	7.5	8.5	8.7	7.7	9.1	8.6
Lithuania	6.8	9.7	6.7	7.1	7.3	5.8	6.7
Malta	2.2	-1.8	1.5	2.3	-0.5	1.9	2.3
Poland	1.4	3.8	5.3	6.9	6.1	4.8	3.9
Slovakia	4.6	4.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.8
Slovenia	3.3	2.5	4.6	4.1	4.9	5.0	4.3
<b>New EU members</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Albania a	3.4	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.9	6.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina a	3.7	3.2	4.0	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.3
Bulgaria	4.9	4.3	5.5	4.5	5.5	5.8	6.2
Croatia	5.2	4.3	3.8	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.6
Romania	5.0	4.9	8.3	6.1	7.0	10.2	8.7
Serbia and Montenegro a b	3.8	2.0	7.0	5.7	7.2	7.7	7.3
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.9	2.8	2.9	2.4	3.7	3.4	2.1
Turkey	7.9	5.9	9.9	11.8	14.4	5.3	6.3
<b>South-East Europe</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Armenia	15.1	13.9	10.1	7.5	10.2	11.4	9.6
Azerbaijan a	10.6	11.2	10.2	9.8	9.6	10.1	11.3
Belarus	5.0	7.0	11.0	9.3	10.9	11.8	11.7
Georgia	5.5	11.1	8.4	9.6	10.8	5.2	8.5
Kazakhstan	9.8	9.3	9.4	9.0	9.2	9.1	10.3
Kyrgyzstan	0.0	7.0	7.1	5.7	12.2	4.8	7.3
Republic of Moldova c	7.8	6.6	7.3	6.1	6.8	4.8	11.2
Russian Federation	4.7	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.1	6.7
Tajikistan a	9.5	10.2	10.6	10.9	10.9	10.6	10.0
Turkmenistan a d	0.3	3.3	5.0	4.3	4.6	5.2	5.9
Ukraine	5.2	9.6	12.1	12.3	13.2	14.3	8.9
Uzbekistan a	4.2	4.4	7.7	6.9	7.8	8.1	8.0
<b>CIS-12</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>

Source: UNECE Statistical Database, compiled from Eurostat, CISSC and national sources.

Notes: <sup>a</sup> Interpolated from annual data.

<sup>b</sup> Excluding Kosovo and Metohia.

<sup>c</sup> Excluding Transdniestria.

<sup>d</sup> UNECE secretariat estimates.

For further information please contact:

Information Service,  
 UN Economic  
 Commission for Europe  
 (UNECE)  
 CH - 1211 Geneva 10,  
 Switzerland

Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44

Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05

E-mail:  
[info.ece@unece.org](mailto:info.ece@unece.org)

Web site:  
<http://www.unece.org>