

**UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Joint ECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics
organised in cooperation with the UN Statistics Division
(Geneva, 28-30 April 2003)

NOTE ON FUTURE WORK

Note by the ECE secretariat

I. This note is intended to facilitate the discussion that will take place at the meeting on Wednesday, 30 April, in the meeting's discussion of possible future work (agenda item 10). The note has been prepared to inform the meeting of decisions that the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians took at its October 2002 meeting. At that meeting, the Bureau agreed that the list of meetings in the CES work program should be reviewed in future, to ensure that each meeting has a specific purpose and/or output or product in mind that the proposed future meeting is expected to contribute to or help to achieve.

2. The Bureau of the Conference concluded that all future meetings in the CES work programme, including joint meetings like the 28-30 April 2003 joint meeting, should be more than a mere exchange of information on national practices. The Bureau prefers, instead, to see meetings that are planned for the future that are part of an ongoing process that is aimed at the production of some outputs or the achievement of other types of concrete goals. Examples of some possible outputs include the following (the list is illustrative and not exhaustive):

- Standards and norms;
- Recommendations and guidelines;
- Methodological materials;
- Manuals;
- Statistical publications;
- Statistical databases;
- Statistical websites, etc.

3. The Bureau also recommended that any joint meetings in future convened in the CES work programme be prepared by a Steering Group composed primarily of national experts. The Steering Group would be responsible for defining the activities and the expected outputs in the specific subject-matter area. In particular, the Steering Group should prepare and submit to the Bureau for its review a note containing the proposed terms of reference of the meeting and the foreseen or expected outputs. The note should also include a description of the process to be followed for achieving the outputs, the time framework, the target audience and the possible partnerships.

4. The participants are invited to formulate their proposals for future work taking into account the above request and recommendations of the CES Bureau. The participants are also encouraged to elaborate comments and suggestions that they would like the ECE secretariat to transmit to the Steering Group, to assist it in responding to these requests of the Bureau. In this regard, they are particularly encouraged to suggest possible expected outputs and to describe some suggested manner of proceeding to help achieve them.

5. The proposals should be submitted to the Secretary of the meeting (Mr. Paolo Valente) not later than Tuesday 29 April at 11:00. A small drafting group composed of the Session Organizers, Eurostat and the ECE secretariat will discuss the various proposals and endeavour to prepare a common proposal that could be discussed and agreed by the meeting on Wednesday 30 April.

6. Countries that are interested in serving on the Task Force are also invited to notify the Secretary of the meeting before the end-of-business on 29 April, so the meeting can be informed of the composition of the Task Force on 30 April.

7. Finally, it should also be noted that the ECE secretariat considers the proposed field trials by a small group of interested countries to apply the current set of UN recommendations on international migration statistics in real-life situations is one example of planned future work of the type requested by the Bureau (i.e., work that is part of an ongoing process that is aimed at the production of a concrete output or at the achievement of other types of concrete goals). However, the participants at the meeting are invited under this agenda item to formulate suggestions concerning other possible concrete outputs and goals, for the consideration of the meeting and the proposed Task Force.
