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NETHERLANDS INTERDISCIPLINARY DEMOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE (NIDI)

**REPORT OF THE JANUARY 2005 JOINT UNECE/UNFPA/NIDI TRAINING
PROGRAMME ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

INTRODUCTION

1. The UNECE/UNFPA/NIDI Training Programme on International Migration was held on 24-28 January 2005 in Geneva. It was attended by participants from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The representatives from International Labour Office (ILO), UN Population Fund (UNFPA) also attended. The lectures were given by experts from Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), the Moscow State University (MSU, Russian Federation), the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI, Netherlands) and UN Economic Commission for Europe(UNECE) at the invitation of organizers.

2. Participants from Eastern Europe and CIS countries could attend the Training Programme thanks to the financial support provided by UNFPA.

3. All presentations given at the workshop are available on the UNECE website:

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

4.   The purpose of the five-day programme was to familiarise the participants with a series of issues concerning data, analysis and policy planning regarding international migration: concepts and measurement, data collection systems and data availability, quality, and comparability, causes and consequences of migration for the countries concerned, and migration policies and management. Particular attention was to be devoted to on-going international work on definitional and methodological issues, as for example the process for the 2010 Census Recommendations of UNECE. Furthermore, the training programme aimed to facilitate the much-needed dialogue between data producers/statisticians-demographers and policy makers.

- By the end of the training course, participants should have acquired knowledge of:
- the concepts, definitions and classifications relating to international migration and asylum;
- the potential data sources that may be used for policy planning and analysis;
- the major causes and consequences of international migration;
- some analytical measures and methods of estimation;
- migration management and policy issues.

CONTENTS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

5.   The curriculum of the training programme was developed by NIDI in close co-operation with UNFPA and UNECE. The programme was delivered by staff of NIDI (Ms. Jeannette Schoorl and Mr. George Groenewold) and of UNECE (Mr. Enrico Bisogno), and several invited lecturers from other organisations. The following external lecturers participated in the programme:

- Ms. Olga Chudinovskikh, Moscow State University
- Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief Statistician, United Nations High Commission for Refugees
- Mr. Rolf Jenny, Executive Director of the Global Commission on International Migration
- Mr. Heiki Mattila, International Organisation for Migration

6.   The programme was organized in the format of classroom lectures, each lecture being supported by powerpoint presentations. A workshop day consisted of a morning and an afternoon session, each session in turn consisting of two lectures of about 75 minutes duration, covering closely related topics.

7.   In order to increase inputs in the discussion, it was recommended that, prior to the training programme, participants collect basic information about data sources and data availability (including perceived shortcomings) on international migration in their respective countries. Thus, a short questionnaire, developed by UNECE, was sent out to participants prior to the meeting

8.   After the two introductory sessions, the programme was structured to cover the following three main aspects related to migration statistics:

a)   concepts, definitions and data sources (Monday afternoon and Tuesday);
b)   migration theories (Wednesday);
c)   measurement and analysis of migration (Wednesday and Thursday);

d) migration and integration policies; migration management (Friday).

a)   Concepts, definitions and data sources

Concepts and definitions tend to differ between countries and even, within countries, between data sources, hindering comparability and interpretation. In addition, in many countries, data sources are lacking or if present, are under-utilised for the production of statistics. Presentations included a discussion of data source quality, reliability, coverage, comparability and general availability. Presentations:

- general overview of data sources;
- an illustration of the situation regarding data sources in the Russian Federation;
- presentation and discussion of the results of the questionnaire completed and returned by the participants prior to the training programme;
- the use of the census to estimate migration and to improve international comparability;
- data sources on trafficking, irregular migration and transit migration; and
- data sources on refugees and asylum seekers.

b)   Migration theories and measurement and analysis of migration

The second part of the programme aimed to familiarise the participants with the main theoretical insights on the causes of international migration and on the consequences of international migration for both receiving and sending countries, including the linkages between migration and development.

c)   Measurement and analysis of migration

The programme component on migration measures and analysis consisted of several lectures and a number of assignments. The focus was on the production of basic measures from existing data sources and on the use of surveys for policy-relevant analysis. Presentations included:

- lecture and assignments explaining basic measures using various data sources;
- the work of the Global Commission on International Migration in relation to data needs;
- research for policy making: the use of surveys, with examples of survey sampling and of survey studies on migrant profiles and remittances.

d)   Migration and integration policies; migration management

The final topic of the training programme dealt with various aspects of migration management:

- the perspective of main receiving regions:
  - admission and return;
  - Integration;
- example of the Russian Federation as country of immigration;
- the policy challenges for countries of out-migration.

EVALUATION

9.   Participants were asked to fill an evaluation questionnaire prepared by UNECE.

The questionnaire has been filled in by 37 participants. The majority were from National Statistical Offices (NSOs, 20) and government departments responsible for migration affairs (12); three participants were from an international organizations and two from other organizations (Table 1).

10.   A large majority judged that the content of the programme was excellent (43 percent) or good (49 percent). Quality of documentation and organization was rated excellent by 54 percent of the participants and rated good by the remaining 46 percent.

11.   Most participants thought that the balance between presentations and discussion was about right, although one or two would have preferred somewhat more time either for discussion or for presentations. The duration of the programme (five days) was appreciated by a large majority.

12.   Furthermore, all but a few participants consider that additional specific training would be useful. Many topics were indicated, mostly focusing on further detail of specific topics included in the current training programme. The preference is for national or regional programmes.

Table 1. Evaluation results: participation and opinions on quality and future activities

	N	%		N	%
Organization			*Structure of modules*		
NSO	20	54	About right	26	70
Government	12	32	More time needed for presentations	1	3
International organization	3	8	More time needed for discussion	7	19
Other	2	5	Unknown	3	8
Total	37	100	*Duration of programme*		
Quality of content			About right	32	87
Excellent	16	43	Too short	1	3
Good	18	49	Too long	2	5
Fairly good	3	8	Missing	2	5
Unsatisfactory	0	0	*Need for more training*		
Quality of documentation			Yes	35	95
Excellent	20	54	No	2	5
Good	17	46	*Need for specific technical assistance*		
Fairly good	0	0	Yes	26	70
Unsatisfactory	0	0	No	9	24
Quality of organization			Missing	2	5
Excellent	20	54			
Good	17	46			
Fairly good	0	0			
Unsatisfactory	0	0			

13.   The need for specific technical assistance is felt somewhat less strongly, although still by 70

percent of the participants, and this applies irrespective of whether the participant is a statistician or a policy maker. Additional comments point in the direction of methodologies of data collection, training, improvement of internal co-ordination and international co-operation.

14.   Participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with the relevance and usefulness of each specific topic, on a three-point scale. Satisfaction with both components was high for the group as a whole, with on almost all topics a fair majority indicating that the relevance and usefulness was very good. Almost all of the remaining participants reported that the topics were at least partly relevant and partly useful. A few participants however indicated for some topics that these were not relevant or useful for them (Table 2).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15.   The training programme brought together staff of both National Statistical Offices and Government departments involved in policy making regarding international migration. The reason for this was a sound one in principle: enhancing the potential for much needed dialogue between data producers and policy makers. The apparent disadvantage was that interests of participants diverge and this makes it harder to target the training programme. Judging from the evaluation results, this affected the policy makers more than the statisticians. Some comments provided by the participants equally point out the disadvantages of having such a mixed group in a combined training. Thus, the technical topics seem less interesting to policy makers, although one could say that for a policy maker to interpret data correctly, some knowledge of definitions, concepts and data sources would be very useful.

16.   In conclusion, generally, the more technical the content of the programme, the less advisable it seems to target a mixed audience. For increasing the potential for dialogue, a programme focus on specific policy issues may be more appropriate, although this will require some pre-existing technical knowledge among participants.

17.   In sum, judging from the evaluation, the training programme was rated quite positively, and many participants express the need for more, and more specific training and assistance on a number of issues related to data collection, production, analysis and internal and international collaboration regarding data sharing, etc. The format of the training programme was well received. Some points could be considered for future training programmes: re-evaluation of the combination of statisticians and policy makers (depending on the purpose and content of the training), considering somewhat smaller groups, hand-outs prior to lectures (especially in case of expected language barriers), if possible in the meetings' languages; and perhaps some more presentations focusing on the region concerned.