

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

For decision

Second Meeting of the 2005/2006 Bureau  
Washington, D.C. (United States), 24-25 October 2005

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

**SELECTION OF TOPICS AND RAPPORTEURS  
FOR THE IN-DEPTH REVIEW IN FEBRUARY 2006**

**Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat**

**BACKGROUND**

1. In October 2004 the Bureau decided to review the issues and problems in five Statistical Areas each February, based on reports prepared by designated Rapporteurs. The aim of the in-depth review is to make recommendations on how to solve the problems and to improve work in the selected domains.
2. It was also decided that, at each October meeting, the UNECE secretariat would make a proposal for the selection of topics to be reviewed in-depth the following February based on a survey carried out among the Heads of statistical offices at the time of the June CES plenary session. The Bureau agreed to select the Rapporteurs together with the topics on a case-by-case basis. The Bureau also agreed that the National Statistical Offices and the Steering Groups should be involved in the reporting as much as possible.
3. In June 2005, the Heads of the national and international statistical agencies were asked to identify areas where they believe the most acute problems exist, requiring the attention of the top management of national and international statistical agencies (e.g. emerging issues, important areas that are neglected, insufficient progress, duplication of work, lack of cooperation between international organizations, etc.). The results of the survey on topics for in-depth review at the 2005 CES plenary session are presented below.

**RESULTS OF THE SURVEY**

4. The survey was carried out on the basis of the new DISA/IP classification of statistical activities. The following topics were marked most often:
  - Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices (**19 votes**);
  - Population and migration statistics (**13 votes**)  
Note: migration statistics was considered by the Bureau and by the CES in 2005; population census is the topic for the 2006 CES seminar;
  - Management and development of human resources (**11 votes**)  
Note: – the topic will be considered at the CES seminar in 2006;
  - Technical cooperation and capacity building (**11 votes**)  
Note: the topic was reviewed in-depth in February 2005; a follow-up discussion will take place at the October 2005 Bureau;
  - Statistics on globalization (**10 votes**);
  - Statistical programmes; coordination within statistical systems (**10 votes**).

5. The following topics were also marked by countries as candidates for in-depth review **(9 votes)**:

- Justice and crime;
  - Regional and small area statistics;
  - Living conditions and poverty
- Note: the topic was reviewed in-depth in February 2005;
- Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals;
  - Institutional frameworks and principles; the role of official statistics.

6. The results of the full survey are presented in Annex 1.

## **PROPOSAL**

7. Taking into account the countries' preferences, as well as the fact that some of the topics were recently reviewed (Annex 2) or are planned for review by the Bureau and the CES plenary sessions, it is proposed to select five from the following seven topics to be considered for possible in-depth review in February 2006:

- Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices;
- Statistics on globalization;
- Statistical programmes; coordination within statistical systems;
- Justice and crime statistics;
- Regional and small area statistics;
- Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals;
- Institutional frameworks and principles; role of official statistics.

8. **The Bureau is expected to select 5 topics to be reviewed in depth in February 2006 and to select the Rapporteurs who will be asked to prepare the Reports as the basis for discussion.**

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**Annex 1**  
**Countries' preferences for topics to be reviewed in-depth by the CES Bureau**  
(results of the survey carried out at the 2005 CES plenary session)

5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices	19
1.1 Population and migration statistics	13
5.4 Management and development of human resources	11
5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building	11
3.3.4 Statistics on globalization	10
5.2 Statistical programmes; coordination within statistical systems	10
1.8 Justice and crime statistics	9
3.2 Regional and small area statistics	9
3.3.1 Statistics on living conditions and poverty	9
3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals	9
5.1 Institutional frameworks and principles; role of official statistics	9
1.4 Health statistics	8
1.6 Statistics on social protection	8
3.3.6 Sustainable development statistics	8
4.1 Metadata	8
2.2 Short-term economic statistics	7
2.9 Science and technology statistics	7
3.1 Environment statistics	7
4.3.1 Population and housing censuses; registers of population, dwellings and buildings	7
4.3.5 Other administrative and non-survey sources	7
4.7 Data analysis	7
5.5 Management and development of technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing)	7
5.6 Coordination of international statistical work	7
1.3 Education statistics	6
2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics	6
4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers	6
4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection	6
1.7 Human settlements and housing statistics	5
2.4.5 Tourism statistics	5
3.3.2 Gender and special population groups statistics	5
3.3.3 Information society statistics	5
4.4 Data editing and data linkage	5
1.10 Statistics on political and other community activities	4
1.2 Labour statistics	4
1.5 Statistics on income and consumption	4
1.9 Culture statistics	4
2.3 Structural business statistics	4
2.4 Sectoral statistics	4
3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators	4
4.2 Classifications	4
4.3 Data sources	4
2.4.2 Energy statistics	3
2.4.3 Mining, manufacturing, construction statistics	3
2.7 Price statistics	3
3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia	3
4.3.3 Household surveys	3
4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing	3

2.4.4 Transport statistics	2
4.3.4 Business and agricultural surveys	2
2.4.1. Agriculture, forestry, fisheries statistics	1
2.4.6 Banking, insurance, financial statistics	1
2.6 International trade and balance of payments statistics	1
1.11 Time-use statistics	0
2.1 Economic accounts	0

**Annex 2**  
**Topics reviewed in depth by the CES and its Bureau during 2004-2005**

CES 2004 Plenary session  
Environment statistics

CES 2005 Plenary session  
Migration statistics

February 2005, Bureau  
Technical cooperation (Rapporteur: Eurostat)  
Migration statistics (Rapporteur: USA with IMF and the World Bank)  
Income and consumption (Rapporteur: Canada)  
Labour statistics (Rapporteur: ILO, Italy)  
Transport statistics (Rapporteur: Denmark)