

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

For information
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Third meeting of the 2005/2006 Bureau  
Geneva, 20-21 February 2006

Item 11(c) of the Provisional  
Agenda

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON MEASURING EMIGRATION  
USING DATA COLLECTED BY THE RECEIVING COUNTRY**

**Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat**

**BACKGROUND**

1. The creation of a Task Force on measuring emigration using data collected by the receiving country (hereafter called “Task Force”) was proposed at the Joint ECE-Eurostat Seminar on International Migration (21-23 March 2005) and then endorsed by the CES Bureau at its meeting of 24-25 October 2005 in Washington, D.C.
2. Within the overall objective of improving the use of harmonized concepts and definition of stock and flows of migrants and within the framework of the UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, the Task Force will develop guidelines on how to measure emigrants through data on stocks and flows in host countries. In most countries, specific problems affect data quality and availability on international emigration since people who move abroad are difficult to count in their country of origin because of their absence. In principle, these persons should be more easily counted in the receiving (host) country.
3. The Task Force will assess the feasibility of improving emigration statistics by using immigration data from the host country, bearing in mind the following:
  - actual data availability in destination and countries of origin;
  - different criteria used to define stocks and flows of international immigrants, respectively for destination and countries of origin;
  - various available sources (census, household surveys, administrative records), both in destination and countries of origin;
  - data accuracy, cost and timeliness.
4. The guidelines will be based on pilot projects carried out by groups of countries that will exchange data, taking into account issues of data suitability, timeliness and availability. Data will be collected on flows and stocks of international migrants between countries of each group.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCE

5. The Task Force adopted the following work-plan to deliver the outputs outlined above.

<i>December 2005:</i>	First round of data collection, on migration flows
<i>3 February 2006:</i>	Deadline for data collection
<i>February 2006:</i>	Intermediate analysis report by each group
<i>March 2006:</i>	Second round of data collection, on stocks of migrants
<i>April 2006:</i>	Consolidated analysis report by each group
<i>July 2006:</i>	Comprehensive analysis report and draft guidelines on measurement of emigration through immigration data
<i>October 2006</i>	Results are presented and discussed at the UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics
<i>December 2006</i>	Final analysis report and draft guidelines on measurement of emigration through immigration data

6. The Task Force designed a set of tables to exchange data and methodological information on stocks and flows of migrants by country of origin in host countries, with a view to providing relevant data from the perspective of countries of origin.

7. After further consultations, additional countries volunteered to participate in the data exchange exercise and four clusters of countries have been set up. Data are now being collected for the following groups:

- i) Albania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Switzerland (group leader: Switzerland);
- ii) France, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom (group leader: Portugal);
- iii) Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom, United States (group leader: Canada);
- iv) Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia (group leader: Estonia).

8. As of 10 February, 10 out of 19 countries had provided data for the data exchange exercise and some others have committed to send the data in the next few weeks. Group leaders are following the data collection of each group and have started to analyse the tables received.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE

Canada, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom, United States, Eurostat, UNECE.

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