

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For decision

Third Meeting of the 2007/2008 Bureau  
Geneva, 12-13 February 2008

Item 3 of the Provisional  
Agenda

**SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH REVIEW BY THE CES BUREAU  
IN OCTOBER 2008 AND FEBRUARY 2009**

**Note prepared by the secretariat**

1. The CES Bureau makes regularly an in-depth review of selected statistical areas. The review enables the Bureau to promote the coordination of international statistical activities in the region, so that duplication is avoided, and address emerging issues. The aim of the discussion is to identify problems and propose possible solutions.
2. In October 2006, the Bureau decided to change the way of carrying out the in-depth reviews. The reviews should focus on strategic issues in the next five years or so, rather than reviewing the current issues and problems. The Bureau should review about 4-5 topics each year. The criteria for selecting a topic or a group of topics for the review are that:
  - (a) there are significant developments in the area;
  - (b) there are significant coordination issues;
  - (c) there is a lack of activities at the international level.
3. The topics for in-depth review are selected from the 55 statistical areas listed in the classification of international statistical activities maintained by UNECE. The topics may be either single topics, or ad hoc groupings from among the 55 statistical areas in the classification. The Bureau also nominates a country/organization to prepare the issue paper that provides basis for the discussion. The Bureau members and other agencies actively involved in the area are invited to contribute short notes to the discussion.
4. The conclusions from the in-depth review are communicated to the CES plenary session together with a relevant excerpt from the Database of International Statistical Activities, a justification why the topic was selected for the review, and Bureau decisions. The Bureau may also decide to have a short discussion on the topic during the CES plenary session.
5. The Bureau decided to experiment with the new approach for 2-3 meetings, and after that, to evaluate the approach and decide how to proceed further.
6. The 2008 February meeting is the third in-depth review according to the new approach. The Bureau discussed business statistics in February 2007, statistics on income, living conditions and poverty, and gender statistics in October 2007. Environment statistics and culture statistics will be discussed in February 2008.
7. In order to organise the next in-depth reviews, **the Bureau is invited to select 4-5 topics to be reviewed in-depth in October 2008 and February 2009. The topics can be either single topics or combinations of topics from the attached list (Annex 1). The**

**Bureau is also invited to nominate the countries or international organizations to prepare the issue papers to provide basis for the discussion.**

8. At the October 2007 meeting, housing statistics was mentioned as a possible candidate for in-depth review because of very few international activities in this area.

9. Please note that the list of topics that were reviewed in-depth during the last four years is provided in Annex 2.

**ANNEX 1****UNECE CLASSIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES****Domain 1: Demographic and social statistics**

- 1.1 Population and migration
- 1.2 Labour
- 1.3 Education
- 1.4 Health
- 1.5 Income and consumption
- 1.6 Social protection
- 1.7 Human settlements and housing
- 1.8 Justice and crime
- 1.9 Culture
- 1.10 Political and other community activities
- 1.11 Time-use

**Domain 2: Economic statistics**

- 2.1 Macroeconomic statistics
- 2.2 Economic accounts
- 2.3 Business statistics
- 2.4 Sectoral statistics
  - 2.4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries
  - 2.4.2 Energy
  - 2.4.3 Mining, manufacturing, construction
  - 2.4.4 Transport
  - 2.4.5 Tourism
  - 2.4.6 Banking, insurance, financial statistics
- 2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics
- 2.6 International trade and balance of payments
- 2.7 Prices
- 2.8 Labour cost
- 2.9 Science and technology

**Domain 3: Environment and multi-domain statistics**

- 3.1 Environment
- 3.2 Regional and small area statistics
- 3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators
  - 3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues
  - 3.3.2 Gender and special population groups
  - 3.3.3 Information society
  - 3.3.4 Globalisation
  - 3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals
  - 3.3.6 Sustainable development
- 3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia

#### **Domain 4: Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis**

- 4.1 Metadata
- 4.2 Classifications
- 4.3 Data sources
  - 4.3.1 Population and housing censuses; registers of population, dwellings and buildings
  - 4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers
  - 4.3.3 Household surveys
  - 4.3.4 Business and agricultural surveys
  - 4.3.5 Other administrative sources
- 4.4 Data editing and data linkage
- 4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing
- 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection
- 4.7 Data analysis

#### **Domain 5: Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics**

- 5.1 Institutional frameworks and principles; role and organisation of official statistics
- 5.2 Statistical programmes; coordination within statistical systems
- 5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices
- 5.4 Management and development of human resources
- 5.5 Management and development of technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing)
- 5.6 Coordination of international statistical work
- 5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building

**ANNEX 2****TOPICS REVIEWED IN-DEPTH SINCE FEBRUARY 2005**

- Technical cooperation (February 2005)
- Migration statistics (February 2005)
- Income and consumption (February 2005)
- Labour statistics (February 2005)
- Transport statistics (February 2005)
- Human resources and training (February 2005)
- Quality frameworks and the link with institutional frameworks and principles (February 2006)
- Statistics on Globalisation (February 2006)
- Justice and crime statistics, including the safety concept (February 2006)
- Health statistics (February 2006)
- SDMX initiative (February 2007)
- Population statistics (February 2007)
- Business statistics (February 2007)
- Income, living conditions and poverty (October 2007)
- Gender statistics (October 2007)
- Culture statistics (February 2008)
- Environment statistics (February 2008)

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