

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2015/2016 Bureau
Luxembourg, 9-10 February 2016

Approved

Item IV (e) of the Provisional
Agenda

FINAL REPORT
OF THE TASK FORCE ON MEASURING CIRCULAR MIGRATION

Note by the UNECE secretariat

The Bureau reviewed and commented on the report on measuring circular migration (in Addendum 1), and decided that it can be sent for electronic consultation to all CES member countries. If the outcome of the CES consultation will be positive, the report will be submitted to the CES 2016 plenary session for endorsement.

1. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) established the Task Force on Measuring Circular Migration in 2013 with the objective to advance measurement and comparability of circular migration definitions, facilitate expert discussions on the topic of circular migration, and propose a common statistical definition to be presented as guidance for the international community and national stakeholders.
2. The Task Force includes representatives from national statistical offices of Israel, Italy, Republic of Macedonia, Mexico (Mr. Alfredo Bustos y de la Tijera chairs the Task Force) and Norway, from the Swedish Migration Agency, Eurostat and the International Organization for Migration. The Task Force worked almost three years and held one face-to-face meeting in September 2014 in connection with the UNECE Work Session on Migration Statistics in Chisinau.
3. The report, provided in the addendum to this document, presents the work done by this Task Force. Following the introduction, chapter 2 of the report provides the key definitions of international migration statistics and looks at how circular migration has been framed and defined in different contexts. In the context of scarce statistical data on circular migration, the chapter provides an example of operationalizing the concept of circular migration in Sweden. Chapter 3 examines the following five dimensions of circular migration: repetition of move (frequency), directionality, time, purpose of move, and developmental impact. Chapter 4 proceeds to lay out the key issues and present proposals for a statistical definition of circular migration. Practical application of the proposed definitions is shown in chapter 5 with testing examples from Italy and Sweden, followed by conclusions.

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