

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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

Approved

Item IV (f) of the Provisional
Agenda

FINAL REPORT
OF THE TASK FORCE ON MEASURING HUMAN CAPITAL

Note by the UNECE secretariat

The document presents the final report of the Task Force on Measuring Human Capital. The Bureau reviewed and commented on the “Guide on measuring human capital” provided in the addendum, and decided that it can be sent for electronic consultation to all CES member countries.

1. The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) established the Task Force on Measuring Human Capital in June 2013 with the objective to pursue the conceptual development of human capital measurement, including experimental human capital satellite accounts.
2. The Task Force includes representatives from national statistical offices of Australia, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway (Ms Ann Lisbet Brathaug chairs the Task Force), Poland, Slovenia, United Kingdom, and United States of America; from OECD, the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, the University of Madison-Wisconsin and the Central University for Finance and Economics in Beijing. The Task Force held two face-to-face meetings, in June 2014 in Geneva and in April 2015 in Paris.
3. The Task Force prepared the *Guide on measuring human capital* presented in the addendum to this document. The Guide discusses the concept of human capital, methodological and implementation issues, and challenges related to valuating human capital. The Guide provides recommendations aimed at producing estimates that are as consistent as possible with national accounting concepts and comparable across economies. However, it does not recommend the inclusion of human capital in the central framework of the SNA as more research is needed.
4. The Guide suggests starting with a narrower approach, namely the development of a satellite account for education and training. It continues by encouraging the development of a human capital satellite account, and provides an example showing how integration of human capital might influence the sequences of accounts. Finally, the Guide provides additional examples of how human capital has been measured in selected country-specific contexts, the type of data used and a comparison of these estimates across countries.
5. **The Bureau reviewed and commented on the report, 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.