Approved

Item V of the Provisional Agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME 2016

Note by the Secretariat

The document provides a short summary of the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2016. The report is based on the information in an online reporting system, the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS), used within the United Nations secretariat.

The Bureau reviewed and adopted the document. *The Annex includes the list of meetings organized in 2016.*

I.   Description of the main accomplishments in 2016

A.   Coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region

1.   In 2016, 21 international organizations contributed to the statistical work of the Conference of European Statisticians which coordinates statistical activities in the UNECE region.

2.   International statistical work was reviewed in depth in three statistical areas with the purpose of improving inter-agency coordination and eliminating overlaps and gaps in statistical activities in the UNECE region. The three reviews addressed the following topics: (i) strategic partnerships; (ii) diversification of census methodology; and (iii) using geospatial information.

3.   As a result of the in-depth reviews, further work was launched in these areas. A small group was set up to plan follow-up work on strategic partnerships focusing on legal issues, and a task force on register-based and combined censuses was established. Following the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution (E/RES/2016/27) on geospatial information, UNECE decided to engage in joint activities with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in Europe to strengthen institutional arrangements on geospatial information management.

B.   Methodological work

4.   In 2016, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau endorsed four methodological guidelines, namely on (i) human capital; (ii) circular migration; (iii) ageing-related statistics and (iv) statistical legislation for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. These were developed in cooperation with countries and partner organisations,

such as the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), Eurostat, European Free Trade Organization (EFTA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), OECD, United Nations Statistics Division and World Health Organization. Many research institutes contributed to the work in substance, including European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, University of Southampton, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital.

5.   As a follow-up, several UNECE member States are pilot testing the measurement of human capital focusing on education and training. The *Guide on Measuring Human Capital* was circulated for global consultation among all United Nations Member States to advance harmonized measurement of human capital internationally. Further work is being launched to strengthen the legal frameworks of official statistics in the whole UNECE region and to develop practical guidelines on ageing indicators.

6.   In addition, six draft CES recommendations or publications were prepared in 2016 for endorsement by the Conference in 2017, namely on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals – a road map, poverty measurement, unpaid household work, value of official statistics, population projections and climate change-related indicators.

7.   In 2016, UNECE carried out methodological work by drafting new guidelines and collecting good practices in 24 out of 55 statistical areas of the Classification of International Statistical Activities. The number of statistical areas in which UNECE works cannot be further expanded. In the future, UNECE will focus its methodological work more on support to measuring progress towards SDGs in collaboration with key partners.

C.   Capacity building

8.   In 2016, UNECE carried out 10 training workshops for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia with the support of the regular budget, the budget for technical cooperation, funding from the United Nations Development Account and external funding sources. In addition, a number of advisory missions were conducted at the request of countries. With these activities UNECE supported countries' capacity to develop statistical systems for monitoring progress towards SDGs, to provide gender-sensitive indicators, and to fill gaps identified in Global Assessments of national statistical systems. As indicated by surveys, 90 per cent of experts who took part in UNECE training workshops in 2016 considered the training to be of high quality and useful for their work.

9.   These activities contributed to progress in areas identified for improvement in Global Assessments of national statistical systems. Global Assessments analyse progress of countries with developing statistical systems in implementing international standards and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. They are carried out at countries' request jointly with Eurostat and EFTA. In 2016, Global Assessments was carried out in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. In addition, 4 UNECE member States developed a national strategy for sustainable development of statistics in line with recommendations provided in Global Assessments.

10.   To address member States' requests for assistance in implementing the recommendations, UNECE is carrying out a United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project[1] to strengthen the capacity of countries for the sustainable development of statistics. The project supports producers of official statistics in eight beneficiary countries[2] and addresses statistical gaps to allow for the monitoring of economic, social and environmental reforms.

11.   The Generic Law on Official Statistics that was jointly developed with EFTA and Eurostat is a key outcome of the UNDA project. The model provides a strong reference for

---

[1] The title of the UNDA 9th tranche project is "Supporting the implementation of the global assessment recommendations in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia".

[2] Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

developing a solid legal basis for the functioning of national statistical systems and the production of high quality official statistics. The Generic Law will be published as an electronic and printed publication in early 2017.

D. UNECE statistical database

12. Progress was made in the availability of high quality macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in the UNECE statistical database. The country overview tables were among the most actively used data along with gender and economic statistics, and the Millennium Development Goals' (MDG) indicators.

13. To better reflect the use of the database, UNECE now monitors the number of downloads of data from the database instead of the number of available time series. The total number downloads reached 310,000 in 2016, thus achieving half of the biennial goal of 600,000 downloads.

14. In 2016, downloads of statistical data from the UNECE statistical database grew by 30 per cent compared to 2015. The share of downloads via mobile devices also increased. Automated processes and quality checks completed in 2016 have improved timeliness and reliability of data. These improvements along with the availability of quick statistics, maps, graphs and country rankings attract new users.

II. Outputs prepared in 2016

A. Manuals, guidelines, recommendations, compilations of best practices

15. The following guidelines and recommendations were finalized in 2016:

   (a) *Guide on Measuring Human Capital* (endorsed by CES in 2016)

16. The Guide discusses conceptual, methodological and implementation issues related to the measurement of human capital. The Guide shows how to estimate and record human capital in a way that is aligned with the principles of national accounts and is comparable across countries.

   (b) *Defining and Measuring Circular migration* (endorsed by CES in 2016)

17. The publication proposes a common international statistical definition of circular migration, identifies challenges in measuring this phenomenon and presents practical applications of the proposed definitions.

   (c) *Recommendations on Ageing-related statistics* (endorsed by CES in 2016)

18. The recommendations aim at supporting countries in improving the availability, accessibility and comparability of statistical data in support of ageing-related policymaking.

   (d) *Generic Law on Official Statistics* (endorsed by CES in 2016)

19. The Generic Law on Official Statistics was developed under a UNDA 9th tranche project for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to strengthen the legal basis of national statistical systems.

   (e) *Handbook on the Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in the Commonwealth of Independent States Region* (CES informed in 2016)

20. The handbook provides guidance to statisticians and other professionals in producing and using data on international migration from administrative sources and household surveys in the CIS countries.

   (f) *Measuring population and housing in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: review of practices in the 2010 round of censuses* (CES informed in 2016)

21.   The publication reviews the practices of countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. It compares the approaches and practices adopted by countries and assesses the implementation of the *CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing*.

(g)   *Guide on measuring unpaid household work* (to be submitted to CES in 2017)

22.   The publication will provide methodological guidance on estimating the value of unpaid household work, to improve understanding of the contribution of different kinds of work to the overall economic output and the well-being of the population.

(h)   *Guidelines on poverty measurement* (to be submitted to CES in 2017)

23.   The publication provides guidance on the methodological approaches for measuring poverty to improve the international comparability of poverty measurement in terms of definitions, methods and data sources and to take into account the SDG indicators and their underlying data needs.

(i)   *Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals – road map* (to be submitted to CES in 2017)

24.   The road map will provide a strategy on how to develop statistics for SDGs, and guide the countries in implementing the CES *Declaration on the role of national statistical offices in measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals*.

(j)   *Value of official statistics* (to be submitted to CES in 2017)

25.   The report will provide recommendations on creating, communicating and measuring the value of official statistics that will allow for better understanding and communication of this value to society.

(k)   *Key recommendations and good practices in communicating population projections* (to be submitted to CES in 2017)

26.   The Guide will promote the sharing of good practices on communicating population projections and create mechanisms for collecting and disseminating metadata on national and international population projections.

(l)   *Set of key climate change-related indicators* (to be submitted to CES in 2017)

27.   The set includes internationally comparable key climate change-related indicators that can be derived from the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and other sources. The work takes into account SDGs and relevant issues raised in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

28.   All publications, including the above manuals, guidelines, recommendations and compilations of best practices, will be made available at the following address: www.unece.org/statistics/publications.html

B.   UNECE statistical database

29.   The statistical database is available at: w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en, providing:

- Macroeconomic data (national accounts main aggregates, industrial production, labour force, wages, price indices, purchasing power parities, exchange rates, and globalization indicators);

- Social and demographic data with gender breakdown (population, fertility, families and households, work and the economy, education, public life and decision making, health and mortality, crime and violence, science and ICT, and life balance);

- Regional MDG database covering all 8 MDG indicators for more than 30 countries that have produced these data;

- Transport and forestry statistics provided by other UNECE Divisions;

- Clearinghouse for migration statistics for the CIS countries.

- Country overview tables and tables with a country ranking and country profiles, charts and maps.

C.   Websites and wikis maintained by the UNECE Statistical Division

30.   The UNECE Statistical Division's website (www.unece.org/stats) provides information about the Division's work and includes links to final products and other materials. These links include:

- Links to official statistical organizations: www.unece.org/stats/links.html

- Statistical work related to SDGs: www.unece.org/stats/sde/sdg.html

- Statistical database website: w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en

- UNECE Data Locator: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DLoc

- Gender statistics website with multimedia training videos: www.unece.org/stats/gender.html

- Library of training materials on statistics: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/train

31.   In addition to the website, the Statistical Division maintains a collaborative Wiki platform for experts to communicate with one another and to share knowledge and tools. The Statistical Division has currently 153 wiki spaces (including 74 public wikis and 79 wikis with restricted access with over 2000 registered users). The Wikis and knowledge bases on different subjects can be found at: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/dashboard.action

III.   List of meetings organized in 2016

32.   Documents for public meetings are available at: www.unece.org/statistics/meetings-and-events.html. In 2016, the UNECE Statistical Division organized 29 meetings presented in Annex.

Annex.   List of meetings from January 2016 to December 2016

Jointly with	*Meeting (venue)*	*Date*	*Capacity building*
	CES Bureau meeting (Luxembourg)	9-10 February 2016	
	National workshop on the use of administrative data for measuring migration in Georgia (Tbilisi, Georgia)	5-6 April 2016	X
Eurostat	Work Session on Demographic Projections	18-20 April 2016	
	Workshop on Risk Management practices in Statistical Offices (Geneva, Switzerland)	25-26 April 2016	
	Workshop on strengthening statistical and institutional capacities (Paris, France)	26 April 2016	X
	64th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Paris, France)	27-29 April 2016	
Eurostat, ILO	Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices (Geneva, Switzerland)	2-4 May 2016	
Eurostat, OECD	Group of experts on National Accounts (Geneva, Switzerland)	17-20 May 2016	
	Workshop on Migration Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	17-18 (am) May 2016	X
Eurostat	Work Session on Migration Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	18 (pm)-20 May 2016	
	Workshop on Gender Statistics (Vilnius, Lithuania)	30-31 May 2016	X
	Work Session on Gender Statistics (Vilnius, Lithuania)	1-3 June 2016	
Eurostat	Workshop on Implementing the Common Statistical Production Architecture (Geneva, Switzerland)	22-24 June 2016	
Env. Progr.	Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	30 June – 1 July 2016	X
	Workshop on Poverty Measurement (Geneva, Switzerland)	11 July 2016	X
	Seminar on Poverty Measurement (Geneva, Switzerland)	12-13 July 2016	
	Workshop on Human Resources Management and Training – Developing Capabilities for the Future (Krakow, Poland)	7-9 September 2016	
	Workshop on Implementing Standards for Statistical Modernization (Geneva, Switzerland)	21-23 September 2016	
	Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	26-27 September 2016	X
Eurostat	Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	28-30 September 2016	
OECD	Seminar on the Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) (Geneva, Switzerland)	3-4 October 2016	
	Workshop on Statistical Data Collection (The Hague, Netherlands)	3-5 October 2016	
	Expert Forum on Climate Change-related Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	5-7 October 2016	
	Workshop on Statistical Data Dissemination and Communication (The Hague, Netherlands)	5-7 October 2016	
	CES Bureau meeting (Ottawa, Canada)	11-12 October 2016	
	11th SPECA Thematic Working Group on Statistics (Astana, Kazakhstan)	19-21 October 2016	X
	High-level Seminar on Harmonisation of Poverty	31 October-2 November	X

	Statistics in CIS countries (Sochi, Russian Federation)	2016	
Env. Progr.	Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	17-18 November 2016	X
	Workshop on Modernisation of Official Statistics, (Geneva, Switzerland)	22-23 November 2016	

* * * *