

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2017/2018 Bureau

Yerevan (Armenia), 10-11 October 2017

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will start at 9:30 on Tuesday, 10 October and is planned to finish around 15:00 on Wednesday, 11 October 2017. The meeting will take place at the National Statistical Service of Republic of Armenia in Yerevan.

A dinner will be organised on Tuesday, 10 October 2017 evening. A social event will be organised on Wednesday afternoon, 11 October, followed by a dinner.

The meeting will be held in English only. The documents for the meeting will be uploaded on the following website: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/bureau/CES+Bureau> (username: ces; password: bureau8).

I. OPENING BY MARJO BRUUN

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews selected statistical areas in depth. The aim of the reviews is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues. The reviews often lead to new work in topical areas and tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations.

(a) Emerging issues in statistical communication – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/2 by Ireland)

2. The in-depth review of emerging issues in statistical communication will be based on a paper by Ireland with input from Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany and UNECE. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(b) Gaps in gender statistics – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/3 by Mexico)

3. The in-depth review of gaps in gender statistics will be based on a paper by Mexico. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

III. UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME

(a) Statistical Programme for 2018 – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/4 by UNECE)

4. The draft programme of work for the UNECE Statistical Division in 2018 will be presented to the Bureau for discussion and approval. The discussion will focus on the new or substantially changed activities of the work programme.

5. The work of steering groups and task forces set up by the CES Bureau is also reviewed under this agenda item. The groups are created for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, output, timeframe (2-3 years) and a sunset clause. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials available on the web. The terms of reference of active steering groups and task forces are available at www.unece.org/stats/ToS.html

(b) National accounts (ToR) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/5 by the Group of Experts on National Accounts)

6. In May – June 2017, the meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts, jointly convened by UNECE, Eurostat and OECD, underlined the increased complexity of compiling national accounts, the growing importance of issues related to globalization, and the substantive work during the last ten years under CES to develop guidance on global production arrangements. Furthermore, a number of indicators for follow-up and review of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development rely on national accounts.

7. All this work requires continuity in future. At present the meetings of the Group of Experts on National Accounts are defined by UN administration as “ad hoc” meetings and do not qualify for regular service in terms of availability of rooms, translation of documents and interpretation. Due to the limited budgets of the UN Conference Services, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Secretariat to ensure the translation of documents and interpretation for these meetings. In view of this, the meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts recommended that the Group be established as a standing body under CES.

8. The Secretariat will inform the CES Bureau of the outcomes of the meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts in May-June 2017. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for the Expert Group on National Accounts as a standing body.

(c) Set of climate change-related indicators (ToR) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/6 by the Task Force)

9. In June 2017, the CES plenary session endorsed the Report of the Task Force on *an Initial Set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting*, subject to reflecting the comments received during the electronic consultations. The Conference also extended the mandate of the Task Force to refine the initial set of key climate-change related indicators based on the outcomes of the pilot testing, and to develop methodologies, data sources and guidance for implementation. The Bureau is invited to review and approve the terms of reference for continuation of the work.

(d) Work plan on waste statistics – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/7 by the Task Force)

10. The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on waste statistics in February 2017. The Bureau asked the Task Force to prepare a work plan to be reviewed at its October 2017 meeting.

(e) Work plan on measuring extreme events and disasters – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/8 by the Task Force)

11. The Bureau extended the mandate of the Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters and approved its updated Terms of Reference in February 2017. The Bureau asked the Task Force to prepare a work plan to be reviewed at its October 2017 meeting.

(f) Strategic partnerships (ToR) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/9 by Canada and United Kingdom)

12. In February 2017, the Bureau discussed the concept note on strategic partnerships prepared by Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Eurostat and UNECE, and supported the proposal for further work. The Bureau asked a small group co-lead by Canada and United Kingdom (and including Mexico, Netherlands, Eurostat and UNECE) to develop terms of reference and a work plan with concrete actions, responsibilities, timeline and expected outcomes. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the plan for further work in this area.

(g) Geospatial data and statistics (proposal for joint work with UN-GGIM: Europe) – for discussion and recommendations (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/10 by UNECE)

13. In June 2017, the Secretariat informed CES about the new developments concerning further work on geospatial information management, and ongoing discussions with UN-GGIM: Europe about increased collaboration in this area. The Conference noted the decision C (67) of the April 2017 UNECE Commission session on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management as a follow-up to the ECOSOC resolution (E/RES/2016/27). The Bureau is invited to review and discuss the concrete proposal for joint work with UN-GGIM: Europe, which will be submitted for a decision by the UNECE Executive Committee.

(h) Developing capabilities in official statistics – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/11 by UNECE)

14. In February and October 2016, the CES Bureau strongly supported the proposals to continue capacity building activities to respond to new developments at global level in the context of SDGs, geospatial information and modernization. It was noted that a capacity building strategy for the UNECE region could be developed. Furthermore, the Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs in April 2017 emphasised that all countries require improvement of their statistical capacity in the context of measuring SDGs. The meeting decided that conceptual work is needed to identify what capacities/capabilities need to be improved in statistical offices, and to clarify the related definitions and terminology. The Bureau is invited to discuss the priorities in developing capabilities in official statistics.

(i) UNECE Statistics Programme of Work documents – for decision

15. Under this agenda item, the Bureau will be invited to review and approve the planning documents of the Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations secretariat's biennial planning and reporting cycle. These include:

- (a) Statistical Programme for 2018 (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/4) (based on the outcome of discussions on the items above);
- (b) Strategic Framework for 2020-2021 (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/12).

IV. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2017 CES PLENARY SESSION

(a) Evaluation of the 65th plenary session – for information
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/13)

16. The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2017 CES plenary session will be presented for information.

(b) Follow-up to the CES 2017 seminar on measuring poverty; Guide on Poverty Measurement and a proposal for further work
– for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/14 and 14/Add.1 by the Task Force)

17. The CES 2017 seminar on measuring poverty concluded with a list of possible actions on the way forward to improve poverty measurement.

18. Furthermore, CES supported the *CES Guide on Poverty Measurement*, and asked the Task Force on Poverty Measurement to revise the Guide to reflect the comments made in the electronic consultation and the discussion at the CES plenary session.

19. The Bureau is invited to review and approve the revised Guide and a proposal for further work in measuring poverty based on the proposals in the Guide and the outcome of the CES seminar.

(c) Follow-up to the CES 2017 seminar on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/15 by Finland)

20. The CES 2017 seminar on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists concluded with a list of possible actions on the way forward in this area. The Bureau is invited to discuss the possible further work in this area based on a proposal by the Seminar Organiser, Finland.

V. PREPARATION OF THE CES 2018 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Organization of the 2018 CES seminar on “Measuring what matters – broadening official statistics” – for discussion and recommendations (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/16 by Poland in collaboration with Israel, New Zealand, Slovakia and UNECE)

21. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the 2018 CES seminars. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the

seminar organizers, Poland in collaboration with Israel, New Zealand, Slovakia and UNECE. The CES Bureau will decide on the format and duration of the seminar.

(b) Organization of the 2018 CES seminar on “Getting our message across: strategic reflections on modernizing statistical communication” – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/17 by Albania in collaboration with Montenegro, Mexico, Netherlands and UNECE)

22. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the 2018 CES seminars. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Montenegro in collaboration with Albania, Mexico, the Netherlands and UNECE. The CES Bureau will decide on the format and duration of the seminar.

(c) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2018 CES plenary session – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/18 by UNECE)

23. The Bureau is invited to discuss the provisional agenda of the CES plenary session in 2018, including the format of the seminars and substantive discussions, based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

VI. CES GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT IN 2018

(a) Recommendations on leading, composite and sentiment indicators – *for decision* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/19 and 19/Add.1 by the Task Force)

24. In February 2016, the Bureau set up a Task Force on leading, composite and sentiment indicators to develop recommendations of good practices for national statistical offices for producing these indicators. The Secretariat will inform the Bureau of the progress of work. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft *Recommendations* and decide whether they can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the 2018 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(b) Recommendations on entrepreneurship statistics – *for decision* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/20 and 20/Add.1 by the Task Force)

25. In June 2016, the Bureau set up a Task Force in entrepreneurship statistics to develop guidelines on the statistical infrastructure required to support the production of business demography and entrepreneurship statistics. The Secretariat will inform the Bureau of the progress of work. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft *Recommendations* and decide whether they can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the 2018 CES plenary session for endorsement.

VII. PRINCIPLES OF ROTATION OF THE MEMBERS OF IAEG-SDGS AND HLG-PCCB IN UNECE REGION – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/21 by UNECE)

26. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the criteria for rotation of the members from the UNECE region in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-level group on partnership, cooperation and capacity building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB).

VIII. DATES AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS

27. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venues of the next Bureau meetings and the next CES plenary sessions.

28. At its February 2017 meeting, the Bureau decided on its next meetings as follows:

- 13-14 February 2018 (venue to be decided)
- 16-17 October 2018 (venue to be decided).

29. The 66th CES plenary session will take place on 18-20 (a.m.) June 2018 in Geneva, back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

30. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item.

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