

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2017/2018 Bureau
Helsinki (Finland), 14-15 February 2018

Item III (a) of the Provisional
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK FORCE ON MEASURING THE
QUALITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES FOR USE IN CENSUSES**

Note by the Steering Group on population and housing censuses

The Bureau reviewed and approved the terms of reference for the Task Force on measuring the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses.

I. BACKGROUND

1. Preparations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses are well-advanced at the international level and, in most countries, at the national level. Information available on the plans by UNECE countries for the 2020 round of censuses show clearly that a high proportion of countries in the region are planning (or evaluating) the adoption of alternative approaches based on the increased use of registers and administrative data. For many countries, the ultimate objective is to move to a fully register-based census.

2. In 2016 and 2017, the UNECE Task Force on register-based and combined censuses (established by the CES Bureau) prepared the *Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses*¹. The new guidelines include a section on “data sources and their quality” with a general discussion of this topic. At the UNECE-Eurostat Expert Meeting on Censuses (Geneva, 4-6 October 2017), the experts noted that the measurement of the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses is a topic of primary importance for many countries, and underlined that additional guidance would be very much needed. As a result, the Expert Meeting proposed the establishment of a new UNECE Task Force on measuring the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses.

II. MANDATE

3. The Task Force reports to the UNECE Steering Group on population and housing censuses, which in turn reports to the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau. The Task Force is created for a period from 2018 to 2020.

¹ The guidelines were submitted to the CES Bureau at its February 2018 meeting (document 17)

III. OBJECTIVE

4. The objective of the Task Force is to develop guidance on the measurement of the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses.
5. The Task Force would build on the work of Eurostat's ESS.VIP ADMIN project on the use of administrative sources in the production of official statistics. It should consider the relevance of the results for all UNECE countries.

V. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

6. The work of the Task Force should start by taking stock and collecting all available material on the measurement of the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses.
7. In carrying out its activities, the Task Force should consider the following:
 - a) Potential of administrative sources to provide the data required for the census;
 - b) Quality requirements: how good is good enough; how to decide whether administrative data sources and/or administrative data are fit for use.
8. The output is a set of good practices or guidelines, to be finalized by December 2019.

V. TIMETABLE

March-April 2018	Establish the Task Force and draft detailed work plan with activities, timing and division of work
May-June 2018	Collect and review available material
July-August 2018	Prepare first outline of output, and start drafting chapters
September 2018	Present draft at UNECE-Eurostat Expert Meeting on Censuses
Oct 2018-Jun 2019	Revise draft and prepare complete version
September 2019	Present complete draft at UNECE-Eurostat Expert Meeting on Censuses
Sep-Dec 2019	Revise draft based on discussion at Expert Meeting
December 2019	Submit final draft for review by CES Bureau in February 2020
February 2020	Review of draft output by CES Bureau
Feb-Mar 2020	Electronic consultation among all CES members
April 2020	Submit final draft to the CES plenary session (June 2020)

VI. METHODS OF WORK

9. The Task Force is expected to work in English only, mainly by e-mail and telephone conferences. Face-to-face informal meetings of the Task Force could be organized in

connection with UNECE-Eurostat Expert Meetings on Censuses (September 2018 and 2019) and other events attended by a significant number of Task Force members.

10. The UNECE Census Wiki platform can be used by the Task Force to share work material, develop documents and organize discussion fora.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

11. The following countries and organizations expressed interest in participating in the work of the Task Force: Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States, Eurostat, and UNECE.

12. UNECE will act as Secretariat to the Task Force.

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