

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

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

Item III (b) of the Provisional
Agenda

**PROGRESS REPORT AND FUTURE WORK PROPOSALS
ON MIGRATION STATISTICS**

Note by the Steering Group

*This note provides a progress report on the work carried out in 2014-2017 by the UNECE Steering Group on migration statistics. The updated terms of reference for the Steering Group and terms of reference for the proposed new Task Force are presented in the documents 7 Add.1 and 7 Add.2. **The Bureau reviewed the progress report and approved the terms of reference of the Steering Group and the Task Force on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics.***

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 2014 plenary session, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) held a seminar on migration statistics where a number of follow-up actions were recommended for improving the measurement of migration. In October 2014, the CES Bureau reviewed the follow-up actions based on a proposal by the Steering Group on migration statistics. The review concluded with the approval of updated terms of reference for the Steering Group for three years and establishment of the Task Force on data integration for measuring migration.

2. The present note provides a summary of the work carried out by the Steering Group on migration statistics since October 2014 as well as plans for the future. The updated terms of reference for the Steering Group are presented in Add.1 and terms of reference for the proposed new Task Force in Add.2.

II. WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE STEERING GROUP

3. Since 2014, the Steering Group guided the work of four task forces on the following topics:

- a) Measurement of socio-economic conditions of migrants;
- b) Measuring circular migration;
- c) Data integration for measuring migration;
- d) Measuring labour mobility.

4. The Bureau approved the final report of the Task Force on the measurement of socio-economic conditions of migrants in February 2015 and the one of the Task Force on measuring

circular migration in February 2016. Both have been published by UNECE.¹ The Task Force on data integration for measuring migration and the Task Force on measuring labour mobility will present their draft final reports to the current February 2018 meeting of the Bureau (documents 14 and 15).

5. The methodological work carried out by the Task Forces emerged through discussions in the Steering Group that made corresponding proposals to the UNECE-Eurostat Work Sessions on Migration Statistics. After discussion at the Work Sessions, the Steering Group developed the terms of reference for the Bureau's approval. For the February 2018 Bureau meeting, the Steering Group has prepared terms of reference for a Task Force on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics.

6. The Steering Group acted as the organizing committee for the UNECE-Eurostat Work Sessions on Migration Statistics, which took place in Geneva on 18-20 May 2016 and 30-31 October 2017. In particular, the Steering Group developed the agenda items and proposals for future work for discussion at the meetings.

7. The Steering Group supported the UNECE Secretariat in the organization of two regional workshops for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), which took place back-to-back with the UNECE-Eurostat Work Sessions in Geneva, and a national workshop with migration statistics stakeholders in Georgia (Tbilisi, 5-6 April 2016). Members of the Steering Group facilitated the workshops and contributed to the UNECE Handbook on the use of administrative sources and sample surveys to measure international migration².

III. FUTURE WORK

8. To respond to the policy demand for better migration statistics, continuing action is needed at the international level, including methodological work, exchange of experience and capacity development. Guidance by experts from different national and international statistical organizations would ensure correspondence of these activities with the evolving needs and priorities of member countries in this area. The Steering Group on migration statistics is well placed to carry out this function and it is therefore proposed to renew its mandate. The updated terms of reference for the Steering Group are presented in ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/7 Add.1.

9. The 2017 UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on migration statistics (Geneva, 30-31 October) discussed the need for future methodological work on the use of longitudinal data for regular production of migration statistics, and asked the Steering Group to prepare terms of reference for a Task Force on this topic. These are presented in ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/7 Add.2.

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¹ UNECE (2015). Measuring change in the socio-economic conditions of migrants. New York and Geneva: United Nations. Available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40542>.

UNECE (2016). Defining and measuring circular migration. New York and Geneva: United Nations. Available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44717>.

² UNECE (2016). Handbook on the use of administrative sources and sample surveys to measure international migration in CIS countries. New York and Geneva: United Nations. Available in English and Russian at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44114>