

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

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

Item III (b) of the Provisional  
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STEERING GROUP ON  
MIGRATION STATISTICS**

**Note by the Steering Group**

*The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Steering Group on migration statistics.*

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. Member States of the United Nations have recently reaffirmed the importance of improving migration data. This was expressed at the highest level in the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants of 2016, the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development, and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the 2030 Agenda, there are 10 targets on migration, including target 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. Furthermore, the United Nations Statistical Commission recommends disaggregating all Sustainable Development Goal indicators by migratory status where relevant, and target 17.18 calls to develop capacity for achieving this.

2. In the regional input for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the UNECE Executive Committee affirmed the following: “the Conference of European Statisticians should continue its work on developing methodologies, recommendations and guidance, providing the platform for exchanging experience in migration statistics and addressing the measurement challenges arising from the 2030 Agenda”<sup>1</sup>.

3. 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. The present terms of reference of the Steering Group are updated for activities in the coming five years.

**II. MANDATE**

4. The work of the Steering Group is conducted within the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Steering Group will report regularly to the CES Bureau on its activities as well as on emerging issues in migration statistics and possible ways of addressing them.

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<sup>1</sup> UNECE input to the stocktaking conference for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Available at <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/regional-consultations>

5. The Steering Group may identify new areas where methodological work could be undertaken and after having verified the interest by a sufficient number of CES member countries and the availability of resources, the Steering Group will submit proposals to the CES Bureau for review and approval.

### **III. OBJECTIVE**

6. The objective of the Steering Group is to provide direction to the CES work on migration statistics, advance methodological development and facilitate implementation of methodological guidance on migration statistics.

### **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

7. The Steering Group carries out the following activities:

- a) Supervise and steer the task forces working on migration statistics, and review their reports;
- b) Identify areas in migration statistics where methodological work needs to be undertaken and prepare concept papers and terms of reference;
- c) Act as an organizing committee for the UNECE-Eurostat Work Sessions on Migration Statistics (the next session is scheduled for October 2018);
- d) Provide advice to the UNECE Secretariat on capacity development and other activities that support implementation of CES methodological guidance on migration statistics.

### **V. TIMETABLE**

8. The work of the Steering Group in relation to coordination and identification of new areas is ongoing. The terms of reference for the Steering Group will be reviewed by the CES Bureau in 2022.

### **VI. METHODS OF WORK**

9. The Steering Group will primarily work via email and telephone conferences, expected to be held three times a year. The Steering Group may organize informal meetings at events attended by a significant number of members, such as the joint UNECE-Eurostat Work Sessions on migration statistics and the Eurostat Working Group on population statistics.

### **VII. MEMBERSHIP**

10. As of January 2018, the representatives of the following countries and organizations participate in the Steering Group: Australia, Canada, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, CIS-Stat, Eurostat and UNECE.

11. UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Steering Group.

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