

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2018/2019 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-17 October 2019

Item 2(e) of the Provisional
Agenda

**GENDER STATISTICS:
PROPOSAL FOR A NETWORKING PLATFORM AND TASK TEAM ON
MEASURING GENDER IDENTITY**

Note by the Secretariat

In February 2019, the CES Bureau carried out an in-depth review of measuring gender identity. As a conclusion, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to consult with the Steering Group on Gender Statistics and present a proposal on further work at the next Bureau meeting.

*This note presents a proposal for developing a regional networking platform on the measurement of gender identity and establishing a Task Team for this purpose. **The Bureau reviewed and approved the proposal.***

I. BACKGROUND

1. In January 2019, the CES Bureau carried out an in-depth review of measuring gender identity, based on a paper by Canada and the United Kingdom (ECE/CES/BUR/2019/FEB/3). Following the review, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to consult with the Steering Group on Gender Statistics and the authors of the paper, and present a concrete proposal on further work in this area, to be discussed at the next Bureau meeting (para. 6 of the Bureau meeting report, doc. ECE/CES/BUR/2019/FEB/25).

II. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SECRETARIAT

2. As part of the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics (Neuchatel, 15-17 May 2019), a session was dedicated to measuring gender identity, including a presentation on the in-depth review paper. The session demonstrated that there is considerable work going on in some UNECE countries. The importance of continued international collaboration for those countries conducting research and testing was emphasized. It was recognized that each country has its own specificities, however there is much that can be shared to avoid each country having to start from scratch in this area. Countries were encouraged to share their materials to the greatest extent possible.

3. On 9 September 2019, the Secretariat organized a teleconference to brainstorm on future international work on gender identity. Five experts from four countries (Canada, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States) participated, in addition to experts from UNECE.

4. The participants in the teleconference noted that various initiatives are being conducted in countries on categories, definitions and testing of questions on gender identity. Different terms are often used for similar concepts/categories in different countries. The participants agreed that it would not be feasible at this stage to try to harmonize the terminology, also considering that it depends on various country-specific factors, such as legal requirements, customs and sensitivity of the population. However, it could be useful to map the concepts and categories used in different countries, and share information on the progress of activities.

5. It was proposed that **UNECE create a regional networking platform on the measurement of gender identity**, with the objective to communicate developments and share material among experts on this topic.

6. It was also proposed to establish a UNECE Task Team to work together with the Secretariat on the creation and development of the platform. The purpose of the Task Team and its expected activities are presented in the following section.

III. TASK TEAM ON MEASURING GENDER IDENTITY

7. The main purpose of the **task team is to work together with the Secretariat on the creation and development of a regional networking platform on the measurement of gender identity**, in order to help experts in this field to communicate developments and share information and material. The platform, to be hosted by UNECE on its wiki site, will include material on terminology, questions used in surveys and censuses, and on other activities related to the measurement of gender identity. The platform would be password protected, so that experts could benefit from material that is not publicly available. The platform is planned to start operating at the end of 2019.

8. The Task Team will initially include representatives of the United Kingdom (Chair), Canada, Sweden, and the United States. UNECE will act as Secretariat to the task team. The work of the Task Team will be carried out in English only, mainly by e-mail and telephone conferences. Face-to-face informal meetings for this activity could be organized in connection with the annual UNECE Work Sessions on Gender Statistics.

9. The experts from 12 countries who contributed to the preparation of the in-depth review on gender identity will be consulted through a questionnaire on what material should be collected and shared on the platform. They will also be invited to contribute to the platform and upload new material as long as it becomes available.

10. The UNECE Task Team on Measuring Gender Identity will need to follow on the development of the platform and analyse the collected material. It will report to the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics. A progress report, including proposals on how to take forward the work on measuring gender identity, will be presented to the October 2021 meeting of the CES Bureau.

IV. PROPOSAL

11. **The Bureau is invited to review and approve the proposal.**

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