

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2020/2021 Bureau  
Geneva (virtual), 15-16 October 2020

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

*The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will be held as a virtual meeting on 15 and 16 October from 12:00 to 15:00. Geneva time.*

*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).*

*Due to the reduced length of the meeting, selected agenda items will be discussed during the meeting (indicated in green in the text below) while others will be considered through a written consultation before the meeting (indicated in blue). The Bureau will be informed about the outcome of the written consultations.*

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## I. OPENING BY MARJO BRUUN

## II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews in depth selected statistical areas. 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) Measuring circular economy – *for discussion and recommendations***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/2 by Finland et al.)

2. The in-depth review of measuring circular economy will be based on a paper by Finland (lead), Belarus, Canada, Colombia, Netherlands, European Environment Agency, Eurostat, UNECE, UNSD, UNEP and OECD. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

**(b) The role of the statistical community in climate action – proposal for follow-up to the in-depth review – *for decision***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/3 by the Steering Group for climate change-related statistics)

3. The Bureau carried out an in-depth review of the role of statistical community in climate action in February 2020. Following the discussion, the Steering Group has prepared a proposal for follow-up work. The Bureau is invited to discuss the proposal and decide on further steps.

## III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2020 CES PLENARY SESSION

**(a) Measuring digital transformation – proposal for further work – *for decision***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/4 by UNECE with input from Canada, Poland and Eurostat)

4. In February 2020, the Bureau carried out an in-depth review of measuring well-being in the era of digital society. The Bureau decided to come back to the issue after the CES plenary session.

5. The CES 2020 plenary session discussed measuring digital transformation based on the in-depth review paper and a paper by Eurostat, IMF and OECD. The plenary session concluded that the Conference can provide a platform for exchanging experience and good practices, and for coordination of international activities related to digitalization, and decided to follow-up on the work related to digitalization and its impact on producing official statistics.

6. The Bureau is invited to discuss a proposal for further work in this area, and decide on the next steps.

**(b) New roles for statistical and geospatial agencies in emerging national data ecosystems - proposal for further work – *for decision***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/5 by UNECE)

7. The joint CES/UN-GGIM: Europe session “New roles for statistical and geospatial agencies in emerging national data ecosystems” recognized the need for continued collaboration between UNECE and UN-GGIM: Europe. The joint session proposed to renew the collaboration agreement, set up a joint task team on the alignment of geospatial and statistical standards, coordinate capacity development activities and hold another joint plenary session in 2022.

8. The Bureau is invited to discuss a proposal for further work in this area, and decide on the next steps.

**(c) Data stewardship – proposal for further work – *for decision***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/6 by UNECE with input from Estonia and Ireland)

9. The CES 2020 session on “Data stewardship – NSOs in the changing world” concluded with a proposal to set up a task force to turn the considerations in the paper from Estonia et al. into a roadmap and action plan to support NSOs. The Conference will review progress at its 2021 plenary session.

10. The Bureau is invited to discuss and decide on the next steps.

**(d) Evaluation of the 68<sup>th</sup> plenary session – *for information***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/7 by UNECE)

11. The results of the evaluation of the 2020 CES plenary session will be distributed to Bureau members for information.

#### **IV. UNECE Statistical Programme**

12. Under this agenda item, the draft programme of work for the UNECE Statistical Division in 2021 will be presented to the Bureau for approval. The discussion will focus on new or substantially changed activities of the work programme. The Bureau will also be invited to review terms of reference of some steering groups and task forces working under CES.

**(a) Value of official statistics – issues for discussion in light of Covid-19 – *for discussion and recommendations***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/8 by the Task Force)

13. In June 2019, the CES Bureau established a Task Force to test and further develop the framework for measuring the value of official statistics, as a follow-up to the *Recommendations for Promoting, Measuring and Communicating the Value of Official Statistics* that CES endorsed in 2017.

14. The Task Force is testing the framework and collecting case studies. In its work, it has become necessary to revisit how the value of official statistics is defined and measured in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

15. The Bureau is invited to provide guidance on the work of the Task Force, including its final product and reconceptualising the value of official statistics. The Bureau is also asked to

extend the group's mandate to take into account the changes entailed by the Covid-19 crisis.

**(b) Poverty measurement (further work and renewal of TOR) – *for decision***

(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/9 by the Steering Group)

16. In February 2017, the Bureau established the Steering Group on measuring poverty and inequality. The Steering Group has led the CES work on this topic, strengthened the preparation of expert meetings and ensured cooperation with other organizations working in this area.

17. The CES 2020 plenary session endorsed “*Poverty measurement: Guide to data disaggregation*”, developed by a dedicated Task Force under the Steering Group. The Conference supported the directions for future work identified in the Guide.

18. The Bureau is invited to extend the terms of reference of the Steering Group, and advise on the priorities in the future work identified in the Guide on data disaggregation.

**(c) Consumer price indices (renewal of ToR) – *for decision via written consultation***

(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/10 by UNECE)

19. In February 2017, the Bureau established the Steering Group on consumer price indices (CPI) to guide the secretariat's work on CPIs, including in the organization of the biennial Expert Group meetings and capacity building activities in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-East Europe.

20. The Bureau is invited to extend the terms of reference of the Steering Group.

**(d) Gender statistics and the Covid-19 pandemic – *for comments via written consultation***

(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/11 by UNECE)

21. In May 2020, the Steering Group on Gender Statistics started to explore the development of a minimum set of questions to add to household surveys to measure the differentiated impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men. The aim is to agree on a set of survey questions on gender equality issues to offer as a resource for national statistical offices and other data producers.

22. The Bureau is invited to comment and consider participation of their organizations in this activity.

**(e) Statistics on children, adolescents and youth (work plan) – *for decision via written consultation***

(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/12 by the Task Force)

23. At its February 2020 meeting, the Bureau discussed and approved the terms of reference for a Task Force on statistics on children, adolescents and youth. The Task Force was asked to follow a two-step strategy, recognize the challenges, and clarify the sequence of activities and deliverables in each step.

24. The Bureau is invited to review the work plan prepared by the Task Force.

**(f) New data sources – accessibility and use – *for decision via written consultation***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/13 by UNECE)

25. An outcome of the CES 2019 seminar “New data sources – accessibility and use” was a proposal to develop an action plan on access to data and acquiring the necessary skills. In October 2019, the Bureau discussed the draft action plan prepared by an informal task team led by Switzerland and the United States, and asked the Secretariat to contact the groups mentioned under the action items to clarify whether they can take up the proposed tasks.

26. The Bureau will be invited to discuss and approve the way forward.

**(g) Statistical programme for 2021 – *for decision***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/14 by UNECE)

27. Under this agenda item, the Bureau will be invited to review and approve the Statistical Programme for 2021.

**V. PREPARATION OF THE CES 2021 PLENARY SESSION**

**(a) Format and possible topics for the 2021 plenary session – *for discussion and recommendations***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/15 by UNECE)

28. In June-July 2020, the secretariat carried out an electronic consultation with the CES members on the possible topics for the seminars to be held during the 2021 plenary session of the Conference.

29. The Bureau is invited to:

(a) Discuss the format and preliminary agenda of the CES plenary session in 2021 based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

(b) Review the results of the consultation and decide on the seminar topics, taking into account the votes for listed topics, new proposals and the relevance of the topics in the light of current developments.

**(b) CES guidelines and recommendations for endorsement in 2021: Social exclusion – *for decision via written consultation***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2020/OCT/16 by the Task Force)

30. In June 2018, the CES Bureau set up a Task Force on measuring social exclusion to consolidate current and emerging good practices in measuring social exclusion and in assessing their potential for delivering comparable results.

31. The CES Bureau is invited to review the draft report of the Task Force and decide if it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the 2021 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**VI. DATES AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS – *for decision***

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

33. At its February 2020 meeting, the Bureau decided on its next meetings as follows:

- 17-18 February 2021 (Dublin, Ireland)
- 13-14 October 2021 (Helsinki, Finland)
- 16-17 February 2022 (Geneva, Switzerland)

34. The 69th CES plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 21-25 June 2021 in Paris (tbc), back-to-back with OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy.

35. The 70th CES plenary session is proposed to take place on 20-22 a.m. June 2022 in Geneva (tbc).

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

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