

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
Work Session on Migration Statistics
(Geneva, Switzerland, 30-31 October 2017)

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION (EUROSTAT)**

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will be held in room V at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.
It will start at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 30 October 2017
and will finish on Tuesday, 31 October by 5.30 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. UNECE and Eurostat are organising a joint Work Session on Migration Statistics under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The meeting will be held in room V (first floor, nearest entrance doors are A17 and C6) at the Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix 8, Geneva.
2. On the days following the Work Session, 1-2 November, UNECE will organize a workshop on migration statistics for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in the same meeting room.

II. PURPOSE

3. The Work Session will allow countries to exchange experience on the methods and techniques used for the collection, processing, use and dissemination of data related to international migration statistics, as well as to improve measurement of the size, characteristics, and impact of international migration in the UNECE region and beyond.

III. PROGRAMME

4. The work programme of the meeting will consist of all or part of the substantive topics presented below. The agenda will be prepared before the meeting taking into account the papers contributed by meeting participants. The agenda and other documents will be posted on the meeting's web page at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43943#>.

A. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

5. In September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants" and launched intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration at an

intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018. The global compact would set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions. The agreed modalities for the preparatory process leading to the adoption of the global compact include the phases of consultation (April to November 2017), stocktaking (November 2017 to January 2018) and intergovernmental negotiations (February to July 2018). Statistical organizations may be requested to provide inputs to this process. In this session, representatives of international organizations and users of migration data will present on the progress with the preparations and the expectations with respect to statistics.

B. Data integration and administrative data

6. Integration of different data sources has been identified as a very promising avenue for improving migration statistics. This includes (a) integrating administrative sources to measure migration, (b) combining administrative and non-administrative data sources to measure migration, including statistical modelling, and (c) reconciling migration figures derived from different data sources (triangulation). Inter-agency cooperation on the national level needs to be strengthened in view of the fact that the national statistical office, which reports migration statistics, is rarely the producer of administrative data. At the same time, statistical operations such as data linkage or statistical matching may have to be run to make those administrative data fit for purpose.

7. This session will review countries' experience in developing the use of administrative data and combined data sources to produce national, regional and geo-referenced data, including understanding and overcoming where possible the limitations of administrative data. It would also explore ways to improve cooperation between national migration services, maintainers of central population registers, statistical agencies and other producers of administrative data.

8. The session will consider the draft report of the Conference of European Statisticians Task Force on Data Integration for Measuring Migration.

C. Socio-economic characteristics of migrants and their descendants

9. The 2015 UNECE publication "Measuring change in the socio-economic conditions of migrants" recommends countries to continue developing data collection methodologies and to collaborate at an international level by sharing their experience. In this context, it is important to progress on indicators measuring migrant integration as the categories and characteristics to be assessed vary across countries and regions. In some areas, specific basic indicators of migrant integration have been identified (e.g. the Zaragoza declaration for the in EU), but the debate is still open. Integration can be seen as a dynamic, multi-dimensional process that should be analysed over time with regard to different areas of integration.

10. In recent years, the subject of young people with a migratory background is arising in social politics (integration) and consequently it requires more and more reliable and detailed statistical information regarding stocks and flows as well as their characteristics. Statistical data on integration of the descendants of migrants are also required, which can be obtained both from administrative data and from survey.

11. The session will collect papers about national or international systems for monitoring the socio-economic characteristics of migrants, and the sources, data collection methods and analysis of the integration of the descendants.

D. Longitudinal studies of migrants

12. A longitudinal approach is well suited to the analysis of the migrant population because settlement into a new country is a long-term process. In many cases, the key questions when analysing migrant settlement are whether and how the socio-economic outcomes of migrants change or improve with increased length of stay or whether native-born off-springs fare better than their parents. Further analytical benefits include the possibility to study transition between circumstances, such as unemployment to employment, as well as duration to events, such as acquiring citizenship.

13. Challenges for collecting longitudinal data through panel surveys include the high cost of such surveys and the possible high panel attrition. Countries that can collect such data by linking administrative records have an advantage. A UNECE task force recommended other countries to develop data linking methodologies to acquire longitudinal data sets (“Measuring change in the socio-economic conditions of migrants”, 2015).

14. This session collects examples of longitudinal analysis of migrants, both from panel studies as well as from administrative data.

E. Statistical definitions and migration phenomena

15. This session will identify and discuss gaps in the existing statistics on migration from both a statistician's and a user's perspective. It will touch upon the opportunities created by the increasing availability of administrative data as well as the challenges to the application of statistical definitions to administrative data. The session will discuss definitions and classifications for comparable and consistent statistics and ways of improving data collection. It would also examine whether the currently recommended definitions are still relevant in the light of new data sources and patterns of migration.

16. One notable example is circular migration – a repetition of migration by the same person between two or more countries. This is a topic of growing importance, on which information is needed for policy development. A UNECE task force recently analysed the existing definitions and dimensions, and proposed a statistical definition of circular migration (“Defining and measuring circular migration”, 2016). It also identified important challenges, such as measuring short-term migration and measuring a series of events within a specific period. The Conference of European Statisticians Bureau asked the UNECE-Eurostat Work Sessions on Migration Statistics to follow up on the implementation of the guidance, testing of the proposed concepts and implementing the proposals for further work.

17. In particular, the session collects examples of countries' practices in measuring circular migration.

F. Asylum seekers and refugees

18. The number of asylum seekers and refugees has increased dramatically over the past few years. Receiving countries are working to accommodate growing numbers of refugees while at the same time facing economic constraints. For countries to make informed policy

decisions, they need reliable statistics. In the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, United Nations member countries re-iterated their commitment to improve data collection on refugees on migrants.

19. There are several challenges and obstacles in the compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics related to asylum seekers and refugees. This session will discuss ways to produce those statistics, how to develop definitions and classifications that are necessary to produce comparable and consistent statistics and how to improve data collection.

G. Undocumented migration

20. The collection of data about migrant groups who fall outside the regular typology of migrants is particularly challenging. These groups include short-term and circular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, transit migrants, trafficked persons and irregular migrants. Irregular migration is one of the most salient global policy issues and it is one of the most difficult to measure accurately using regular data sources. The main reason being that the very presence of irregular migrants represents or entails a legal violation.

21. This session will look at different ways to measure irregular migration and the data sources available. Specific questions include: how do countries define irregular migration; what kind of methods countries have developed to measure hard-to-count migrants such as irregular migrants; what kind of data sources are used; and have countries found, for example, household surveys useful in collecting data.

H. Labour migration and its impact on the labour market

22. Labour mobility is a topic of growing policy interest and concern. However, measurement of labour mobility is challenging as it cuts across several statistical domains. Harmonization of concepts and improved data availability are required to provide a suitable answer to the policy needs and changing economic realities surrounding labour mobility. Main challenges in measuring labour mobility include improving data comparability and coordination of work, enhancing accessibility of existing information and filling data gaps.

23. In this session, the Conference of European Statisticians Task Force on Measuring Labour Mobility will present its progress in developing practical guidance on the compilation of labour mobility statistics. Countries are invited to share their relevant experience.

I. Emerging issues, including new methods to estimate and project migration

24. This session will explore any emerging issues proposed by countries, such as modelling, forecasting and the use of social media.

IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND LANGUAGES

25. The working languages of the meeting are English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

26. Participants are welcome to submit a paper for any topic on the agenda. Authors of papers submitted in Russian are encouraged to provide a short abstract in English.

27. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Intention to participate and contribute a paper should be submitted by **20 June**. If contributing a paper, please indicate the topic and attach a short abstract.
- The full versions of the papers should be sent as Word files by **22 September**.
- Presenters are encouraged to use PowerPoint presentations, and to send them by 26 October.
- All submissions should be addressed to the UNECE Secretariat, e-mail social.stats@unece.org

28. Papers will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43943#>. The posted documents will not be distributed in the meeting room. Participants are encouraged to download them and bring their own copies to the meeting.

V. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION

29. The Work Session is open to representatives of all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Representatives of other Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.3, paras. 11, 12 and 13). All delegates must be accredited by the competent authority of their country or international organization.

30. The meeting targets statisticians and analysts from national statistical offices and other government agencies that produce migration statistics. Participants are expected to take an active part in the discussion and share their experiences.

31. All participants should register by **22 September** (participants funded by UNECE by 25 August) online through the following links:

Work Session:

<https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=jkHsd7>

Workshop: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=yAEvdP>

The online meeting registration guideline is available at:

<https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/OMR>.

32. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible at the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participants reside, with reference to the UNECE Work Session on Migration Statistics. If necessary, the UNECE secretariat can provide a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa. Please indicate this need on the registration form or contact the Secretariat at social.stats@unece.org.

VI. ACCESS TO THE PALAIS DES NATIONS AND TRANSPORT IN GENEVA

33. Information about entering the Palais des Nations and transport in Geneva, including the free "Geneva Transport Card", are available at the following link:

<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>

34. **ATTENTION:** New security measures have been implemented in 2017, and only three doors are now accessible to delegates to enter and leave the Palais des Nations: C6, A17 or E40. These doors will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. A map is provided on page 6.

VII. ACCOMMODATION

35. Participants are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. The UNECE secretariat in Geneva is not in a position to provide such services to participants. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the meeting since available rooms may be limited due to other meetings and events taking place in Geneva during the month of October. Maps of Geneva, list of hotels and information for visitors to the Palais des Nations are available on the following website:

<https://www.geneve.com/en/http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>

Main hotels close to the Palais des Nations:

- The closest hotel to Palais des Nations is the 5-Star Intercontinental.
- There are several three-star and four-star hotels near Cornavin, the main train station. These hotels are moderate in price and are 10 minutes by bus or tram and 25-30 minutes on foot from the Palais des Nations. Examples include: Ibis Genève Centre Nations, Eden, Manotel, Mon Repos, des Alpes, International and Terminus, Montana, Savoy, Suisse, and Windsor.

VIII. WEATHER

36. The weather in Geneva in October is pleasant, although it can be relatively cold and it may rain. The average day temperature is 11°C. You can check the weather forecast at the local website: <http://www.meteoswiss.admin.ch/home.html?tab=overview>. The conference room where the meeting will be held is air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 20-22°C.

IX. CURRENCY

37. The exchange rate of the euro and the Swiss franc is now around 1.08 francs per 1 euro and is subject to daily market fluctuations. For conversion rate, please consult <http://www.ubs.com/global/en/bcqv/calculator.html>. Currency exchange facilities are available in the city centre and at the UBS bank branch at Palais des Nations, located on the ground floor of C building (door C6). It is open from 08:30 to 16:30, with no lunch break, from Monday to Friday.

X. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

UNECE Secretariat

Mr. Andres Vikat
Chief
Social and Demographic Statistics Section
Statistical Division
Tel: +41 22 917 2964
E-mail: andres.vikat@unece.org

Ms Yana Trofimova
Programme Assistant
Social and Demographic Statistics Section
Statistical Division
+41 22 917 2453
E-mail: social.stats@unece.org

Map of the United Nations premises in Geneva (Room/Salle V, 1st floor, nearest entrances Door A17 and Door C6)

