

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS  
Workshop on Migration Statistics  
Geneva, Switzerland, 1-2 November 2017

**Organized in cooperation with CISSTAT**

## CONCEPT NOTE

The workshop will be held in room V at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland from 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 1 November to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, 2 November 2017

### I. TIME AND VENUE

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is organising a workshop on migration statistics for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, in cooperation with CISSTAT. The workshop will be held in room V at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, from 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 1 November to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, 2 November 2017. The Workshop is following the UNECE-Eurostat Work Session of on Migration Statistics, which will take place from 30 to 31 October.
2. The Workshop is organized under the project "Enhancing coherence and integration of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of 2008 SNA" financed from the World Bank ECASTAT programme.

### II. BACKGROUND

3. The needs for reliable and disaggregated statistical data on international migration was emphasised by the United Nations member countries in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016) as well as in the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (2013). UNECE statistical work supports countries in its region in meeting this need. This includes capacity-building activities to improve migration statistics in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.
4. A promising approach to measuring migration includes integration of different data sources, in particular administrative registers and household survey data. In 2016, UNECE published a *Handbook on the use of administrative sources and sample surveys to measure international migration in CIS countries*, which included concrete recommendations. Countries would benefit from exchange of experience and guidance on how to address the challenges related to the implementation of the recommendations.

5. Remittances constitute an important mechanism of how migration is related to development. In light of growing migration, remittances become more and more significant component of the economies of countries both sending and receiving migrants. They can reduce poverty and contribute to economic development in migrant-sending countries.

6. Measurement of remittances through balance of payments provides total figures by country and time period, but does not include the remittances transferred through informal channels or in-kind. They also do not allow to be disaggregated by characteristics of remitters and recipients. To understand the determinants and development impact of remittances, it is important to measure them in household surveys.

7. Currently, many countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia collect data on remittances through their household surveys, using various type of surveys and questions. Comparable measures are needed to be able to assess the situation in the context of other countries of the region and apply best practices in data collection. It is important to review the current practice and define ways of how to harmonise data collection across countries.

### **III. PURPOSE**

8. The purpose of the Workshop is to exchange experience and build statistical capacity for producing comparable statistics on migration and remittances using household surveys and administrative data sources. The workshop will identify the existing challenges and devise the way forward in their mitigation.

9. The target audience are statisticians and analysts from national statistical offices.

### **IV. PROGRAMME**

#### **Use of administrative data in producing migration statistics**

10. The workshop will follow up on the implementation of *UNECE Handbook on the use of administrative sources and sample surveys to measure international migration in CIS countries*. Countries will present on recent developments, plans and challenges in using administrative data for migration statistics. A facilitated discussion will aim at guiding and stimulating action towards implementing the recommendations of the Handbook. Additionally, the role of tourism statistics in assessing human mobility will be briefly examined.

#### **Improving the measurement of remittances through household surveys**

11. The workshop will include presentations and discussions on measuring migrant remittances through household surveys. It will take stock of existing research, country experience and past initiatives in this area. Countries will be asked to report in advance on data collection on remittances in their household surveys, and existing plans and challenges in this regard.

12. During this session, past efforts in using household surveys and censuses for collection of data on migration and remittances will be presented and summarized, both from the

regional and country perspectives. The lessons learnt from these attempts will be analysed and the conclusions will feed into group discussions on a standardised survey module.

13. Participants will deliberate in group discussions on various aspects of developing a standard survey module to support countries in improving the availability of internationally comparable data on migration and remittances. Experts will take into account existing questionnaires and provide feedback on their applicability for measuring migration and remittances in their countries.

14. This consolidated knowledge will serve as an input to developing a module to be used in future or existing household surveys in EECCA region and beyond, for measuring migration processes and their impact on individuals and households.

## **V. PREPARATION**

15. Participants of the workshop will be requested to prepare a short review of the current practices of data collection on migration and remittances and identify the gaps and challenges, as well as provide information about existing or planned household surveys that could be a vehicle for a standard module on measuring migration and migrant remittances.

16. Participants are encouraged to download the materials from the website and bring their own copies to the Workshop. Documents posted on the website before the Workshop will not be distributed in the meeting room.

## **VI. LANGUAGES**

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

## **VII. REGISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

18. For information on registration, visa, accommodation and logistics, please refer to sections V-IX of [the information note](#) of the *Work Session of UNECE and Eurostat on Migration Statistics* available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43943>.

## **VIII. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

For further information on the content of the workshop contact:

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

For further information on logistics and other practical arrangements contact:

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