

INF.2
7 May 2018
ENGLISH ONLY

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
Work Session on Migration Statistics
Geneva, Switzerland, 24-26 October 2018

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

CALL FOR PAPERS

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Eurostat are jointly organizing a Work Session on Migration Statistics in Geneva on 24–26 October 2018. The organizers invite statistical organizations and experts to contribute papers for presentation and discussion at the meeting, on the topics described in section I below.

I. EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. Integration of data from censuses, administrative sources and surveys for measuring migration

2. 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 since 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.

3. This session will review countries' experience in integrating different data sources for measuring migration and explore ways to improve cooperation between national migration services, maintainers of central population registers, statistical agencies and other producers of administrative data. It will also consider the findings and follow-up to the report of the CES Task Force on Data Integration for Measuring Migration.

B. Use of longitudinal data for migration statistics

4. The 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.

5. Challenges for collecting longitudinal data through panel surveys include the high cost of such surveys and the possible high panel attrition. With the increasingly widespread use of administrative data and integration of multiple data sources for producing migration statistics, more and more countries can construct longitudinal datasets without bearing excessive costs. As a result, longitudinal and cohort studies are becoming more common and national statistical offices could consider making them part of the regular production of migration statistics. In 2018, a CES task force started to develop guidance on the compilation of longitudinal indicators, and collect good practices in the production, analysis and dissemination of such data.

6. This session examples of longitudinal analysis of migrants and of ways how longitudinal indicators could become part of regular production of migration statistics.

C. Integration and descendants of migrants

7. 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 is a dynamic, multi-dimensional process that should be analysed over time and considering its different aspects.

8. In recent years, the subject of young people with a migratory background is arising in the context of integration policies. 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. 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. Labour- and education-related migration

9. 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. The discussion could rely on the recent task-force report "Measuring international labour mobility".

10. International student mobility is constantly growing and is defined as crossing country borders for or in the context of tertiary education. It offers economic and social benefits to the host countries and the countries of origin. However, in addition to experiencing benefits, countries of origin are also exposed to the risk of brain drain. Measurement of international student mobility is challenging as most data bases available only register the number of foreign students and students abroad but not the number of people crossing border for or in the context of study. Efforts have been made to improve the data bases but only a minority of countries currently provide information on border-crossing student mobility.

11. Countries are invited to share their relevant experience in these areas.

E. Use of tourism statistics for measuring migration

12. Under visa-free regimes such as in the Schengen area, the flow of tourists has recently increased. Visa-free visits are usually restricted for a period up to three months and for work, permits are needed. Several studies show that some people who enter as tourists, either in a visa-free regime or with a tourist visa, actually engage in employment in the destination country. In this case, their presence in that country is legal, but because of their employment they would be undocumented migrant workers. Such employment mainly occurs in agriculture, construction, and household services.

13. Participants are invited to discuss the possibility of capturing such migrant workers in the statistical systems of countries of origin and destination. Countries are invited to share experiences and existing practices in estimating the size of such labour mobility and its contribution to the gross domestic product of the involved countries.

F. Big data and migration

14. Big data have been explored as potential proxies or additional source for international migration. Experimental applications of this include the use of geolocalised data as well as other use of online services and mobile phones. This session would feature an invited talk on the achievements and perspectives of this area. Contributions are expected to address concrete and innovative applications of big data for a better understanding of migration, and discuss possibilities for more systematic use of big data in this area, to complement official statistics.

G. Asylum seekers and refugees

15. 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, and the first objective of the current draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is to collect and utilise accurate and disaggregated data.

16. 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 and implement the International recommendations on refugee statistics endorsed in 2018 by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

H. Other topics

17. Papers could also be proposed on other topics. The Steering Group will review the proposals and organize additional sessions along common themes. At the previous Work Session, the following topics were suggested in addition to those described above:

- a) Irregular migration
- b) Emigration
- c) Impact of migration on the host country and the country of origin

18. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is starting work on updating the 1998 Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. Some initial drafts or concept notes are expected to be available for countries' comments. A short discussion would be organized on the basis of this material.

II. INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

19. Participants are welcome to submit a paper for any topic described in section I. Papers can be submitted in English or Russian. They will be translated within the limits of the translation capacity available.

20. All papers submitted will be disseminated on the meeting web page <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47809>. The UNECE Steering Group on Migration Statistics will review the submitted papers and if needed, select the papers that will be presented at the meeting.

21. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Meeting participants who intend to contribute a paper should inform the UNECE secretariat by **15 June 2018**, indicating the tentative title, the agenda item to which the paper refers, and attaching a short abstract (between 100 and 200 words).
- The full final versions of papers, not exceeding 15 pages including charts, annexes and references, should be sent to UNECE in Word format by **14 September 2018**.
- Presenters are encouraged to use power point presentations, and to send them to the UNECE Secretariat by 18 October 2018.
- All submissions should be addressed to the UNECE Secretariat, Mr. Andres Vikat, e-mail andres.vikat@un.org with copy to social.stats@unece.org

22. Contributors are reminded that the success of the meeting depends upon the ability to translate materials in advance and the opportunity for participants to read the papers before the meeting. Therefore, these deadlines must be strictly adhered to.

III. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Andres Vikat
Chief
Social and Demographic Statistics Section
Statistical Division
Tel: +41 22 917 2764
E-mail: andres.vikat@un.org

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