

# **UNECE Task Force: Longitudinal Data for Migration Statistics**

**UNECE Work Session on Migration Statistics  
October 24th to 26th, 2018**

# Background

- Terms of reference for new task force on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics approved by CES in February 2018
- Several driving factors
  - Increased use of data integration facilitates the creation of new longitudinal data sources
  - Integration and settlement are processes not states and outcomes can be short or long-term
  - Specific topics like circular migration and family reunification also benefit from longitudinal data
- Build on work done by past task forces
  - Socio-economic characteristics (2015)
  - Circular migration (2016)
  - Data integration (2017)



# Task Force Members

- UNECE, Eurostat, OECD
- Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Kazakhstan, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom



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# What is longitudinal data?

- Longitudinal data refers to information which is collected from the same respondents, such as individuals or households, over time.



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# Deliverables

- Deliver a report to meet the primary objectives:
  - Provide guidance on how to develop longitudinal data sources for migration statistics
    - Building from data integration
    - Best practices
    - Challenges and recommended solutions
  - Provide guidance on how to integrate longitudinal data into regular migration statistics reporting
    - Establish set of longitudinal indicators
    - Best practices for dissemination



# Report: Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Overview of longitudinal data sources
  - Types of data
  - Complementarity and comparability of longitudinal and cross-sectional data sources
- Guidelines on developing longitudinal data from integrated data sources
  - Best practices
  - Common issues and recommended solutions
- Disseminating regular migration statistics from longitudinal data
  - Key indicators
  - Best Practices
- Summary and conclusion



# Types of data

- Panel surveys
  - Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada
- Population registers
  - Belgium, Italy, Spain
- Single source administrative data
  - Kazakhstan data on arrivals and departures for permanent residence
  - United Kingdom Home Office Immigration control administrative data
- Integrated administrative data
  - Germany Central Alien Register
  - Swiss Longitudinal Demographic Database

# Developing longitudinal data sources

- Turning linkage results into longitudinal frames
  - Integration methods
  - Linkage errors
- Consistent identifiers over time
  - Registers vs. linked data
  - Longitudinal 'duplicates'
- Harmonized content
  - Concepts and geography
- Best Practices: Measures of data quality and documentation





# Developing longitudinal data sources

- Common issues
  - Linkage errors
  - Duplicates
  - Differences in coverage
    - Temporal coverage
    - Population coverage
  - Time of events (real-time vs periodic)
  - Measurement differences between sources
    - Beyond conceptual differences



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# Key Longitudinal Indicators

- Migration patterns
  - Transitions through immigration (different pathways; time before transition)
  - Length of stay
  - Post-migration internal movements (e.g. moving from one region to another within the host country)
  - Circular migration
- Socio-economic outcomes
  - Labour market (First entry, occupational and employment income mobility)
  - Language acquisition and usage
  - Health outcomes
  - Acquisition of host country citizenship
- Family migration



# Discussion points

- Are there other key challenges to consider when developing longitudinal data sources?
- What kinds of indicators are of interest to you?
- How can we make sure results from longitudinal sources are easily understood by users and stakeholders?

