

UNECE Task Force on Population Projections

Draft Database on Population Projections Metadata

Eurostat-UNECE Work Session on Demographic Projections

Geneva, April 18-20 2016

Objectives of the Task Force

- **Mandate from CES (from TOR of Task Force):**
- Prepare a collection of good practices on communicating population projections
 - Expected output: publication in electronic format
- **Guide the Secretariat in establishing a UNECE database of metadata about national and international population projections**
 - Expected output: database hosted by UNECE

What is the unit of the database?

- National or international projection exercise (latest available)
- Identified by name of country to which the projection refers (or “Multiple countries”)
- Currently the DB includes 32 projections

Format of the database

- **Currently a simple excel sheet**
24 columns/variables
32 rows/projections
- **Final format to be decided later**
- **General preference to keep simple and light – not too many and/or too technical variables**

Information (variables) on **time** of projection

- **Year/month of dissemination (YYYY-MM)**
(if multiple products were published over a period of time, it refers to the earliest date, including web dissemination)
- **Start Year (YYYY)**
- **End Year (YYYY)**
(if different year-ends are used for different products, it refers to the farthest)
- **Production frequency (in number of years)**
 - Alternative terms considered:
 - Update frequency [implies that there are no changes?]
 - Interval between releases

Information (variables) on base population

- Base population data source(s)

ISSUE: Discrepancies in info collected, e.g.:

Population register	Population estimates
Population update	Population statistics
Resident population	Census
Statistical Office	Census + surveys + vital stats...

**RESULT: Information collected is misleading
and not useful**

**FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped? Or defined
better with a closed question? Which categories
could be used?**

Information (variables) on base population

- Base population reference date (YYYY-MM)
**ISSUE: Similar to “Start year (YYYY)”,
confusing. It refers to the same year in most
cases, but not always:**
 - In many countries, BPRD is December of the year before the “start year”
 - In some countries, BPRD is 1, 2 or 5 years before the “start year”
- **FOR DISCUSSION: Shall we drop BPRD?
Shall we replace BPRD with “Exact date of
reference (YYYY-MM-DD)”?**

Information (variables) on base population

- Adjustments to the base population (if any)
ISSUE: Information provided only by 7 countries, sometimes misleading. Perhaps too technical for DB.
- **FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped?**

Information
(variables)
on population
characteristics
(other than
age and sex)

YES/NO

- Sub-national geography (22 countries)
 - We could add more detailed info on geography:**
 - consistency bw national and sub-national level
 - number of units
 - type of approach
 - internal migration model
 - In alternative, one variable "Sub-national geography" with three categories:**
 - "yes, consistent"
 - "yes, not consistent"
 - "no"
- **FOR DISCUSSION: What shall we do?**

Information
(variables)
on population
characteristics
(other than
age and sex)

YES/NO

- Marital status (2 countries only!)
FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped and considered under “other characteristics”?
- Household type (6 countries)
- Citizenship (4 countries)
- Country of birth (3 countries)
[initially “country of birth or origin”]
- Other char. / Special projections (to be specified)

Information
(variables) on
type of projection
and
number/type of
scenarios/variants

- **Type of projection** [proposed by TF after survey]
Deterministic
Probabilistic
- **Number and type of scenarios/variants published**
ISSUE: Terms apply mostly to det. projections
FOR DISCUSSION: Rename: “Number and type
of scenarios/variants or prediction intervals
published”?

Information (variables) on level of detail of projections

- Level of detail for dissemination - Single years of age, until age...
- Level of detail for dissemination - Five year age groups, until age group...
- Level of detail for dissemination (year) **[closed question]**
 - Single years
 - Every 5 years
 - Other (to be specified)

General information about projections

- Organization

NOTE: In most cases it's the NSI

- Email address for direct contact by users –
OPTIONAL (27 countries!)

- Title of the projection
[proposed by TF after survey]

- Links to dissemination products

**FOR DISCUSSION: consider separately data
links and metadata links?**

Additional
variables
proposed by
some TF
members

- Availability of assumptions and indicators
FOR DISCUSSION: Shall be added?
One or two separate columns?
- Information about whether backward revisions are made on population projections during the revision process, or not
FOR DISCUSSION: Shall be added?
- Population concept used (de facto/de jure)
FOR DISCUSSION: Shall be added?

*Summary of
open issues:*
1) base
population

- Base population data source(s)
ISSUE: Info collected is misleading and not useful
FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped? Or defined better with a closed question? Which categories could be used?
- Base population reference date (YYYY-MM)
ISSUE: Similar to “Start year (YYYY)”, confusing.
FOR DISCUSSION: Shall we drop BPRD? Shall we replace BPRD with “Exact date of reference (YYYY-MM-DD)”?
- Adjustments to the base population (if any)
ISSUE: Info for 7 countries, misleading, technical.
FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped?

*Summary of
open issues:*
2) population
characteristics
(other than
age and sex)

- Sub-national geography (22 countries)
We could add more detailed info on geography:
 - consistency bw national and sub-national level
 - number of units
 - type of approach
 - internal migration model**In alternative, one variable "Sub-national geography" with three categories:**
 - "yes, consistent"
 - "yes, not consistent"
 - "no"**FOR DISCUSSION: What shall we do?**
- Marital status (2 countries only!)
FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped and considered under "other characteristics"?

Summary of open issues:

3) type of projection and number/type of scenarios/variants

- Type of projection [proposed by TF after survey]
Deterministic
Probabilistic
- Number and type of scenarios/variants published
ISSUE: Terms apply mostly to det. projections
FOR DISCUSSION: Rename: “Number and type of scenarios/variants or prediction intervals published”?