

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2020/2021 Bureau
Geneva (online), 17-18 February 2021

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will take place on 17-18 February 2021 (Wednesday-Thursday). It will start at 15:00 on both days and finish at around 18:00 on the first day and 17:30 on the second day.

The meeting will be held online, in English only. The documents for the meeting will be uploaded on the following website: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/bureau/CES+Bureau> (username: ces; password: bureau8).

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I. OPENING BY ANIL ARORA

(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/FEB/1 and 1/Add.1 by UNECE)

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews in depth selected statistical areas. The aim of the reviews is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues. The reviews often lead to new work in topical areas and tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations.

(a) New forms of employment – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/FEB/2 by Canada)

2. The in-depth review of new forms of employment will be based on a paper by Canada. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(b) Selection of topics for in-depth reviews in 2021-2022– *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/FEB/3 by UNECE)

3. The Bureau will be invited to select the topics to be reviewed in-depth in 2021-2022 based on a proposal prepared by the Secretariat.

III. UNECE STATISTICAL WORK AND CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

4. The work of steering groups and task forces set up by the CES Bureau is reviewed under this agenda item. The groups are created for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, output, timeframe (2-3 years) and a sunset clause. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials available on the web. The terms of reference of active steering groups and task forces are available at <http://www.unece.org/statistics/networks-of-experts.html>.

(a) Data stewardship (ToR) – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/4 by Estonia and UNECE)

5. The CES 2020 session “Data stewardship – NSOs in the changing world” concluded with a proposal to set up a Task Force to turn the considerations developed by Estonia et al. into a roadmap and action plan to support NSOs. At the October meeting, the Bureau discussed how to take the work forward and requested the Secretariat to prepare the terms of reference for the Task Force.

6. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for the Task Force.

(b) Exchange and sharing of economic data (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/5 by UNECE)

7. The CES 2020 plenary session endorsed the *Guide to Sharing Economic Data*, including recommendations for actions at national and international levels that could help to advance data exchange practices.

8. The Bureau will be invited to discuss and approve the next steps based on a proposal prepared by the Secretariat.

(c) Developing the CES Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 Round (work plan) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/FEB/6 by the Steering Group on population censuses)

9. Every ten years CES issues a set of recommendations to guide countries in conducting their population and housing censuses. The next recommendations are due to be published in 2025, for preparing and conducting censuses of the 2030 round. Development of the recommendations normally takes several years, and they are endorsed by the CES plenary session.

10. The Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses has prepared a work plan to develop the next version of the recommendations within this time frame. The plan outlines the principal strands and thematic areas of the work and proposes a survey of national practices with censuses of the current 2020 round. The Bureau is invited to review and approve the work plan.

(d) Measuring circular economy (ToR) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/FEB/7 by UNECE)

11. In October 2020, the Bureau carried out an in-depth review of measuring circular economy based on a paper by Finland et al. The Bureau agreed with the recommendations for further work and decided to create a Task Force on measuring circular economy.

12. The Bureau will be invited to review the terms of reference for the Task Force.

(e) Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (ToR renewal) – for decision via written consultation
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/FEB/8 by UNECE)

13. The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy and CES jointly oversee the work of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators established in 2009. The Task Force assists the countries of the Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in applying the Shared Environmental Information System data methodologies, analysing and communicating environmental data; implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting; and applying environmental indicators in the context of sustainable development and green economy initiatives.

14. The Bureau will be invited to consider the progress of work of the Joint Task Force and renewal of its terms of reference. The renewed terms of reference will have to be submitted to the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) for approval.

(f) Modernization of official statistics – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/9 and 9/Add.1 by HLG-MOS)

15. In February 2020, the Bureau approved the updated terms of reference for the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) and extended the mandate of the Group until end 2022.

16. The Bureau will be invited to review the outcomes of the HLG-MOS work in 2020, including the outcomes of the 2020 projects, the priority projects selected for 2021, and the final report from the 2019-2020 Machine Learning Project.

(g) Data collection during the Covid-19 pandemic – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/10 by UNECE)

17. As a follow-up to the discussion on measuring digital transformation at the October 2020 Bureau meeting, the Bureau asked the Secretariat to report about the outcomes of the HLG-MOS workshop on data collection and the impact, challenges and opportunities of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bureau will be invited to advise on further work in this area.

IV. PREPARATION OF THE CES 2021 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Post-Covid: sustaining organisational and product innovation in NSOs (session proposal) – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/11 by New Zealand and Poland.

18. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the organization of the session based on a proposal by New Zealand and Poland.

(b) How national statistical systems adhere to the core values of official statistics (session proposal) – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/12 by Ireland.

19. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the organization of the session based on a proposal by Ireland.

(c) Official statistics for climate action (session proposal) – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/13 by the Steering Group on climate change related statistics)

20. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the organization of the session based on the proposal by the Steering Group on climate change related statistics.

(d) CES 2022 plenary session: proposals for seminar topics; 70th anniversary of CES – *for discussion and recommendations*

21. Traditionally the list of possible topics for the seminars to be held at 2022 CES plenary session would be agreed by the Bureau in February 2021. Then the list would be sent for consultation to all CES members and the topics finally selected by CES in June 2021.

However, in the current situation it is difficult to plan in advance for 2022.

22. Furthermore, in 2022 CES will have its 70th anniversary which provides an opportunity to link the discussion topics with the anniversary. The Bureau will be invited to advise how to proceed and share ideas on how to reflect the CES 70th anniversary in its 2022 plenary session.

(e) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2021 CES plenary session – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/14 by UNECE)

23. The Bureau will be invited to approve the provisional agenda of the CES 2021 plenary session based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

(f) Focussed discussions for groups of chief statisticians in the run-up to the CES plenary session – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/15 by UNECE)

24. In October 2020, the Bureau discussed preparations of the 2021 CES plenary session. A proposal was made to organise a few short sprint sessions on specific topics related to the agenda of the plenary session to provide input to 2021 CES. These would be for smaller groups of chief statisticians to meet on-line for up to two hours per session, during April-May 2021.

25. The Bureau will be invited to consider a proposal by the Secretariat.

V. CES GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT IN 2021

26. The CES Bureau will be invited to review the draft guidelines and recommendations planned to be submitted to CES for endorsement in June 2021, and decide if they can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session.

(a) Statistics for SDGs: CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs (second edition); forthcoming rotation of the IAEG-SDG and HLG-PCCB members – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/16 by the Steering Group on statistics for SDGs,
ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/17 by UNECE)

27. The Bureau will be invited to review the draft second edition of the *Road Map for Statistics on SDGs* and decide if it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Road Map will be submitted to the 2021 CES plenary session for endorsement.

28. The Bureau will be informed about the upcoming rotation of the members of IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB from the UNECE region in 2021. In October 2018, the Bureau approved the principles for the rotation. The previous rotation exercise was conducted in 2019 and approved by the Bureau electronically for the 2019-2021 term. During the consultation, a waiting list of countries for 2021-2023 was compiled. Similarly to 2019, the Secretariat will conduct a consultation after the Bureau meeting to invite CES members to express interest, and will make a proposal.

(b) Assessing the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses – *for decision via written consultation*

(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/18 by the Task Force)

29. In 2018, the Bureau established the Task Force on assessing the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses with the aim of developing guidance for national statistical offices for this purpose.

30. The Bureau will be invited to review the draft *Guidelines on Assessing the Quality of Administrative Sources for Use in Censuses* and decide if they can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidelines will be submitted to the 2021 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(c) Waste statistics – *for decision via written consultation*

(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/19 by the Task Force)

31. The Bureau established the Task Force on waste statistics in February 2017 to draft a conceptual framework to harmonise international waste statistics, and provide better information needed for managing waste and monitoring implementation of important waste-related policy frameworks. In February 2019, the Bureau reviewed the draft framework and requested the Task Force to continue the work to clarify the key terminology and submit the updated draft to the Bureau meeting.

32. The Bureau will be invited to review the draft *Framework on waste statistics* and decide if it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the 2021 CES plenary session for endorsement.

VI. UNECE STATISTICS PROGRAMME OF WORK DOCUMENTS – *for decision via written consultation*

(ECE/CES/ BUR/2021/FEB/20 and 21 by UNECE)

33. Under this agenda item, the Bureau will be invited to review and approve documents related to the implementation of the UNECE Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations secretariat's planning and reporting process. These include:

- (a) Report on the implementation of the Statistical Programme 2020;
- (b) Draft programme of work document for 2022.

VII. DATES AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS – *for decision*

34. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venues of the next Bureau meetings and the next CES plenary sessions.

35. At its October 2020 meeting, the Bureau decided on its next meetings as follows:

- (a) 13-14 October 2021;
- (b) 16-17 February 2022;
- (c) 12-13 October 2022.

36. The meeting venues will be decided when the physical meetings will again become possible.

37. The 69th CES plenary session will take place on 23-25 June 2021, back-to-back with the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy. The meeting is planned to take place in Paris. The venue will be confirmed in spring 2021.

38. The 70th CES plenary session is proposed to take place on 20-22 a.m. June 2022 in Geneva.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

39. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item.

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