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Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Report of the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia

Prepared by the Secretariat

Summary

The Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia was established in January 2020 in response to the United Nations Secretary General's Recommendations on Phase 2 of the United Nations Development System Reform. According to its terms of reference, its work should be guided by the Conference, and it should provide regular reports and updates to the Conference.

This report covers the period since the 2021 plenary session of the Conference. The Conference is invited to take note of its contents, and to provide any guidance as appropriate.



I. Background

1. The Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia was established in response to Recommendation 4 of the UN Secretary-General's report on the "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2019"¹. That recommendation was to:

"launch a region-by-region change management process that will seek to consolidate existing capacities with regard to data and statistics, as well as other relevant analytical functions that may be currently duplicative. This exercise will have to be unique to each region and will be detailed and fleshed out in full consultation with each regional commission and respective regional team of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group".

2. Following extensive consultation within the UNECE region, the various United Nations agencies active in the field of data and statistics proposed to respond to this recommendation by creating a regional coordination group, which would take the form of a regional version of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA). This approach received political support from the UNECE Executive Committee at its meeting of 14 October 2019. The regional coordination group met for the first time in January 2020 and is co-chaired by UNECE and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

II. Membership

3. The regional coordination group initially consisted of representatives of the different UN agencies active in the field of data and statistics in the region. Its membership has since been enlarged twice. From July 2020, it has included the data and statistics focal points from the UN Country Teams of the 17 UN "programme countries" in the region (see annex), to ensure coordination between the regional and national levels. From January 2021, it was opened to representatives of non-UN organisations with data and statistics activities in the region, to ensure more comprehensive coordination of support to countries. The membership currently includes 25 international organisations (see annex).

III. Activities since June 2021

4. The regional coordination group has worked on the following activities and outputs since the last report to the Conference in June 2020:

- (a) Inputs to the second version of the *CES Roadmap on Statistics for SDGs*;
- (b) Inputs in the form of stories illustrating progress towards the SDGs for the publication "*Halfway to 2030: How Many Targets Will Be Achieved in the UNECE Region?*";²
- (c) A calendar of statistical capacity development activities, as required by the UN Chief Executive Board's Roadmap on Data and Statistics, to promote collaboration and facilitate information sharing – <https://teamup.com/ks5swirisz6nrwybdh>;
- (d) Inputs to the 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, and particularly the Peer Learning Roundtable on Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development;
- (e) A special session in February 2022 on developments in population and housing censuses in the region;

¹ A/74/73 – E/2019/4

² ECE/CES/STAT/2022/2

(f) Information sharing about the UN Statistical Commission, and the topics discussed at its 2022 meeting, to help to link activities from the global to the regional and national levels;

(g) General sharing of information on data and statistics activities and events, with the aim of improving coordination, increasing the integration of UN Country Team focal points into the international statistical community, and providing regional support for national activities.

IV. Action requested from the Conference

5. The Conference is invited to take note of the contents of this report, and to provide any guidance to the Regional Coordination Group as appropriate.

Annex

Membership of the Regional Coordination Group

I. Regional organizations

- Eurasian Economic Commission
- European Free Trade Association
- Eurostat
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- International Labour Organization
- International Organization for Migration
- International Telecommunications Union
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development / PARIS21
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- United Nations Development Coordination Office
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- United Nations Population Fund
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Office for Project Services
- UN-Women
- World Health Organization.

II. United Nations Country Teams

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan

- Montenegro
 - North Macedonia
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Serbia
 - Tajikistan
 - Turkey
 - Turkmenistan
 - Ukraine
 - Uzbekistan.
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