Task Force on the use of new data sources for measuring international migration and cross-border mobility

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Background

- The 2018 and 2019 UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics: need to work towards using new types of data sources and review existing examples of use of new data sources

- UNECE Steering Group on migration statistics: terms of reference for the Task Force on the use of new data sources for measuring international migration and cross-border mobility.

Objective

- The Task Force in charge from **March 2020 to June 2022**. The objective was to develop **guidance for national statistical offices** on the use of new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility.

- The following statistical offices participated: Australia, Canada, Georgia, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Eurostat, OECD and the United Nations Statistics Division.

The activity of the Task force: Informal survey

A questionnaire helped to collect information on the **existing experience** and plans in national statistical offices for using new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility and to identify **examples from outside official statistics** where new data sources have been used.

Report

The report "Use of new data sources for measuring international migration" has been prepared by the Task Force and presents national experiences with big data and new data sources collected among countries participating in CES.

CES endorsement

- ➤ The CES Bureau reviewed the report in February 2022 and asked the Secretariat to send it for electronic consultation to all CES members

- ➤ The Secretariat in March – April 2022 carried out an electronic consultation, that showed very broad support from countries.

- ➤ The final version of the report, including amendments resulting from the consultation, has been endorsed by the CES in June 2022

Report – first chapter

The report includes national experiences but also the reasons why many countries don't use big data and new data sources for migration statistics

It also includes innovations on measuring international migration (both data-related innovations and methodology-related innovations

Report – Second chapter

A reference tool that has been produced by the Task Force: the **Database of Innovation in Migration Statistics** (that we have called **DIMiS**) includes research and studies about migration and big data conducted outside NSOs, such as articles and papers dealing with big data for migration statistics.

https://statswiki.unece.org/display/DIMiS

DIMiS

- As new experiences emerge in future, it will be possible to update the database with additional papers.

- Feedback from users will be crucial to develop the database into a reference tool useful for official statisticians and would-be big data practitioners in general.

Conclusion of report

➢ National statistical offices have limited experiences in the use of new data sources for migration statistics.

➢ The potential of new data sources to address emerging migration issues and urgent data needs is promising.

➢ Sharing and updating of relevant information and tools will facilitate the use of big data and new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility.

Plans for development of DIMiS

- Feedback on the database and proposals for new material to be added can be sent to social.stats@un.org

- Annual UNECE expert meetings will provide an opportunity to promote the use of DIMiS and collect new material