

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2022/2023 Bureau
Cork, 12-13 October 2022

Item 3 (e) of the Provisional
Agenda

PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER WORK ON FORMS OF EMPLOYMENT

Prepared by UNECE in consultation with the chairs of the Steering Group on Measuring Quality of Employment

The CES 2022 plenary session endorsed the ‘Handbook on Forms of Employment’, prepared by the Task Force on Forms of Employment. The Conference encouraged countries to implement the Handbook and supported the directions for future work identified in the Handbook.

The Bureau approved the proposed way forward presented in paragraph 7.

I. BACKGROUND

1. In February 2021, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) carried out an in-depth review on new forms of employment and quality of employment based on the paper prepared by Canada.¹

2. Based on the in-depth review, the CES Bureau set up a task force in July 2021 to develop guidance to assist countries in producing relevant, coherent and internationally comparable statistics on forms of employment.² The Task Force consisted of the following members: Canada (Chair), Australia, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States (Bureau of Labor Statistics), European Labour Authority, Eurostat, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Statistics Division and Women in Employment: Globalization and Organising (WIEGO).

3. The Handbook presents a conceptual framework, which is centred around two main dimensions: *work relationships* (as defined in the International Classification of Status in Employment 2018, ICSE-18) and *work modalities* (the way in which work is coordinated, performed, and compensated), to classify and analyse forms of employment. It provides definitions of key concepts, general principles and guidelines as well as a list of key recommended indicators to facilitate national statistical efforts to classify, measure and track diverse forms of employment relevant to their national context. The Handbook acknowledges and refers to existing international recommendations, such as those prepared by Eurostat, OECD and ILO. The framework is also aligned with the International Classification of Status in Employment 2018 (ICSE-18) and the UNECE statistical framework on measuring quality of employment.

¹ Document ECE/CES/2021/9 – “*In-depth review of new forms of employment and quality of employment: Implications for official statistics*”

² Document ECE/CES/BUR/2021/JULY/1

4. Section 1.6 “Topics and considerations for further work” of the Handbook stated that since the Handbook focuses on concepts and statistical definitions, in most cases specific measurement guidance (e.g., examples of questions for household surveys) and recommendations on the frequency of measurement are not provided. Hence, further work on forms of employment should consider the development of practical guidance on data collection and measurement challenges. Sharing of experience and good practices in measuring new and emerging forms of employment among countries will also be helpful. Additionally, as some of the topics raised in the Handbook are at the cutting edge of labour statistics, further work should be aligned with the conceptual and methodological development of those topics.

5. In June 2022, the CES plenary session endorsed the *Handbook on Forms of Employment* and supported the directions for future work identified in the Handbook.

II. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

6. The Steering Group on Measuring Quality of Employment will review the suggested topics for further work on forms of employment and has established a subgroup on forms of employment to follow up on work in this area.

7. It is suggested that the subgroup on forms of employment will address the following topics:

- tackling the remaining conceptual issues which were not or not fully addressed in the Handbook (e.g. gig work, digital employment);
- aligning the framework on forms of employment with the conceptual and methodological developments of the cutting-edge topics of labour statistics raised in the Handbook, including the outcomes of the 21st ICLS in 2023;
- exploring common data collection and measurement challenges and possible ways to overcome these;
- sharing of experiences and good practices in measuring new and emerging forms of employment among countries (e.g. through the expert group meetings on quality of employment);
- mapping emerging forms of employment onto the framework and ensuring ongoing cross-fertilization between the framework and quality of employment indicators.

8. The subgroup on forms of employment is comprised of the following members: Canada (lead), Italy, Singapore, Switzerland, ILO and WIEGO.

9. The Steering Group will submit a report to the CES Bureau in February 2023 with proposed follow-up activities on the above-mentioned topics. The report will also include a proposal for an updated TOR of the Steering Group.

III. ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE BUREAU

10. The Bureau is invited to discuss the proposed way forward presented in paragraph 7, to advise on priorities, and suggest any additional actions if needed.

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