



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 April 2024

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Seventy-second plenary session

Geneva, 20 and 21 June 2024

Item 11 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme
of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:
Programme planning documents for the Statistics subprogramme
of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Draft Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2025

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The draft Programme of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistics subprogramme is prepared in compliance with resolution 77/267.

The text is an excerpt from the draft UNECE proposed programme plan for 2025 A/79/6 (Sect. 20), which will be issued as an official United Nations document by the end of April. It follows the guidance from the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in New York. The Programme plan informs about the status of results planned in Programmes of work for 2023 (results 1 and 2), and presents one, most significant result expected in 2025 (result 3).

The draft Programme of work for 2025 is submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for adoption and for recommending it to the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for approval.



Introduction

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2025. The Conference of European Statisticians is invited to adopt it and recommend to the Executive Committee for approval. Any subsequent additional, carried over or terminated deliverables will be reflected in United Nations Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – results – objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’ and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent from achieving the objective.
3. The objective, the strategy, the planned results and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 (Sect. 20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme will continue to build on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE areas where multiple SDGs converge, including on the high-level themes designated by the Commission sessions. This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.
4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

I. Objective

5. The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to advance official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking and assessing progress towards achieving the Goals and to ensure the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region under the Conference of European Statisticians.

II. Strategy

6. The strategy of the subprogramme is guided by the priorities and needs of member States and is based on the core interlinked functions: the streamlining of international statistical work in the ECE region through policy dialogue; methodological work to develop and promote guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics; and statistical capacity development of ECE member States with less developed statistical systems.
7. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
 - (a) Promote in-depth statistical dialogue at the Conference of European Statisticians and expert meetings;
 - (b) Launch regional and country-specific initiatives related to methodological work to develop and disseminate statistical models, guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics, to support modernization of national statistical offices and their changing role to become data stewards, and to promote the use of official statistics;
 - (c) Maintain and develop the ECE statistical database;

(d) Establish and strengthen partnerships between geospatial experts and statisticians to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information, in cooperation with statistical departments of other regional entities, as well as international specialized agencies active in the region;

(e) Facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices in population and housing censuses, price statistics and environment statistics, including adaptations that occurred during COVID-19 restrictions allowing to improve timeliness and granularity of official statistics;

(f) Provide support to countries in planning and conducting their census and developing their statistical capacity, including cross-cutting topics such as statistics for the Goals, statistical legislation, data collection, data integration, data dissemination and human resource management.

8. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) Improved statistical methodology and capacity of member States to measure and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Member States using innovative and efficient approaches to conducting censuses that result in the improved cost-efficiency, coverage, accuracy, comparability and timeliness of dissemination of the census results;

(c) Improved capacity by member States to provide the statistics necessary to develop evidence-based policies to manage their post-pandemic recovery.

III. Planned results for 2025

Result 1: increased number of countries collaborating on developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics

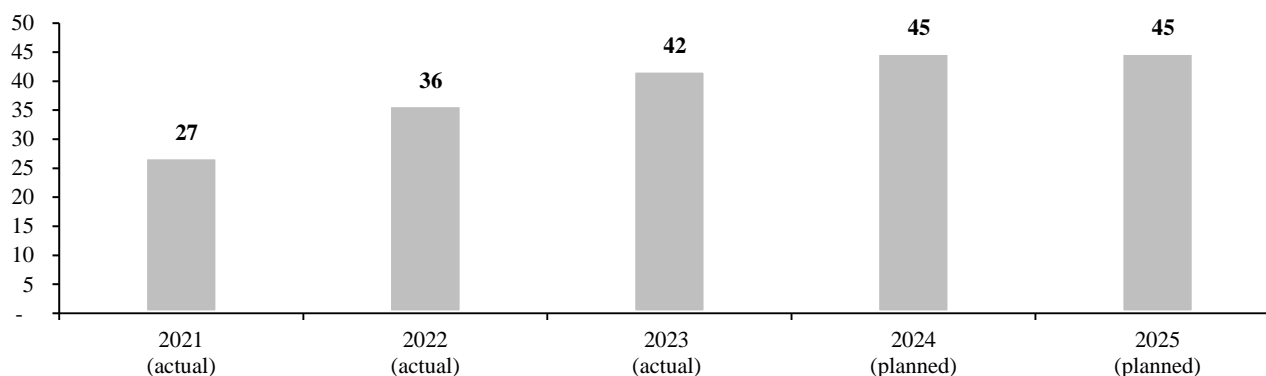
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

9. The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 42 member States actively collaborating in developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics, which exceeded the planned target of 33 member States.

10. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 1).

Figure 1

Performance measure: number of member States actively collaborating in developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics (cumulative)



Result 2: improved environmental statistics and indicators in the Economic Commission for Europe region

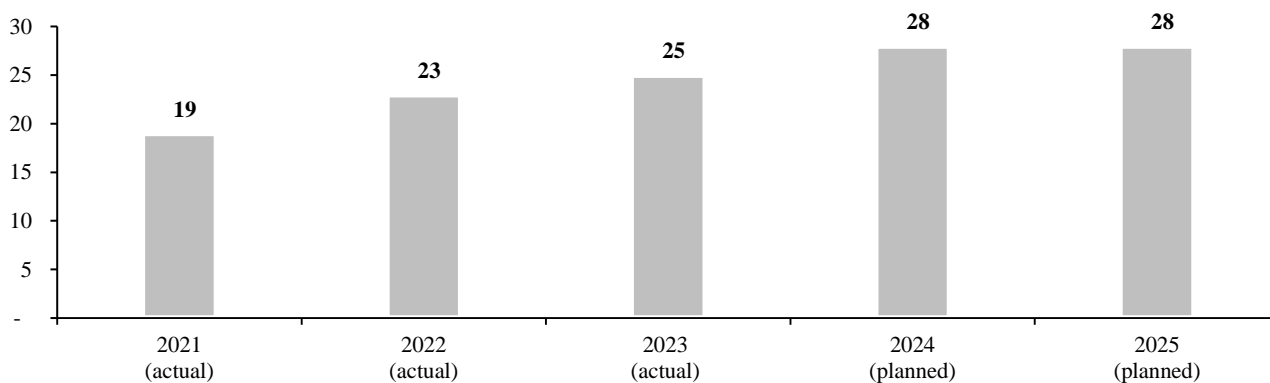
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

11. The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 25 member States actively improving environmental statistics and indicators through the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, which met the planned target.

12. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 2).

Figure 2

Performance measure: number of countries improving environmental statistics and indicators through the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (annual)



Result 3: ECE Statistical Database for improved research and decision-making

Proposed programme plan for 2025

13. ECE Statistical Database provides key economic indicators, population figures, and statistics on gender equality and migration. ECE helps member States to enhance the international comparability and quality of national statistics and facilitates access to policy-relevant numbers in the ECE statistical database for all member States. In 2022, the subprogramme developed a new Statistical Data Portal, which offers user-friendly access to data with a focus on data visualizations.

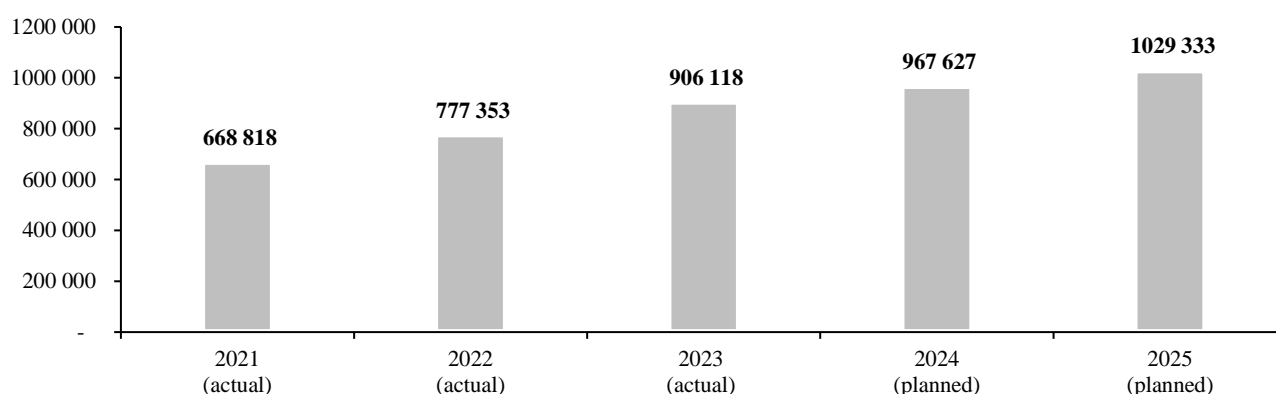
Lessons learned and planned change

14. The lesson for the subprogramme was that further visualization of data and developing data stories can help reach wider audiences and improve user satisfaction. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will conduct regular surveys to gather insights on what enhancements to data visualization would be most useful and will prioritize improvements based on feedback.

15. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 3).

Figure 3

Performance measure: number of downloads from the ECE Statistical Database (annual)



Notes: The increase of downloads from 2021 to 2023 is understood as exceptionally high because of the launch and expansion of a new Sustainable Development Goals section of the database. No such expansion is foreseen for 2024 and 2025 and this is reflected in the values forecasted for those years.

IV. External factors

16. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that:

- (a) Member States continue to guide ECE intergovernmental processes, support the work of ECE and give high priority to regional and subregional cooperation and integration, with a view to achieving sustainable development;
- (b) All relevant stakeholders at the national level have the political will to cooperate in implementing ECE legal instruments, norms and standards;
- (c) Voluntary resources continue to be available.

V. Deliverables to be implemented in 2025

17. The table below lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies	
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	69
1. Documentation for the Conference of European Statisticians	43
2. Documentation for groups of experts on statistical issues	26
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	85
3. Meetings of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau	13
4. Meetings of groups of experts on statistical issues	72
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge	
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	7
5. Workshops on social and economic statistics	4
6. Workshops on innovating statistical production	3
Publications (number of publications)	7
7. On topics covering multiple statistical areas, including social, environmental and economic statistics	7
C. Substantive deliverables	
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for more than 100 government officials and other stakeholders of up to 4 countries in the ECE region on economic, social, demographic and environment statistics, statistics for the Goals, geospatial statistics and institutional issues and modernization of official statistics.	
Databases and substantive digital materials: Maintaining five ECE data domains.	

D. Communication deliverables

External and media relations: articles for the “UNECE Weekly” and “EnvStats” newsletters for regional access.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: interactive digital workspaces (wikis, including the ECE census wiki); website of the subprogramme.

Annex I

Details of proposed publications for 2025

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2030 Censuses of Population and Housing	2025 CES report	Print and electronic	303	English	Russian, French	100 E, 20 F, 50 R
2	Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE region	2024 CES report	Electronic	91	English		
3	Guidance on measuring emigration	2025 CES report	Electronic	212	English		
4	Administrative data on hard-to-reach groups	2025 CES report	Electronic	212	English		
5	Statistical Modernisation Monograph (based on 2022–2024 work programme tbd)	2024 CES report	Print and electronic	91	English		80 E
6	CES Set of Core Disaster-risk-related Indicators	2025 CES report	Print and electronic	200	English		200 E
7	Guidelines on measuring well-being	2025 CES report	Print and electronic	150	English		100 E

Annex II

Legislative mandates

A. Overall Economic Commission for Europe legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/217, 73/243, 76/217, 77/246, 78/163	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/256	New Urban Agenda
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
74/4	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly
74/15	Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

	and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
74/231, 78/162	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
77/181	Women in development
74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/8, 77/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
75/9, 77/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
75/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
75/216, 76/204	Disaster risk reduction
75/221	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/290 A	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level Economic and Social Council
75/290 B	High-level political forum on sustainable development
75/324	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
77/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
75/213, 76/202, 77/162	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
77/173	Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
78/166	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

78/167 South-South cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

36 (IV) Economic Commission for Europe

1998/46 Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

2006/38 Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission

2013/1 Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

2023/4 Science, technology and innovation for development

2023/11 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

2023/31 Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

A (64) The work of the Economic Commission for Europe

A (65) Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

A (66) Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region

A (70) Economic and social effects of Russia's aggression against Ukraine

B (70) Digital and green transformations in support of the sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe

C (70) Promotion of Circular Economy and the sustainable use of natural resources

D (70) Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

General Assembly resolutions

68/261 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

69/282 World Statistics Day

71/313 Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

2006/6 Strengthening statistical capacity

2015/10 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

2016/27	Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management
2019/210	Report of the Statistical Commission on its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 50/116: Disaster-related statistics)
2020/5	Strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system
2021/7	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2021/224	Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-second session (Statistical Commission decisions 52/109 Migration statistics; 52/114 Household surveys)
2022/3	Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem (paras. 4 and 9–10)
2023/325	Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-fourth session (Statistical Commission decisions 54/101: Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 54/106: Economic statistics; 54/107: National accounts; 54/108: Business and trade statistics; 54/109: Regional statistical development; 54/110: Environmental-economic accounting; 54/111: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; 54/113: Statistical capacity development; 54/116: Big data; 54/117: Price statistics; 54/118: Integration of statistical and geospatial information; 54/119: Data stewardship)
