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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses

Twenty-sixth Meeting

Geneva, 2–4 October 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Annotated provisional agenda

The Meeting of the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9:30 am on Wednesday 2 October 2024.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Revising the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 round
 - (a) Emergency preparedness and contingency planning;
 - (b) Quality assessment and quality management;
 - (c) Enumeration methods;
 - (d) Technology;
 - (e) Population concepts and related definitions;
 - (f) Economic characteristics;
 - (g) Migration and mobility (national and international);
 - (h) Household & family characteristics;
 - (i) Sex and gender;
 - (j) Housing topics;
 - (k) Geospatial information and small area statistics for censuses;
 - (l) Dissemination of disaggregated census data;
 - (m) Communication and outreach
 - (n) Aim and scope of the Recommendations and aspects not covered by a task force.
3. Lessons learned from censuses of the 2020 round.
4. Innovations in dissemination and communication throughout the census lifecycle.



5. Transformations in population statistics.
6. Other business.

II. Annotations

The meeting is organized following the provisions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Draft programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2024¹, adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) as documented in its 2023 report².

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

UNECE, in cooperation with partners, regularly organizes meetings of the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses. The aims of these meetings are: to facilitate exchange of experience among countries; to increase knowledge of issues related to planning and conducting population and housing censuses; and to promote the development and implementation of the CES Recommendations for the Censuses of Population and Housing. This results in increased capacity by countries to plan and conduct their national population and housing censuses and to produce internationally comparable data. The particular aim of the 2024 meeting is to engage the community of experts in developing the CES Recommendations for the 2030 round of censuses. Complete drafts of all chapters will be presented to the Group of Experts for discussion and feedback.

2. Revising the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 round

The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) has established 13 thematic task forces to develop the CES Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 round. Based on their analyses of findings from a detailed survey of countries' experiences and practices in the 2020 round, these task forces have now developed new and revised text for the Recommendations. They will present their drafts to the Group of Experts to gather feedback prior to submitting their final proposals to the Conference of European Statisticians for endorsement.

The session will include a contribution from each of the following task forces:

- (a) Emergency preparedness and contingency planning
- (b) Quality assessment and quality management
- (c) Enumeration methods
- (d) Technology
- (e) Population concepts and related definitions
- (f) Economic characteristics
- (g) Migration and mobility (national and international)
- (h) Household & family characteristics
- (i) Sex and gender
- (j) Housing topics
- (k) Geospatial information and small area statistics for censuses

¹ ECE/CES/2023/16/Add.1, available from https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/CES%202023%2016%20E_Add.1.pdf

² ECE/CES/105, *Report of the seventy-first plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians* para. 45, available from https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/G2318487_E.pdf

- (l) Dissemination of disaggregated census data
- (m) Communication and outreach.

There will also be a presentation on:

- (n) Aim and scope of the Recommendations and aspects not covered by a task force.

3. Lessons learned from censuses of the 2020 round

The large majority of countries in the UNECE region have now completed their censuses of the 2020 round. This session will focus on learning points from the small number of countries whose censuses have taken place since the 2023 expert meeting, or whose census is yet to take place. Contributions will reflect on what went well and which aspects offered opportunities for improvement, and will focus on lessons learned that may have value for other countries or which may help shape future censuses.

4. Innovations in dissemination and communication throughout the census lifecycle

The importance of communicating with all stakeholder groups before, during and after a census is becoming increasingly clear. Good communication is essential to secure public support to participate in a census, or public trust in the use of administrative data. Communication is also needed to tackle misinformation and disinformation, whether deliberate or inadvertent. Dissemination of census data must also go hand-in-hand with careful communication to ensure that data and data products are accessible, relevant and understandable. At the same time, the challenges to effective communication and dissemination are growing. Contributions in this session will describe innovative ways to identify, reach and interact with stakeholders, including respondents, holders of administrative data sources, policymakers and data users. Contributions will also demonstrate innovations in disseminating census data, such as new products, tools and services. The session will cover all aspects of the census lifecycle, describing both experience with recent censuses and plans for future censuses.

5. Transformations in population statistics

At the 2023 expert meeting, several countries shared ambitious plans for shifting from periodic censuses towards permanent integrated systems of population systems, combining multiple administrative and survey data sources. Since last year, other countries have conducted wide-ranging public consultations on the future of their censuses. Contributions in this session will share the findings of such consultations or research aimed at determining the future course of population and migration statistics. Countries which have already embarked on such transformations will also share their experiences, including both successes and challenges.

6. Other business

In this session participants may discuss additional census-related items proposed by the Secretariat or by other participants.
