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Good governance in Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the delivery of public services have become a phenomenon which is spreading across the globe and generating great interest. But why is a concept, barely mentioned a decade ago, now attracting such interest?

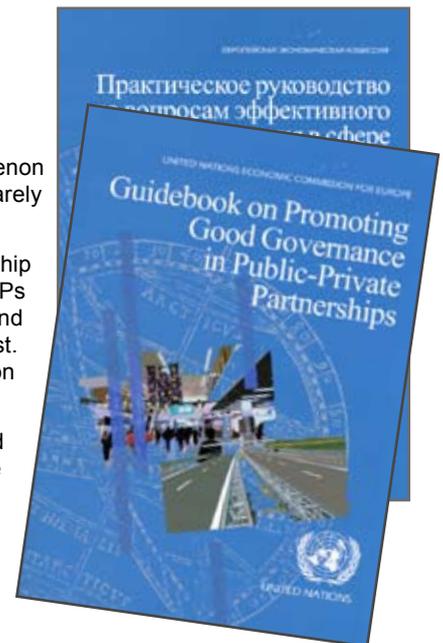
Overall, the answer is that PPPs avoid the often negative effects of either exclusive public ownership and delivery of services, on the one hand, or outright privatization, on the other. In fact, PPPs combine the best of both worlds – the private sector with its resources, management skills and technology, and the public sector with its regulatory actions and protection of the public interest. This balanced approach is especially welcome in the delivery of public services which touch on every human being's basic needs.

There are many good reasons, therefore, why Governments in the UNECE region and around the world favour PPPs and plenty of evidence that they work well. But they do present a severe organizational and institutional challenge for the public sector. They are complex in nature, requiring different types of skills and new enabling institutions, and they lead to changes in the status of public sector jobs. To work well they require well-functioning institutions, transparent, efficient procedures and accountable and competent public and private sectors, i.e. "good governance".

To address the challenge, the UNECE has elaborated this Guidebook for policymakers, government officials and the private sector. It is widely recognized within the United Nations system that there is a need to increase the capacity of Governments at all levels to implement PPPs successfully. The Guidebook is a beginning. ❖

Available in English and Russian

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Generations and Gender Programme – concepts and guidelines

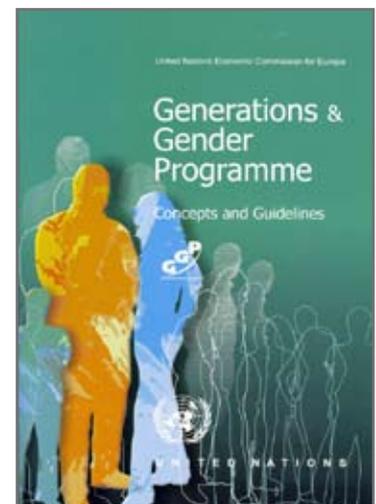
Current demographic developments in the UNECE region have important and far-reaching implications across all spheres of society, affecting economic development, social cohesion, sustainability and equity, and posing key challenges to public policies. It is therefore indispensable to improve the ability to understand and explain the causes and consequences of demographic developments in a manner that would allow the working out of sustainable responses to the policy challenges.

The vital role of research in developing effective policies and programmes on population has been emphasized. The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) is an important source for policy-relevant research on population issues in the UNECE region, comprising a survey covering a broad range of influences on demographic behaviour, a related contextual database of national and regional trends and policies on these issues, and analyses of these data.

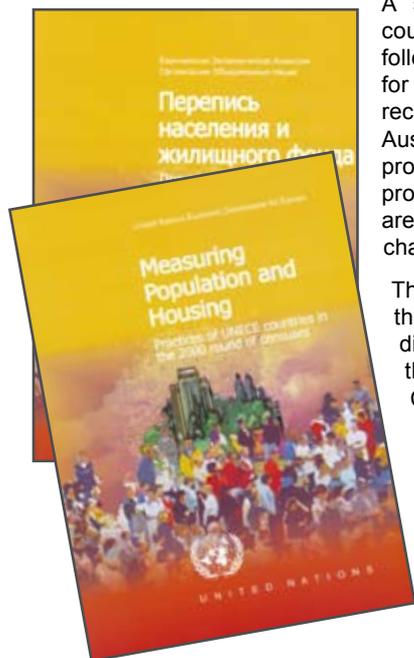
The articles in this volume present the conceptual framework and content of the Generations and Gender Survey and the Contextual Database of the GGP, and provide guidelines for the survey fieldwork and maintaining the panel sample. ❖

Available in English and Russian

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Measuring population and housing



A survey conducted in 2004 among UNECE countries collected information on practices followed in the 2000 census round, and on plans for the 2010 round. Based on the information received from 43 UNECE member countries and Australia, and on examples of the census forms provided by countries, a series of papers was produced to analyse national practices in different areas, such as census methodology or economic characteristics.

These papers were the basis for preparation of this publication, whose aim is to compare the different approaches and practices adopted by the countries taking into account the UNECE Census Recommendations developed for the 2000 census round. This information may be useful when comparing the results in different countries.

The first part of the publication deals with census methodology and technology, including operational and organizational aspects of census taking. The second part reviews the different topics investigated in the census, and the general degree of compliance of the practices followed by countries with the Recommendations for the 2000 Round of Censuses of Population and Housing in the UNECE region ("the Recommendations"). It was not possible to include all aspects of the census and for some chapters (10-12), the information presented is based on the census forms.

It is hoped that the publication will represent a useful tool for planners of future censuses. ❖

Available in English and Russian

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Ratifications ... Accessions ...

(UNECE Multilateral Treaties deposited with the Secretary-General)

Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP), Geneva, 1 September 1970

Accession: Andorra (14 July 2008)

Facts and Figures

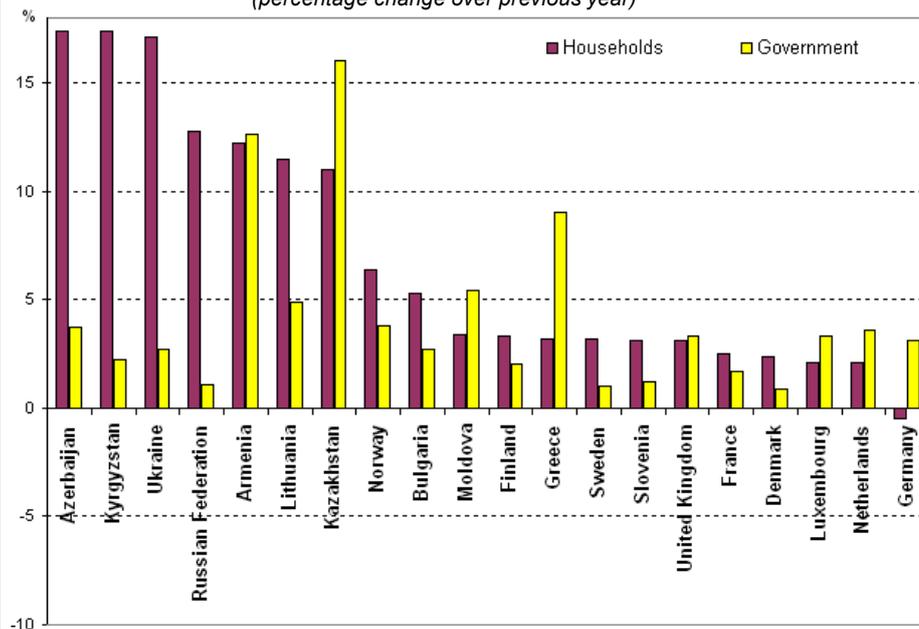
Large differences in consumption growth in UNECE economies

From 2006 to 2007 in most UNECE countries households' final consumption grew more than individual consumption expenditures of general government. The latter, also called social transfers in kind, mainly cover expenditures on health and education, cultural services and social protection, which are incurred by the government but consumed by the individual households.

For the Russian Federation and several countries with economies in transition, for example Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine, the growth in households' consumption by far exceeded that in government individual consumption expenditure – in the Russian Federation by more than ten times. To some extent this development may reflect that more and more services, for example in healthcare and education, tend to be supplied by the private sector, and thus are directly paid for by households.

In some of the selected countries, for example Greece and Kazakhstan, the government has increased its expenditure on individual consumption, to exceed the growth in household spending by more than 5 percentage points in 2007. Moderate and steady growth is reported for

Real individual consumption expenditure in selected UNECE economies, 2007
(percentage change over previous year)



Source: UNECE Statistical Database (<http://www.unece.org/stats/data/>), Eurostat and national statistics.