



United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 333 — 31 August–11 September 2009

## UNECE announces breakthrough in traffic noise reduction

A new test procedure for measuring noise levels in vehicles will make road traffic quieter in the near future.

The Additional Sound Emissions Provisions (ASEP), currently under development by the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) managed by UNECE, will complement regular noise tests and lead to serious strengthening of noise provisions.

*“The ASEP is a completely new way of measuring noise levels and it will provide a more accurate measurement because cars will be regulated in a broader engine speed range. The ultimate goal of ASEP is to prevent tweaking of test results”*, said Christian Theis, representative of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs and Chairman of the Working Party on Noise (GRB), a subsidiary body of the World Forum developing noise regulations. The GRB is expected to adopt ASEP in early 2010.

Growing noise levels in urban areas have been the source of mounting concern in recent years as noise pollution can have serious adverse effects on human health and the environment.

In 1982 the GRB established Regulation No. 51 which set the sound limit levels for passenger cars to 80 decibels. In 1996 this limit was reduced to 74 decibels. A regulation on reducing the rolling sound of tyres was adopted in 2005.

But reducing noise is more than just making silent engines and tyres. It is also about “silent pavements”, or how innovative infrastructure can help improve traffic conditions. New techniques mean road surfaces can help reduce the total sound output by up to 10 decibels.



*How do you reduce traffic noise? The answer lies both with the engine and the road surface. The picture shows testing of so-called “silent pavements”.*

Adding to the complexity of the situation is the advent of electric and hybrid vehicles: they are in fact *really* silent, as the only sound they emit is tyre rolling noise. This represents a risk to those who rely on the sound of a vehicle to warn them of its approach, such as visually impaired pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. The World Forum is also working to address this issue, balancing out new technology with varying needs in society. ■

*For more information contact Romain Hubert ([grb@unece.org](mailto:grb@unece.org)).*

## UNECE to monitor 2011 population census in Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNECE will participate, together with other international organizations, in the International Monitoring Operation (IMO) for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The monitoring operation was launched at a kick-off meeting held in Sarajevo on 31 August.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the few countries in Europe where no population census was taken in the 2000 census round. The 2011 census will provide the country with an accurate socio-economic and demographic picture of the population, which is very much needed considering that the latest census was taken in 1991. However, for the census results to be widely accepted, it is of paramount importance that international statistical standards are fully respected, including in particular the Conference of European Statisticians *Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing* (prepared by UNECE in cooperation with Eurostat) and the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*.

IMO will monitor the compliance of the 2011 census with international statistical requirements, from the preparation of the exercise to the data dissemination.

UNECE will participate in the monitoring exercise, lead by Eurostat, together with the Council of Europe, the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Programme.

The participation of UNECE in this monitoring exercise is part of the activities conducted to provide support and assistance to member countries in the preparations for their next population and housing census. UNECE recently conducted a survey among countries on the current status of their census activities and preparations. Fifty UNECE countries confirmed that they are going to conduct (or have already conducted) a census. The census reference dates reported by the countries are presented in the table. More results from the survey, covering



*Not an official record - For information only*



## 2011 population census (continued)

for instance the census methodology and technology adopted, data processing, dissemination and census costs, will be presented at the joint UNECE-Eurostat Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses, taking place in Geneva on 28-30 October 2009 (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.10.census.htm>).

For more information contact Paolo Valente ([support.stat@unece.org](mailto:support.stat@unece.org)).

| COUNTRY                | CENSUS REFERENCE DATE (PLANNED) |   |                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Albania                | 1 Apr. 2011                     | Kyrgyzstan                                | 24 Mar. 2009    |
| Armenia                | 12 Oct. 2011                    | Latvia                                    | 1 Mar. 2011     |
| Austria                | 31 Oct. 2011                    | Lithuania                                 | 1 Mar. 2011     |
| Azerbaijan             | 13 Apr. 2009                    | Luxembourg                                | 1 Feb. 2011     |
| Belgium                | 1 Jan. 2011                     | Malta                                     | Nov. 2011       |
| Belarus                | 14 Oct. 2009                    | Montenegro                                | 31 Mar. 2011    |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 31 Mar. 2011                    | Netherlands                               | 1 Jan. 2011     |
| Bulgaria               | 10 Mar. 2011                    | Norway                                    | 19 Nov. 2011    |
| Canada                 | 10 May 2011                     | Poland                                    | 31 Mar. 2011    |
| Croatia                | 31 Mar. 2011                    | Portugal                                  | Mar. 2011       |
| Cyprus                 | 1 Oct. 2011                     | Republic of Moldova                       | 1 Apr. 2012     |
| Czech Republic         | 26 Mar. 2011                    | Romania                                   | Mar. 2011       |
| Denmark                | 1 Jan. 2011                     | Russian Federation                        | 14 Oct. 2010    |
| Estonia                | 18 Sep. 2011                    | Serbia                                    | 31 Mar. 2011    |
| Finland                | 31 Dec. 2010                    | Slovakia                                  | 21 May 2011     |
| France                 | 1 Jan. 2010                     | Slovenia                                  | 1 Jan. 2011     |
| Georgia                | 20-21 Jan. 2010                 | Spain                                     | 1 Nov. 2011     |
| Germany                | 9 May 2011                      | Sweden                                    | 31 Dec. 2011    |
| Greece                 | 16 Mar. 2011                    | Switzerland                               | 31 Dec. 2010    |
| Hungary                | 1 Oct. 2011                     | Tajikistan                                | 20-27 Jan. 2000 |
| Iceland                | <i>Not yet decided</i>          | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 31 Mar. 2011    |
| Ireland                | Apr. 2011                       | Turkey                                    | 2011            |
| Israel                 | 27 Dec. 2008                    | Ukraine                                   | 2011            |
| Italy                  | 23 Oct. 2011                    | United Kingdom                            | 27 Mar. 2011    |
| Kazakhstan             | 25 Feb. 2009                    | United States of America                  | 1 Apr 2010      |

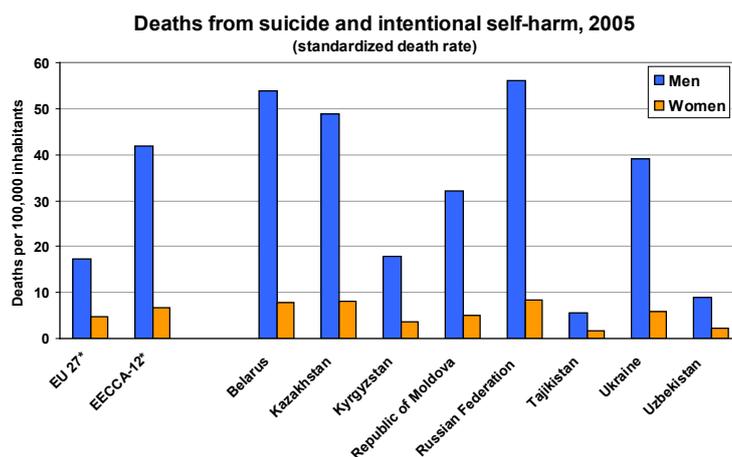
Source: UNECE Survey, 2009

## Facts and Figures

### Gender difference in deaths caused by suicide and intentional self-harm persist

Ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular diseases (e.g. strokes), cancer, and external causes of injury and poisoning are among the leading causes of death in the UNECE region. And for all these main causes of death, the death rates are usually higher for men than for women.

Particularly large gender differences exist in the group of external causes of injury and poisoning, especially in suicide and intentional self-harm. As the chart attests, death from suicide and intentional self-harm occurs on average six times more frequently among men than among women in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), and 3.6 times more frequently in the EU. Overall, for both men and women together, the death rate for this category of causes in the EECCA region has declined by 29% from 31.8 per 100,000 inhabitants in 1995 to 22.7 in 2005, but nevertheless it remained considerably higher than the EU rate of 10.8 per 100,000 inhabitants.



Source: UNECE Statistics Database (<http://www.unece.org/stats/data>), *European Mortality Database (MDB)*, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe.  
\* As reported by WHO. WHO regional estimates use imputed data for missing values. The regional averages are population-weighted.

Note: The UNECE Statistics Database has introduced *health and mortality data* with the inclusion of standardized death rates (SDR) for 25 causes of death by sex, country and year. Causes of death provide information on mortality patterns and form a major element of public health information. Data users can now make a more comprehensive analysis of the health situation across the UNECE region.

Information Service  
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 44 44  
Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 05 05

E-mail: [info.ece@unece.org](mailto:info.ece@unece.org)  
Website: <http://www.unece.org>