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NEW TRANSPORT WEBSITE - A VEHICLE FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The UNECE Transport Division has launched a new website to better manage increasing information flows and cater to a wider audience.

“One of the major challenges we face is to display complex information in a digestible way to many different audiences”, said Eva Molnar, Director of the Division. “We have attempted to solve this by restructuring information and giving the site a visual face-lift, thereby achieving a – hopefully – more intuitive browsing experience.”

While the new site encompasses everything the old site did, it caters to a greater extent than the old one to non-experts and people who are unfamiliar with the Transport Division’s work. One example of this is the “Topics” element on the homepage which links the Division’s activities to over-arching themes in transport, such as transport facilitation and security; global warming; traffic safety; gender and economics, to name but a few. These “themes” give an insight into the multifaceted nature of UNECE’s work and how it relates to people’s every day concerns.

But not everything has changed. Basic structures like those of the working parties, meetings and documents remain the same because they have proven to work well and because delegates and other stakeholders should be able to retrieve the information they need as easily as before. For this reason, a “Quick Links” area has been added to the main menu and all file names have stayed the same so that bookmarks need not be recreated.

Among other new features users will find an expanded “News and Events” section and easier access to resources, all of which will be further developed in the coming months.

Now that the foundations are in place, the next step is to expand on the various features to offer more value-added services to both existing and new users and make the Transport web into a veritable information hub. ■

We invite you to browse the site at your leisure: <http://www.unece.org/trans>. If you would like to let us know your opinion of the new site, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Line Konstad (infotransport@unece.org).

new main menu

easy access to resources

quick links to easily access working parties etc.

transport topics and specialized areas of work



STANDARDS FOR TURKEY MEAT

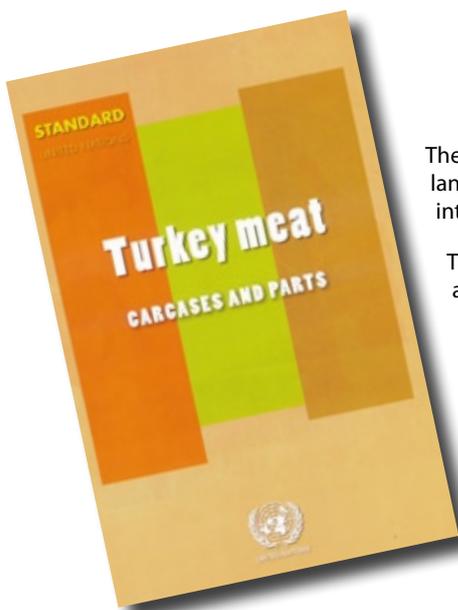
The purpose of UNECE standards for meat products is to facilitate trade by recommending an international language for use between buyer and seller. The language describes meat items commonly traded internationally and defines a coding system for communication and electronic trade.

This standardization of the trading language is the foundation which allows the meat industry to adopt modern data transfer methods and streamline the flow of information and product throughout the supply chain. Meat standards are a complex subject: a large number of product options can be specified by the buyer and the quality of the final product depends to a large extent on the way the meat is cut.

The UNECE standard *“Turkey meat – Carcasses and Parts”* offers for the first time internationally agreed specifications written in a consistent, detailed and accurate manner using anatomical names to identify cutting lines. Comprehensive colour photographs and diagrams are included to facilitate practical application of the standard. It recommends an international language for raw (unprocessed) turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) carcasses and parts (or cuts) marketed as fit for human consumption. Products with added ingredients or “turkey preparations” are not included. It provides purchasers with a variety of options for meat handling, packing and conformity assessment that conform to good commercial practice for meat and meat products, intended to be sold in international trade. UNECE standards for meat undergo a complete review three years after publication, following which new editions are published as necessary. ■

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GENERATIONS AND GENDER SHAPING DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

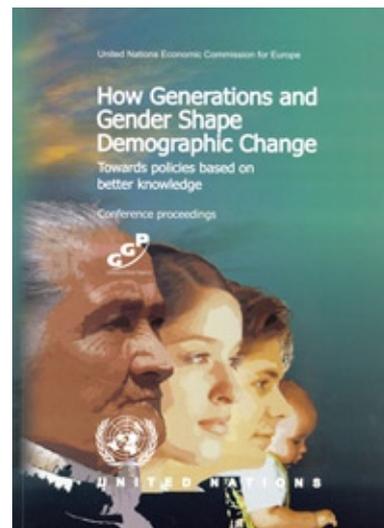
In the UNECE region, population ageing is the dominant demographic trend of this century. However, other pertinent demographic developments — such as decline of fertility to low or very low levels, increasing age at family formation, and changes in family patterns — also challenge many areas of public policy. The policy challenges include the reconciliation of work and family life, the promotion of intergenerational solidarity and collaboration, gender equality and flexibility in life-course transitions between education, work and retirement. In the *Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002)* and the *León Ministerial Declaration "A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities" (2007)* UNECE member States committed to responding to these challenges.

Sustainable policy responses can be achieved if the causes and consequences of the demographic developments are understood and explained. The Generations and Gender Programme was therefore launched in 2000 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.

After the several years needed for conceptual and methodological work and data collection, a Conference on How Generations and Gender Shape Demographic Changes was organized by UNECE in November 2008 to discuss how these results of innovative research can be used in developing policy responses to demographic change.

The Conference involved both policymakers and researchers and covered the key policy areas where analyses of the Programme can make a significant contribution. This volume contains the keynote papers and a summary of contributions to the Conference as well as the background note by the secretariat and the conference report. It aims at disseminating the conference proceedings to a wider audience and thereby inspiring broader debate. ■

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MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WAY FORWARD

Sustainable development is not a new concept, nevertheless there is a heated debate about how it should be measured and which indicators can be used to monitor sustainability in the long term. The question is whether our generation will be able to ensure that the current level of well-being will be maintained in the future given our planet's limited resources and the ever growing population. Therefore, there is an urgent need for authoritative, robust, timely and comparable statistics. The measurement of sustainability is therefore a difficult but nevertheless an imperative task!

The Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Working Group on Statistics on Sustainable Development made a breakthrough in this area by reaching a common understanding on the principles of how to measure sustainability. It also started to develop a small core set of indicators that would be comparable between countries. The outcome of this work is presented in the publication *Measurement Sustainable Development* issued earlier this year (http://www.unece.org/stats/archive/03_03f.e.htm).

The first meeting of a new Task Force on Measuring Sustainable Development took place on 23-24 September. The Task Force will focus on indicators on the "capital approach", which builds on four types of capital: economic, natural, human and social. These represent the resources available to satisfy the needs of both present and future generations.

The work will focus on measuring:

- Human capital - the education and health of population, is an important aspect of sustainability with measurement methods considerably developed in recent years.
- Social capital - measured in terms of social networks, trust in authorities, feeling of safety, cultural and historical richness. This is the least advanced from the four types of capital, so it will be a challenge for the Task Force to define and find ways to measure it.

An important consideration is that the indicators should be useful for policy makers and should allow comparison between countries and across time.



The work of the Task Force links closely to other international initiatives, including the recent report issued by the Stiglitz Commission, the European Commission's initiative "Beyond GDP, and the OECD project on Measuring the Progress of Society". ■

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