

Executive Secretary

Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel

The Executive Secretary met with Avigdor Liberman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, at the Palais des Nations on 14 January 2014. Mr. Liberman was in Geneva to attend the ceremony marking the admission of Israel as the 21st Member State of CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.



The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation and further opportunities to reinforce it. Mr. Liberman stated that Israel is especially pleased to cooperate with UNECE because of the latter's exclusive focus on economic development and that a stable economic foundation is the key to a better future for all.



The Executive Secretary thanked Israel for its active involvement in the work of UNECE over the last two years, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee. He welcomed the involvement of Israel in the Environment and Health Ministerial Board for 2013-14. He recalled Israel's active engagement as party to the Protocol on PRTRs to the Aarhus Convention. He encouraged Israel to ratify the other Multilateral Environmental Agreements hosted by UNECE, in particular the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention.

The Executive Secretary thanked Israel for nominating a very good candidate for the chairmanship of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. UNECE has a long history of collaboration with the Israeli Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) in entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as with experts from the Israel Institute of Technology.

The Executive Secretary also expressed appreciation for the continuous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel to UNECE's work on the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the UNECE region through cooperation with MASHAV.

Other topics discussed included trade, transport and energy, particularly future cooperation in the field of gas, following recent discoveries in Israel. To conclude the meeting, Mr. Liberman invited the Executive Secretary to visit Israel in order to discuss a strengthening of ties between the country and UNECE and named innovation and green economy as two areas of particular interest. □

Environment

The Republic of Moldova joins the UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

On 23 December 2013, the Republic of Moldova became the thirty-third Party to ratify the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Kyiv Protocol) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). This ratification demonstrates the universal relevance of the Protocol also for countries with economies in transition. The decision is very timely, as it comes shortly before the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 2-4 June 2014), where Parties will take decisions on a number of strategic issues, including the Protocol's new strategic plan, its work programme and the global promotion of the Protocol.

The Republic of Moldova has been actively engaged in the activities under the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol and has contributed to the promotion of the principles of these two legal instruments both within and beyond the UNECE region. A few remarkable examples of its commitment include the country's effective participation in the Global Round Table on PRTRs (November 2013), its chairmanship of the Task Force on Access to Information under the Convention, its early ratification of the Convention's amendment on public participation



in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms, and its hosting of the fourth session of the Convention's Meeting of the Parties in 2011. □

For further information on the Aarhus Convention, its amendment on genetically modified organisms or the Kyiv Protocol, please visit <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html> or contact Ella Behlyarova at: ella.behlyarova@unece.org.

Population

Which Gender Equality Matters for fertility?



To answer this question, the researchers Neyer, Lappégard & Vignoli, using Generation and Gender Programme (GGP) data administered by the UNECE, studied how three dimensions of gender equality affect the intentions of women and men to have a child in the near future.

Employment: For both childless women and men, being in full-time employment or having an employed partner is a pre-condition for considering parenthood in the next three years. This, however, changes with the first child. Their own full-time employment is not significant in predicting mothers' inclinations toward having a second child. Women will be more likely to want a second child if their partner is employed whereas for men, there is no change in intentions deducible to their partner's employment status. They are more likely to want a second child if they are employed themselves.

Equity in housework & care: GGP researchers analysed not only men's contribution to household chores and childrearing tasks, but also how satisfied respondents were with the division of labour. For those without children, these factors had no significant impact on their procreational intentions. For mothers, greater equity in the actual division of household work positively influenced their motivation to have another child. Fathers are influenced by their satisfaction with the division of household labours rather than actual equity. With regards to childrearing, greater equity in the division of tasks and the degree to which both mothers and fathers are satisfied with this serve as a positive incentive toward another child.

The results of the study show the differentiated impact of gender inequalities and the need to distinguish their substantive elements in all gender equality and fertility-relevant areas of life.

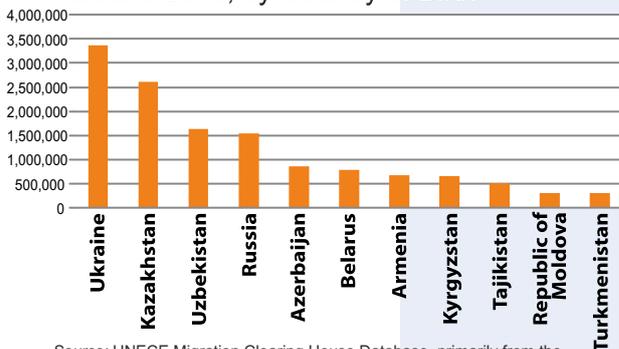
The GGP is a Longitudinal Survey of 18-79 year olds in 19 countries that aims to improve our understanding of the various factors -including public policy and programme interventions - which affect the relationships between parents and children (generations) and between partners (gender). A broad array of topics including fertility, partnership, the transition to adulthood, economic activity, care duties and attitudes are covered by the survey. □

To read the full research note, please visit: http://www.ggp-i.org/images/stories/GGP_RESEARCH_NOTE_issue3.pdf
To find out more about the UNECE Population Unit, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/pau/welcome.html>.

Facts and Figures

Measuring foreign-born populations in CIS countries

Population Living in a CIS Country other than Country of Birth around 2010, by Country of Birth



Source: UNECE Migration Clearing House Database, primarily from the 2010 round of censuses.
Note: Figures do not include foreign-born persons living in Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Emigration remains difficult to measure, as countries keep much better records of those who enter than of those who leave the country. UNECE's Migration Clearing House is a data exchange mechanism which aims to overcome this problem. The chart shows the number of people born in one CIS country, but living in one of a number of other countries in the region¹.

The largest contingent of people living outside their country of birth in the CIS region comes from Ukraine, with almost 3.5 million, while slightly more than 2.5 million people come from Kazakhstan. On the other end of the spectrum, only 300,000 people born in Turkmenistan were living in other CIS countries around 2010.

It is also instructive to consider how the foreign-born population relates to the size of the population of their country of origin: In the case of Armenia, those born in the country but living elsewhere in the CIS-region (670,000) represented more than 20% of the total population living in Armenia in 2011 (about 3 million). Similarly, the number of Kyrgyz people living outside their country of birth is 18% the size of its current resident population, while it is only 7% for Ukrainians, and just 1% for Russians. □

^{1/} CIS countries excluding information for Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan

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