

Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

Project/Activity Report

Regional (EECA) capacity-building workshop on migration statistics

“Towards better evidence on migration and development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

The 2006 High-level Dialogue and the subsequent Global Forums on Migration and Development concluded that international migration could play an important role in national development, provided it was supported by appropriate policies and development strategies. These events have also emphasised the importance of using appropriate statistical data in designing such policies and strategies and in measuring their effectiveness. The recent 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the United Nations General Assembly again highlighted the critical need for better migration data. The United Nations will also be developing the follow-up to its Millennium Development Goals, referred to as its post-2015 UN development agenda. Migration had been identified as a critical element for development, though indicators still need to be developed to measure its developmental impact. The formulation of this new development framework is a major priority of member States and the entire UN system.

At the regional level, the “Almaty Declaration” adopted at the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration (Almaty, 16 March 2011) calls for regional cooperation to “provide a platform for the establishment of cooperative mechanisms to facilitate better data collection and exchange of information on population movements.” According to its statistical work programme (ECE/CES/2013/14), UNECE is developing capacities in migration statistics in its member States. In addition, migration experts from Eastern European and Central Asian (EECA) countries have expressed the need to identify financial resources and institutional mechanisms to continue capacity-building in migration statistics (Report of the UNECE/UNFPA Regional Workshop on Statistics of International Migration, Antalya, Turkey, 26-27 October 2011).

The capacity building workshop on migration statistics was co-organized by UNECE, IOM and EFTA. It was attended by participants from both National Statistical Offices and National Migration Policy Offices, including at least one representative from each EECA country. Representatives from a number of international organizations also participated in the workshop. The main purpose of the workshop was to strengthen statistical capacities for measuring the impact of migration on development. It brought together data producers and policy makers to discuss migration and development data-related issues, from both the perspective of the recent High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and the post-2015 UN development agenda.

There were about 50 participants over the two-day event in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The full agenda was followed and completed successfully, including presentations from experts in the morning sessions, and breakout groups for country presentations, discussion, and development of potential migration-related indicators. Experts served as facilitators during discussion. Countries were introduced to migration and development concepts and methods to measure the impact of migration on individuals, as well as countries of origin and destination. A series of migration-related indicators were produced by country participants. As a result of this workshop, representatives from countries increased their capacity to produce statistics related to migration and development in national statistical offices and other agencies producing migration statistics, as well as increasing their awareness of how to develop migration-related indicators for monitoring the post-2015 UN development agenda

The full agenda, copies of presentations, meeting conclusions, and background documents can be found on the following website: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2013.11.migration.html>

Thematic focus	Venue of the conference/workshop	Date	Total participants/Female participants
Migration Statistics/Migration and Development	Almaty, Kazakhstan	31 Oct-1 Nov 2013	47/21