



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/CES/2009/10 Add.1  
7 April 2009

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Fifty-seventh plenary session  
Geneva, 8-10 June 2009  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**PREPARATION OF THE GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF DATA ON IMMIGRATION  
TO IMPROVE EMIGRATION DATA OF SENDING COUNTRIES**

Note by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe/Eurostat Task Force on  
Measuring Emigration Using Data Collected by the Receiving Country

**I. BACKGROUND AND MANDATE**

1. The proposal to create a task force to look into the use of immigration data from receiving countries to improve emigration data in sending countries, and possibly draft some guidelines, was developed at the March 2005 Joint UNECE-Eurostat Seminar on International Migration statistics.
2. In October 2005, the proposal to create the Task Force on measuring emigration using data collected by the receiving country (hereafter called Task Force) and the Terms of Reference (doc. ECE/CES/BUR/2005/13) were submitted to the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The CES Bureau endorsed the proposal and the Task Force was created (see report of October 2005 meeting of CES Bureau, CES/BUR.2005/21)
3. The work by the Task Force on the preparation of the Guidelines was included in the Statistical Programme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for 2006 (ECE/CES/BUR/2005/3) and in the subsequent statistical programmes for 2007 and 2008.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE GUIDELINES

4. The objectives of the guidelines are:
  - (a) To improve availability and quality of data on international **emigration**, and their comparability across countries. This is done by using data on stocks and flows from **receiving** countries, where emigrants can be more easily counted than in sending countries;
  - (b) To advise countries on how to produce data on their **immigrants** in a way that these data would better meet the statistical needs of immigrants' sending countries.

## III. PROCESS OF THE PREPARATION OF THE GUIDELINES

5. In the first half of 2006, the Task Force organised a **data exchange exercise** among the 19 participating countries, which were divided in four clusters as follows:

- Cluster 1) Albania, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Switzerland (group leader: Switzerland);
- Cluster 2) France, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom (group leader: Portugal);
- Cluster 3) Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom, United States (group leader: Canada);
- Cluster 4) Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia (group leader: Estonia).

6. In each cluster, the countries exchanged data and methodological information on the stock and flows of migrants by country, with a view to providing relevant data from the perspective of countries of origin. The data exchange was conducted using a standard set of tables developed by the Task Force.
7. Based on the results of the data exchange exercise, an analytical report was drafted for each cluster. These reports provided the basis for the preparation of a first draft of the Guidelines, that was discussed at the November 2006 UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics.
8. A second draft of the Guidelines, taking into account the results of the discussion at the November 2006 meeting, was presented at the March 2008 UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics.
9. In October 2008 the draft Guidelines were submitted to the CES Bureau, and in December 2008 an electronic consultation on the Guidelines was organised among the CES Bureau members.
10. In February 2009, the CES Bureau reviewed the Guidelines. The Bureau considered the document a realistic description of the situation and useful for the future work in countries. The Bureau decided that the Guidelines would be sent for consultation to all members of the CES,

and that they would be submitted to the 2009 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians for endorsement.

11. The *Guidelines on the use and dissemination of data on international immigration to facilitate their use to improve emigration data of sending countries* are presented in document ECE/CES/2009/10 for the Conference. The summary of the data exchange exercise is provided in document ECE/CES/2009/11.

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