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**Economic Commission for Europe**

## Conference of European Statisticians

**Sixty-first plenary session**

Geneva, 10-12 June 2013

Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Reports of the CES Bureau and Teams of Specialists, and approval of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2013****Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2012****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

This document provides information on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2012. Part I of the report includes a brief description of the main accomplishments of the Statistical Programme in 2012. It explains the accomplishments making use of the indicators of achievement selected for the Strategic Framework for 2012-2013. Part II lists the outputs prepared during 2012, such as publications, recommendations and guidelines, global assessments, databases and websites. The list of meetings held in June 2012 – June 2013 is provided in the document ECE/CES/2013/18/Add.1. The reports of the meetings are submitted for information as addenda to this note.

A final evaluation of the accomplishments will be provided in the Biennial Evaluation Report 2012-2013 that will be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians in 2014.

The document is presented to the Conference of European Statisticians for approval. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians approved the report at their meeting of February 2013.

## **I. Description of the main accomplishments in 2012**

### **A. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

1. International statistical work was reviewed in depth in three areas to improve inter-agency coordination and eliminate overlaps and gaps in statistical activities in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region. The three review reports addressed statistics related to population ageing; banking, insurance and financial statistics; and poverty statistics. As a result, international work has been started to improve availability of statistics on ageing, and an event will be organized in 2013 to discuss how to improve poverty measurement.

2. By the end of 2012, 23 international organizations had provided information to the UNECE Database on International Statistical Activities (DISA). This includes 4 United City Groups and inter-secretariat working groups, as well as the global Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). The DISA update is in progress and it is expected that all contributing organizations, normally within the range of 30 organizations, will provide information on their activities in the beginning of 2013.

### **B. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical database**

3. Progress was made in the availability of high quality macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in the UNECE statistical database. A new clearinghouse for harmonizing migration data of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia was added.

4. The timeliness, completeness, reliability and comparability of the statistical database were improved. In 2012, in total 156 statistical time series were available in the database. The baseline was exceeded by 6 series due to the new migration clearinghouse.

5. User satisfaction remained high, with an online survey indicating that 85 per cent of users considered the quality of data as excellent or good. In 2012, data downloads increased by 20 per cent compared to 2011. Automated data collection processes developed by ECE increased the timeliness and reliability of data, and a new web interface improved functionalities and visualization of data.

### **C. Methodological work**

6. Two methodological standards: *International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes* and *Analysis of International Migration Estimates using Different Length of Stay Definitions* were endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in June 2012 as a result of work carried out in 2010-2011.

7. In 2012, UNECE coordinated the drafting of, and contributed in substance to eight publications with recommendations for good practices aiming to ensure comparability of statistics (as listed in part II). Most of these publications were prepared jointly and in cooperation with major partners, such as Eurostat, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and others (see publications and manuals in part II).

8. Four draft recommendations and compilations of good practices were prepared for submission to the Conference in 2013, namely on sustainable development, time use surveys, human capital and human resources management and training.

9. In 2012, UNECE also participated in the development of a number of projects undertaken by other international organizations, including the United Nations Statistics Division, OECD and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat).

10. UNECE carried out substantive work in 27 out of 55 statistical areas of the Classification of International Statistical Activities (DISA).

## **D. Capacity building**

11. In 2012, UNECE carried out 14 training workshops and a number of advisory missions to help to develop statistics in the countries with developing statistical systems.

12. The progress in implementing international standards and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics was analysed by Global Assessments of national statistical systems. ECE, jointly with the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the European Free Trade Association, carried out Global Assessments at the request of Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Tajikistan.

13. In total, 95 per cent of experts who took part in UNECE training workshops considered the training to be of high quality and useful for their work. In 2012, ECE provided advisory services in 10 statistical areas to support the countries in achieving better compliance with international standards and good practices.

## **II. Outputs prepared in 2012**

### **A. Publications**

14. Publications will be made available at:

[www.unece.org/statshome/publications-amp-resources/publications.html](http://www.unece.org/statshome/publications-amp-resources/publications.html)

#### **1. Countries in figures 2013, Europe, Central Asia, North America**

15. The publication presents a profile of social and economic indicators for each of the 56 UNECE member countries based on the data available in the UNECE Statistical Database.

#### **2. Making Data Meaningful. Part4: A guide to improving statistical literacy**

16. The publication aims to give guidance on improving statistical literacy which is a term used to describe the ability to understand and comprehend statistics.

#### **3. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Report on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Europe and Central Asia, Chapter IV on the role of metadata in the tracking of progress.**

17. The publication documents the degree to which the eight goals based upon eighteen targets are on track to be fulfilled by 2015 in the Pan-European region.

**B. Manuals, guidelines, recommendations, compilations of best practices****1. A conceptual framework with suggested set of indicators for measuring sustainable development (to be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians 2013 plenary session)**

18. The Report presents a conceptual framework for measuring sustainable development and suggests sustainable development indicators that can be used for international comparison.

**2. Guidelines for harmonizing time use surveys (to be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians 2013 plenary session)**

19. The publication facilitates the exchange of good practice and defines the concepts, methodology and ways of aggregation of time use survey results.

**3. A stock-taking report on measuring human capital (to be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians 2013 plenary session)**

20. Following a CES seminar in June 2011, a small group prepared a stock-taking report providing an overview of what has been done in the field of human capital measurement.

**4. Draft compilation of good practices in Human Resources Management and Training (to be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians 2013 plenary session for information)**

21. The compilation of good practices is based on 20-25 papers selected from the seminars organised on the topic in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

**5. Guide on the Impact of Globalization on National Accounts (approved by the Conference of European Statisticians in 2011, a reprint)**

22. Due to the high demand, a reprint was needed of this Guide that provides guidance on the treatment of globalization in statistics for producers and users of economic statistics.

**C. Global Assessments**

23. Four global assessments were carried out in Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Tajikistan, jointly with Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association.

**D. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical database**

24. The database is available at: <http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/>, providing:

(a) Macroeconomic data (national accounts main aggregates, industrial production, labour force, population, wages, price indices, purchasing power parities, exchange rates, balance of payments, external debt);

(b) Social and demographic data with gender breakdown (population, fertility, families and households, work and the economy, education, public life and decision making, health and mortality, crime and violence, science and ICT, and life balance);

(c) Regional MDG database covering indicators for all 8 Millennium Development Goals for more than 30 countries;

(d) New Clearinghouse for Migration statistics for the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

## E. Websites

25. UNECE Statistical Division's website: [www.unece.org/stats](http://www.unece.org/stats)
26. Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) 2012: [www.unece.org/disa/](http://www.unece.org/disa/)
27. Statistical database website: <http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/>
28. UNECE Data Locator:  
[www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DLoc/Welcome+to+the+UNECE+Data+Locator](http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DLoc/Welcome+to+the+UNECE+Data+Locator)
29. Gender statistics website with multimedia training videos:  
[www.unece.org/stats/gender.html](http://www.unece.org/stats/gender.html)
30. Library of training materials on statistics:  
[www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/TRAINSTATS](http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/TRAINSTATS)
31. Wikis and knowledge bases on different subjects:  
[www1.unece.org/stat/platform/dashboard.action](http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/dashboard.action)
  - (a) High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services;
  - (b) Big Data;
  - (c) 2008 System of National Accounts implementation;
  - (d) Human resources management and training in statistical offices;
  - (e) K-base: Data editing knowledge base;
  - (f) Measuring violence against women;
  - (g) Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) wiki;
  - (h) Population and Housing Censuses several wikis for Task Forces;
  - (i) Price index Processor software;
  - (j) Statistical metadata (METIS), including the Common Metadata Framework and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model;
  - (k) Administrative and Secondary Sources in Statistics (ASSIST);
  - (l) Statistical Literacy;
  - (m) Statistical Network;
  - (n) Several wikis for active Task Forces and one for the CES Bureau.