



---

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Statistical Division**

# **Guidelines for Harmonising Time Use Surveys**

---

Conference of European Statisticians  
61<sup>st</sup> plenary session  
Geneva, 10-12 June 2013

---

---

# Timeline

- ❖ In-depth review Nov 2010 → task force
- ❖ Draft discussed by Bureau in February 2013
- ❖ Revised draft → consultation March-May 2013
- ❖ Results of consultation June 2013
- ❖ *Proposed endorsement: Oct 2013*

---

# Focus Areas of the Guidelines

- ❖ Policy relevance
- ❖ Key statistical outputs
- ❖ Periodicity
- ❖ Light and full-scale diaries
- ❖ Activity classification



---

# Comments

- ❖ 27 countries
- ❖ 4 international organizations
- ❖ 23 explicit statements of support.
- ❖ No opposition

---

# General comments

- ❖ Overall consistency-check and editing
- ❖ Alignment of concepts with the International Conference of Labour Statisticians
- ❖ Clarity in explaining the overall purpose of the guidelines and of some parts
- ❖ Requests for additional recommendations and detail
- ❖ Annex with basic information on recently held time use surveys

---

# Comments on the structure

- ❖ Appreciated, policy relevance in particular
- ❖ Additional policy aspects suggested
- ❖ Varying comments on length (too short/ too long)
- ❖ Explain time diary method at the beginning

---

# Comments on further work

- ❖ Additional proposals
  - Work space for sharing experiences
  - International guidelines on methods for valuing unpaid household service work
- ❖ Support to the proposals in the Guidelines
  - Use of light dairies
  - New data collection methods and online surveys
  - Subjective well-being
  - Activity classification

---

# Task force's response

- ❖ Audio conference on 22 May
- ❖ Agreement on specific actions on implementing many proposals
- ❖ Some proposals beyond the scope
- ❖ More information required on a few selected comments
- ❖ Revised version for Oct 2013 meeting of the Bureau



---

# The Conference is invited to ...

- ❖ Discuss the Guidelines
  - Annex with information on conducted time use surveys?
- ❖ Ask Bureau to review proposals for further work
  - Light dairies
  - New data collection methods and online surveys
  - Subjective well-being in time use surveys
  - Establishment of a shared working space
  - Valuing unpaid household service work