

Summary of the Consultation on 'Defining and Measuring Circular Migration'

Conference of European Statisticians
29 April 2016



Timing of work and prior consultations



- Jun 2012: Further work on circular migration recommended in “Analysis of international migration estimates using different length of stay definitions”
- Feb 2013: Bureau establishes task force
- 2013-2015: Task force working (chair: Mexico)
- Feb 2016: Bureau reviews result, requests consultation
- Feb-Mar 2016: CES electronic consultation
- Apr 2016: Guide and consultation results presented to CES

Overview of the Report



- Objective: to prepare a proposal for a common international statistical definition of circular migration
- Chapter 2: existing concepts definitions
- Chapter 3: five dimensions of circular migration
 - repetition of move (frequency)
 - directionality,
 - duration
 - purpose or reason for move
 - developmental impact
- Chapter 4: key issues for a statistical definition of circular migration
- Chapter 5: practical application, examples from Italy and Sweden

Definitions

- Main definition:
 - A circular migrant is a person who has crossed the national borders of the reporting country at least 3 times over the past 10 years, each time with duration of stay (abroad or in the country) of at least 12 months
- Tied to the international definition of migration
- Allows estimating the share of circular migrants in the total number of international migrants
- Extensions allowing for short-term migration. “Mixed-term migrants”.

CES Consultation 2016: Main Comments



- 43 responses – high response rate
- 41 ready to endorse
- Issues:
 - limitation to long-term migration (at least 12 months of stay)
 - reference period of 10 years for circularity of moves
 - practical difficulty of implementing the definition
- Suggestion: to discuss further at the UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics (Geneva, 18-20 May 2016)
- Need for further work on practical testing of the definitions



The Conference is invited to

- express its **views** on the report;
- ask the Task Force to review in detail the comments and suggestions made, and reflect them in a **revised version** of the report;
- ask the Task Force **to discuss** the definition of circular migration at the forthcoming UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics on 18-20 May 2016, including the need for developing practical guidance;
- agree that the revised report will be submitted to the 2016 October CES **Bureau meeting for final approval.**