

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Second Meeting of the 2007/2008 Bureau
Helsinki (Finland), 18-19 October 2007

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Bureau meeting will be hosted by Statistics Finland and will take place at the premises of Statistics Finland (Tilastokeskus) at Työpajankatu 13, FI-00580 Helsinki. The meeting room is located on the 10th floor.

The meeting will start at 9:30 on Thursday, 18 October. It is anticipated that the meeting will end at around 12:30 on Friday, 19 October.

- 1. Opening by Heli Jeskanen-Sundström**
- 2. In-depth review of selected statistical areas**

The CES Bureau reviews each year in-depth selected statistical areas. At its October 2006 meeting, the Bureau decided to look at strategic issues in statistics in the next five years or so, rather than reviewing the current issues and problems. The review should deal with issues of concern to statistical offices of conceptual and coordinating nature.

- a) **Statistics on Income, living conditions and poverty (Statistical areas 1.5 and 3.3.1)**
(ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/2 and Add.1-.. by OECD, World Bank and ...)

The Bureau selected this area for in-depth review in October 2007:

- b) **Gender and special population groups (Statistical Area 3.3.2)**
(ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/3 by Italy)

The Bureau selected this area for in-depth review in October 2007:

- c) **Business statistics**

The Bureau made an in-depth review of business statistics in February 2007. The Bureau noted that several groups dealing with business statistics exist at present (including the UNSC Friends of the Chair group on the integrated approach to economic statistics, Roundtable on Business Survey Frames) and that it is too early to take major decisions for work in the area before the work of the Friends of the Chair group has provided some outcome. However, the Bureau decided to set up meanwhile a small task force to address pending issues in the field of business statistics. It is proposed that the TOR for the TF will be submitted to the Bureau for approval in February 2008.

The Bureau is invited to discuss briefly the follow-up on business statistics.

3. Progress of work

Under this agenda item, the CES Bureau reviews periodically the progress of work of the Teams of Specialists set up under the umbrella of the CES. According to the UNECE Guidelines, the work of the Teams of Specialists should be reviewed every 2-3 years. The Bureau is asked to review the teams of specialists that have not presented their work progress during the last two to three years.

a) Statistical dissemination and communication (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/4 by UNECE)

The Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication was set up in October 2004. The progress report and plans for future work will be presented to the Bureau for review and comments.

b) Gender statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/5 by UNECE)

The Steering Group on Gender Statistics was set up in February 2005. One of its aims is to coordinate the work of the Task Forces on gender statistics. Currently there are two Task Forces active in this area: TF on Gender Sensitization Training for Statisticians and TF on Violence Against Women. The progress of work and the future plans of the SG and the TFs will be presented to the Bureau for review and comments.

c) Victim surveys (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/6 by UNECE)

The TF on Victim Surveys was set up in February 2005. The progress of work and plans for future will be presented to the Bureau for information and comments.

4. UNECE statistical programme for 2008 (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/7 by UNECE)

The UNECE Statistical Programme (SP) includes all statistical activities that are undertaken by the UNECE. It has been compiled since 2004. The draft programme for 2008 will be presented. It is proposed that the discussion focus on activities that are new or considerably changed compared to the SP 2007. The various Steering Groups and Task Forces that are related to the new or changed activities are also reviewed under this agenda item.

Please note that the SP is linked to the UN biennial budget exercise and the biennial evaluations for 2008-2009. Therefore, the SP for 2008 also includes the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement that will be used within the UN programme evaluation framework. This is done for the first time in order to facilitate the reporting of the secretariat.

a) Monitoring the implementation of and contributing to development of principles for official statistics

The activity has been changed to reflect recent work.

b) Consumer price indices (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/8 by UNECE)

The Bureau discussed a draft terms of reference (TOR) for a possible team of specialists on price statistics in October 2006 and February 2007. The revised TOR for the Organising Committee on Consumer Price Indices (CPI) that reflect the discussions at the Bureau meetings were circulated to the Bureau for comments in July this year.

Following the electronic consultation, a slightly revised TOR for the Organising Committee on CPI will be presented to the Bureau for approval.

c) Statistical metadata (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/9 by UNECE)

This is an activity that has been changed to reflect the Bureau decision in February 2007. The Bureau decided to establish a Steering Group on Statistical Metadata (a) to fulfil the editorial tasks of the Common Metadata Framework, and (b) to promote the implementation of metainformation systems by developing advocacy and implementation strategies.

The TOR for the Steering Group on Statistical Metadata will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

d) Impact of globalisation on National Accounts

This is a new activity in the SP. A Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on the impact of globalisation on National Accounts has been created to study how national statistical offices can cope more effectively with the distortions to the traditional statistical measures that are occurring as a result of globalisation. The first meeting of the leadership group that will steer the work of the Joint Working Group will take place in the beginning of October. The Bureau will be informed about the progress of work and plans for the future.

e) Measurement of volunteer work

This is an activity that is presented separately in the SP for the first time. A TF on measurement of volunteer work has been set up in October 2006.

f) Demographic projections and population statistics

This is an activity that the Bureau decided to continue. The UNECE Work Session on demographic projections will take place on 10-12 October in Bucharest, Romania. The UNECE work in this area in 2008 will depend on the outcome of the meeting.

5. UNECE Strategic Framework 2010-2011 (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/10 by UNECE)

Within the UN programme planning cycle, the strategic framework for the next biennium is prepared 3 years in advance. The first draft of the subprogramme on statistics of the UNECE strategic framework for the 2010-2011 biennium will be presented to the Bureau for comments.

6. Plans for the forum on Human Resources Management and Training to be organised in 2008 (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/11 by the Czech Republic and Canada)

As a follow-up to the seminar on Human Resources and Training in June 2006, the Conference decided that there is a need to continue the exchange of experience in this area.

In February 2007, the Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for an Organising Committee to prepare a forum on Human Resources and Training in 2008. The plans for the forum on Human Resources and training will be presented to the Bureau for comments.

7. Preparations for the CES Seminars in 2008

- a) **Outline for the first seminar: “Measuring population movement and integration in a globalized world”** (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/12 by Germany (*to be confirmed*) and Eurostat)

The CES 2007 plenary session selected this topic for the first seminar at the CES plenary session in 2008. A draft outline of the seminar will be presented to the Bureau for comments.

- b) **Outline for the second seminar: “Strategic issues linked to the measurement of international transactions”** (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/13 by IMF and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

The CES 2007 plenary session selected this topic for the second seminar at the CES plenary session in 2008. The organiser of the seminar is the IMF, together with the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The draft outline of the seminar will be presented to the Bureau for comments.

- c) **Preparation of the formal session of the CES, draft agenda** (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/14 by UNECE)

The Bureau is invited to comment on the organization of the CES plenary session in 2008.

8. Presentation of the statistical activities of OECD

The 50th CES plenary session in 2002 recommended that, periodically, some time should be devoted to discussing the work of international organizations and their strategies. In previous years, the IMF, World Bank, Eurostat and UNSD presented their statistical activities to the Bureau.

The OECD will present its statistical activities at the October 2007 meeting.

9. Agenda for the Statistical Commission session in March 2008

As agreed in October 2006, the UNSD will inform the Bureau at its October meetings about the provisional agenda of the United Nations Statistical Commission to avoid eventual duplication with the topics for in-depth discussion at the Commission and at the CES Bureau.

10. Evaluation of the 55th CES plenary session (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/15 by UNECE)

The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2007 CES plenary session will be presented for information.

11. Follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/16 by UNECE)

A note on follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference will be presented for information.

12. Dates and venue of the next CES and Bureau meetings

The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venues of the next meetings. In June 2007, the Bureau tentatively agreed that the 2008 February meeting will take place on 12-13 February in Geneva.

13. Other business

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