

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Second Meeting of the 2013/2014 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 21-22 October 2013

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will start at 9:30 on Monday, 21 October and is planned to finish at about 16:00 on Tuesday, 22 October 2013. The meeting will take place in Room X at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

The traditional subscription dinner will be organised on Monday, 21 October 2013.

The meeting will be held in English only. The documents for the meeting will be distributed by e-mail as soon as they become available. The documents will also be uploaded on the following website: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/bureau/CES+Bureau (username: ces; password: bureau8).

The meeting of the 'enlarged Bureau' of the OECD Statistics Committee (CSTAT) will take place following the CES Bureau meeting on Wednesday, 23 October from 9:30 to 11:30.

I. OPENING BY WAYNE SMITH

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews selected statistical areas in depth. The aim of the review is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues. These reviews are one of the key tools for the CES Bureau to coordinate statistical activities. They often lead to initiating new work in topical areas and preparing tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations. More detail about the outcomes of recent in-depth reviews will be provided under agenda item II (c).

(a) Big data – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/2 by UNECE with input from a Task Team on Big Data)

2. The discussion will be based on a paper by UNECE with input from a Task Team on Big Data. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(b) Entrepreneurship – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/3 by OECD and Eurostat)

3. The discussion will be based on a paper by OECD and Eurostat. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(c) Review of the outcomes of in-depth reviews – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/4 by UNECE)

4. In February 2013, the CES Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare a paper summarising the outcomes of in-depth reviews carried out during the previous years. The Bureau is invited to review the procedure and format for conducting in-depth reviews, and analyse their outcome and impact.

III. MEETING WITH THE TOP MANAGEMENT OF THE UNECE

5. Traditionally, the Bureau meets with the Executive Secretary and/or the representatives of the Bureau of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) when the meeting is held in Geneva. Mr. Sven Alkalaj, the UNECE Executive Secretary, will meet with the Bureau.

IV. UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME FOR 2014 – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/5 by UNECE)

6. The draft programme of work for the UNECE Statistical Division in 2014 will be presented to the Bureau for discussion and approval. The discussion will focus on the new or substantially changed activities of the work programme.

7. The work of the various Steering Groups and Task Forces set up by the CES Bureau is also reviewed under this agenda item. The groups are created for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, output, timeframe (2-3 years) and a sunset clause. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices in statistics and training materials available on the web. The terms of reference of currently active Steering Groups and Task Forces are available at www.unece.org/stats/ToS.html

(a) Ageing-related statistics – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/6 by the Task Force on ageing related statistics)

8. The Bureau set up the Task Force on ageing-related statistics in February 2013, and asked the Task Force to submit a work plan to the 2013 October Bureau meeting.

9. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the work plan.

(b) Population and housing censuses – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/7 by the Steering Group on population and housing censuses)

10. The Bureau set up the Steering Group and nine Task Forces on population and housing censuses in November 2012, following the decision of the CES 2012 seminar on this topic. The aim of the work is to develop *the CES recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses* planned to be submitted to the CES plenary session for adoption in June 2015. The Bureau asked the Steering Group to report on progress of work in October 2013.

11. The Bureau is invited to review the progress and provide advice on further work.

(c) Crime classification – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/8 by the Task Force on crime classification)

12. The Bureau set up the UNECE-UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Task Force on crime classification in October 2009 to develop a set of principles on international crime classification systems for statistical use, and a case study of selected offences. The Conference endorsed the *Principles and framework for an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes* in June 2012. The Bureau extended the mandate of the Task Force to develop a full international classification of crimes for statistical purposes, building on the principles and framework presented in the report endorsed by the Conference.

13. In February 2013 the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) decided to develop an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes at the global level by 2015, continuing and expanding the work done by the UNECE-UNODC Task Force on crime classification.

14. The Bureau is invited to discuss the final outcome of work of the Task Force on crime classification, and to decide whether any further work is needed.

(d) Health statistics – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/9 by the Steering Group on health statistics)

15. The Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Steering Group and Task Force on Measuring Health Status have been working on an international standard set of questions for assessing general health status in the context of population surveys. The Task Force (also known as the Budapest Initiative) developed the standard set of questions based on the results of field testing carried out in cooperation with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. The Bureau endorsed the final report of the Task Force in November 2011¹.

16. After the closing of the Task Force in 2011, the Steering Group continued to provide a focal point to countries for sharing experiences on measuring health status and disseminating the results of the work of the Task Force, in compliance with the decision by the CES Bureau in October 2009.

17. The Bureau is invited to discuss the outcome of work of the Steering Group, and to decide whether any further work is needed.

(e) Global production – for discussion and recommendations

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/10 by the Task Force on global production)

18. The Bureau established the Task Force on Global Production in November 2011 to prepare a Guide to provide recommendations on the treatment of global production arrangements in national accounts. The Bureau will be informed about the outcome of the meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts, which discussed the draft chapters of the Guide in April 2013. The Bureau will also be informed about the decisions of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts on some conceptual clarifications of the 2008 SNA, which were proposed by the Task Force.

¹ ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/7/Add.1 available at http://www.unece.org/publication/survey_module_measuring_health_state.html.

19. The Bureau is invited to take account of the progress and advise on further work.

(f) Business registers – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/11 by the Task Force on business registers)

20. The Bureau set up the Task Force on business registers in November 2011 to produce international guidelines and recommendations of good practices on statistical business registers. A final report was planned to be submitted to the CES plenary session in 2014. In February 2013, the Bureau discussed a possible delay with the report and asked the Task Force to review the work plan to reserve sufficient time for drafting the final report.

21. The Bureau is invited to review the progress of work and extend the Terms of Reference of the Task Force on business registers to allow for finalisation of the work.

(g) Modernization of statistical production and services – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/12 by the HLG)

22. In 2011, the Conference endorsed the vision of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services (HLG), and in 2012 the strategy for implementing this vision. In November 2012, the CES Bureau approved the new Terms of Reference for the HLG.

23. In June 2013, the Conference approved the new governance structure for the activities and groups overseen by the HLG. As a consequence, the currently existing Teams of Specialists under the HLG need to be organised in line with the approved governance structure.

24. Furthermore, in June 2013 the Conference identified priorities for international collaboration in the area of modernisation of statistical production and services, and asked the secretariat to explore the forms and mechanisms through which countries could provide support to the work of the HLG.

25. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the Terms of Reference for the Executive Board and four Modernisation Committees to work under the HLG.

(h) Human resources management and training – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/13 by the Steering Group on human resources management and training)

26. The Bureau set up the Steering Group on human resources management and training in February 2013, and asked the Steering Group to develop a work plan.

27. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the work plan of the Steering Group on human resources management and training.

(i) Measuring quality of employment – for discussion and recommendations

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/14 by the Expert Group on measuring quality of employment)

28. In 2010, the CES endorsed *Potential indicators for measurement of quality of employment*. Following the recommendation of the CES, an Expert Group was set up in

February 2012 to develop operational definitions and guidelines for calculating the indicators identified in the report, and to explore the data sources for measuring quality of employment.

29. The Bureau asked the Expert Group to prepare an interim report for the autumn 2013 meeting of the Bureau. The interim report should cover the first four of the seven dimensions of quality of employment, namely: safety and ethics of employment; income and benefits from employment; working hours and balancing work and non-working life; and security of employment and social protection.

30. The Bureau is invited to review the progress of work in the area of measuring quality of employment, and provide advice on further work.

(j) Environmental indicators – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/15 by UNECE)

31. The UNECE Intersectoral Task Force on environmental indicators was set up in February 2009 to improve environmental statistics and strengthen environmental reporting in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), and South-Eastern Europe. The Task Force is a joint effort with the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy. In February 2013, the Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for the continuation of the work.

32. An important part of the work of the Task Force is the review and updating of the *Guidelines for the application of Environmental Indicators in EECCA countries*, developed in 2007. The updated Guidelines are planned to be published by end 2013/beginning 2014.

33. The Bureau is invited to review the progress of work, and comment on the updated *Guidelines for the application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*.

(k) Other issues

34. Under this agenda item the secretariat may bring to the attention of the Bureau any other issues related to the Statistical Programme.

V. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016-2017 – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/16 by UNECE)

35. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the UNECE Statistics subprogramme's Strategic Framework for 2016-2017. This document relates to the United Nations programme planning and evaluation cycle.

VI. GUIDELINES FOR HARMONIZING TIME-USE SURVEYS – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/17 by the Task Force on time-use surveys)

36. The Bureau set up the Task Force on time-use surveys in November 2010 as the outcome of an in-depth review on this topic. The aim of the work was to prepare guidelines and compile best practices in time-use-surveys to respond to the increasing demand for more comparable time use data.

37. The draft Guidelines were consulted with all CES members in April-May 2013, and submitted to the June 2013 CES plenary session. The Conference requested the Task Force to reflect the comments from the electronic consultation and from the CES plenary session in the Guidelines, and present them for endorsement to the October 2013 meeting of the CES Bureau.

38. The Bureau is invited to review and endorse the *Guidelines for harmonizing time use surveys*, and discuss possible further work on this topic based on the proposal of the Task Force and comments of countries through the electronic consultation.

VII. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CES 2013 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Seminar on challenges in implementing SEEA and measuring sustainable development in follow-up to Rio+20 – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/18 by UNECE)

39. Several proposals for follow-up work related to measuring sustainable development were made during the CES seminar and the adoption of the *CES Recommendations on measuring sustainable development*. Furthermore, the secretariat organised a high-level seminar on measuring sustainable development and implementation of SEEA for the EECCA countries on 12-13 June 2013, immediately after the Conference. The workshop resulted in several suggestions for follow-up work involving countries from the EECCA region.

40. The Bureau is invited to discuss how to implement the follow-up actions suggested by the Conference.

(b) Seminar on challenges in providing access to micro-data for research – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/19 by UNECE)

41. The seminar resulted in several concrete recommendations for international work to improve access to microdata. The Bureau is invited to discuss how to implement the follow-up actions suggested by the Conference.

VIII. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CES 2014 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Evaluation of the 61st CES plenary session – for information

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/20 by UNECE)

42. The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2013 CES plenary session will be presented for information.

(b) Organization of the CES seminars – for discussion and recommendations

(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/21 by UNECE)

43. The CES Bureau revised the *Recommendations for organising the CES seminars* in 2008. In February 2013, the Bureau discussed several suggestions concerning the organization of the CES seminars, and decided that a more detailed discussion will be held at the October 2013 meeting.

44. The Bureau is invited to review and discuss the recommendations regarding the organization of CES seminars based on the proposal by the secretariat and the experience from recent CES plenary sessions.

(c) Organization of the CES 2014 seminar “What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?” – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/22 by United Kingdom)

45. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers. The outline takes into account the feedback received through an electronic consultation of all CES members, carried out after the 2013 Conference.

(d) Organization of the CES 2014 seminar “Migration statistics” – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/23 by Mexico and UNECE)

46. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers. The outline takes into account the feedback received through electronic consultations of all CES members, carried out after the 2013 Conference.

(e) Report on indicators of gender equality planned to be submitted to the CES 2014 plenary session – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/24 by the Task Force on indicators of gender equality)

47. The CES Bureau set up the Task Force on indicators of gender equality in November 2010. The Task Force has prepared a draft report with the purpose of improving the monitoring of gender equality in the UNECE region. The report consolidates and systematises the existing gender-relevant statistical indicators and proposes methods of sustainable data collection on selected indicators.

48. The Bureau is invited to comment on the draft document and to decide whether it can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2014 plenary session for endorsement.

(f) Preparation of the formal session, draft agenda and timetable for the 2014 plenary session – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/25 by UNECE)

49. The Bureau is invited to discuss and comment on the organization of the CES plenary session in 2014.

IX. PRESENTATION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION’S ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STATISTICS – for discussion and recommendations

50. The Bureau regularly discusses the work and strategies of international organizations in statistics. In previous years, IMF, World Bank, Eurostat, UNSD, OECD, CIS-STAT, ILO, WTO, WMO, European Central Bank and UNEP have presented their statistical activities to the Bureau.

51. Mr. Ties Boerma, Director of the Department of Health Statistics and Information Systems, World Health Organization (WHO), will present the statistical activities undertaken by the WHO.

X. DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT CES BUREAU MEETINGS

52. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings. At its February 2013 meeting, the Bureau decided that its next meetings will take place on 28-29 January 2014 and on 21-22 October 2014, venue to be decided.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

53. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item. Furthermore, the Bureau is expected to decide on the papers that will be made available on Internet before the meeting adjourns.

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