

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2014/2015 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-18 February 2015

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will start at 9:30 on Tuesday, 17 February and is planned to finish around 16:00 on Wednesday, 18 February 2015. The meeting will take place in Room S4 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

The traditional subscription dinner will be organised on Tuesday, 17 February 2015.

The meeting will be held in English only.

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 reviews is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues to coordinate statistical activities in the region. The reviews often lead to new work in topical areas and tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations.

(a) **Process-oriented approach to statistical production** – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/2 by Turkey)

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

(b) **Labour movements and globalisation** – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/3 by Austria)

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

(c) **Follow-up to the in-depth review on demographic projections (terms of reference)** – *for decision* (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/4 by UNECE)

4. In October 2014, the Bureau conducted an in-depth review on demographic projections and decided to set up a Task Force on Population Projections. The Secretariat prepared the draft terms of reference in consultation with Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and Eurostat who expressed interest in participating in the Task Force. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for the Task Force.

(d) Follow-up to the in-depth review on measuring extreme events and disasters (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/5 by Mexico, Eurostat, OECD, UNECE and UNISDR)

5. In October 2014, the Bureau conducted an in-depth review of measuring extreme events and disasters, and asked the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with Mexico, Eurostat, OECD and UNISDR, terms of reference for a Task Force on statistics on extreme events and disasters, and to explore countries' interest in participating in the work. The Bureau will be invited to review the proposal for further work.

(e) Follow-up to the in-depth review on social protection – for decision

6. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of measuring social protection in January 2014 and discussed possible follow-up in October 2014. The Bureau decided to invite a representative of the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) to present their activities on improving the harmonization and comparability of social protection statistics. The Bureau will be invited to decide on possible further work in this area.

(f) Selection of topics for in-depth reviews in 2015-2016 – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/6 by UNECE)

7. The Bureau will be invited to select the topics to be reviewed in-depth in 2015-2016 based on a proposal prepared by the Secretariat. Furthermore, the Bureau will be invited to select one of these topics for discussion at the CES 2015 plenary session to obtain input from all CES members for the review.

III. UNECE STATISTICAL WORK AND CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

(a) National accounts (extension of terms of reference) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/7 by the Steering Group)

8. The Bureau created the Steering Group on National Accounts in 2009 to respond to the request of the United Nations Statistical Commission for Regional Commissions to coordinate the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts with the support of a relevant Steering Group. The group has a mandate until February 2015. Over the past two years the Steering Group has played an important role in coordinating CES activities on national accounts and globalisation. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the updated terms of reference.

(b) Gender statistics (extension of terms of reference) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/8 by the Steering Group)

9. The Steering Group on Gender Statistics was created by the Bureau in 2005. Its current mandate is valid until end 2014. Over the past years, the Steering Group has played a key role in coordinating the work of a number of CES Task Forces related to gender statistics, providing advice for capacity building activities and planning UNECE meetings and workshops. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the updated terms of reference.

(c) Human resources management and training (final report) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/9 by Steering Group)

10. The Bureau set up the Steering Group on Human Resources Management and Training in February 2013 to provide guidance on improving human resources management and training in statistical offices and support the modernisation of statistical production and services. The Steering Group was also asked to share good practices and explore emerging issues in the area. The Bureau will be invited to review the final report of the Steering Group.

(d) Classification of International Statistical Activities (proposal for updating)
– for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/10 by UNECE)

11. In October 2014, the Bureau discussed maintenance of the Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) and the need for updating the Classification of International Statistical Activities. The Bureau noted that the classification needs to be updated to include new, emerging areas of international statistical work, such as climate change related statistics, geo-spatial data, etc. The Bureau will be invited to consider the proposal by the Secretariat for the procedure of updating the classification.

(e) Modernisation of statistical production and services (progress report and future plans) – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/11 by HLG)

12. The High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services will present a report on modernisation activities in 2014 and the plans for 2015. The Bureau will be invited to review the progress of work during the last year and provide advice on work in 2015.

(f) Success criteria for task forces and steering groups – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/12 by UNECE)

13. In October 2014, the Bureau discussed the issue of how to evaluate the impact of CES work, and in particular how the various CES recommendations and guidelines have been implemented by the CES member countries. The Bureau noted that terms of reference for future task forces and steering groups should include success criteria. The Bureau will be invited to review the proposal for success criteria to be included in terms of reference for future CES teams of specialists.

IV. DATA REVOLUTION – for discussion and recommendations

14. The Bureau discussed the work of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG) in October 2014. The report entitled *A World That Counts: Mobilising a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development* was released in November 2014 (www.undatarevolution.org). The Bureau will be invited to discuss the implications of the report for the CES work.

V. PREPARATION OF THE CES 2015 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Organisation of the CES 2015 seminar on the response of official statistics to Sustainable Development Goals – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/13 by Switzerland, France and Sweden)

15. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the CES 2015 seminars. The seminar will take place on Monday, 15 June 2015. The Bureau will be invited to provide advice on the organisation of the seminar based on the updated outline prepared by the seminar and session organisers.

(b) Organisation of the CES 2015 seminar on modernisation of statistical production and services and managing for efficiency – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/14 by Ireland and Italy)

16. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the CES 2015 seminars. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, 16 June 2015. The Bureau will be invited to provide advice on the organisation of the seminar based on the updated outline prepared by the seminar and session organisers.

(c) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2015 plenary session – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/15 by UNECE)

17. The Bureau will be invited to discuss and approve the provisional agenda of the CES 2015 plenary session that has been updated to reflect the discussions at the October 2014 Bureau meeting.

(d) Measuring Global production (to be submitted to CES 2015) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/16 by the Task Force)

18. The Bureau set up the Task Force on Global Production in November 2011. This Task Force was created to follow up on the work on the impact of globalisation on national accounts. The guide on *The Impact of Globalization on National Accounts* was endorsed by the Conference in 2011. The new Task Force has prepared a *Guide to Measuring Global Production* to develop practical guidance on the unresolved issues in relation to global production arrangements. In April 2014, the draft Guide was presented to the Conference. An electronic consultation was carried out prior to the CES plenary session. All responding countries and organizations considered the draft Guide useful and many provided additional case studies.

19. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the Guide and decide whether it can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2015 plenary session for endorsement.

(e) International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers (to be submitted to CES 2015) – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/17 by the Task Force)

20. The Bureau set up the Task Force on International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers in November 2011 to produce a set of guidelines to help countries in developing and maintaining business registers, and to compile recommendations of good practices.

21. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft Guidelines and decide whether they can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2015 plenary session for endorsement.

(f) Recommendations for 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (to be submitted to CES 2015) – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/18 by the Steering Group and Task Forces)

22. The Bureau set up a Steering Group and nine Task Forces on Population and Housing Censuses in November 2012 to prepare the draft *CES Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses*.

23. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft Recommendations and decide whether they can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2015 plenary session for endorsement.

(g) Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrants (to be submitted to CES 2015 and terms of reference for further work on migration) – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/19 by the Task Force)

24. The Bureau set up the Task Force on socio-economic conditions of migrants in November 2010. The Task Force has prepared a draft report on how to provide statistical information to better understand the socio-economic conditions of migrants and the impact of international migration on sending and receiving countries.

25. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft document and decide whether it can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2015 plenary session for endorsement.

26. Furthermore, in September 2014, the Steering Group on Migration Statistics proposed future methodological work on the integration of multiple data sources to improve the measurement of migration. This topic was supported by the countries' experts at the October 2014 Work Session on Migration Statistics. The Work Session recommended setting up a new Task Force to deal with this issue. 12 countries and international organizations expressed interest in participating. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve terms of reference for the Task Force.

VI. FOLLOW-UP TO CES 2014 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Follow-up to the CES seminar on “What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?” – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/20 by the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico and UNECE)

27. In April 2014, the Conference agreed on a number of actions as a result of this seminar. In October 2014, the Bureau discussed how to follow up on these recommended actions and asked the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico and UNECE to prepare a road-map on further work on estimating and communicating the value and costs of official statistics. The Bureau will be invited to review the proposal and decide on the next steps.

VII. UNECE PROGRAMME OF WORK DOCUMENTS – *for decision*

28. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the official documents of the Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations secretariat’s biennial planning and reporting cycle. The following documents are submitted to the CES Bureau for approval:

- (a) Implementation of the Statistical Programme 2014 (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/21);
- (b) Programme of Work for 2016-2017 (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/22).

VIII. PRESENTATION OF THE STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION – *for discussion and recommendations*

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

30. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) will be invited to present their activities related to statistics.

IX. DATES AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS

31. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings, including setting tentative dates for the CES plenary session in 2017.

32. At its October 2014 meeting the Bureau decided that its next meetings will take place on 20-21 October 2015, week of 8 February 2016, and on 18-19 October 2016. The 63rd CES plenary session will take place 15-17 June 2015 in Geneva, followed by the meeting of the OECD Statistics Committee. The 64th CES plenary session is tentatively scheduled to be held on 27-29 April 2016 in Paris, back-to-back with the OECD Statistics Committee meeting.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

33. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item.

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