



United Nations Population Fund



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

CONCEPT NOTE

Joint UNECE-UNFPA Training Workshop on Migration Statistics Istanbul, 6-8 December 2010

INTRODUCTION

The Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Division (UN/DESA) are planning to organize a workshop on Migration Statistics on 6-8 December 2010 in Istanbul (Turkey). The workshop is organized in collaboration with other members of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and supported by the UNDP Office in Ankara. Countries from Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and Turkey will participate at this regional workshop.

BACKGROUND AND MANDATE

The workshop is carried out in the framework of the United Nations Development Account Project “Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: Maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impacts”.¹

The main impetus for this project was provided by the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, organized by the United Nations General Assembly. At the High-level Dialogue, Governments agreed that international migration could play an important role in national development, provided that it was supported by the right set of strategies and policies. During the 2006 High-level Dialogue, Governments also agreed to create an informal and State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) under the leadership of States. The Global Forum met in Brussels (2007), Manila (2008) and Athens (2009), while future meetings will be hosted by Mexico (2010), Spain (2011) and Morocco (2012). Strengthening migration data and research is one of the priorities of the Forum, and is the main focus of the project activities conducted within the framework of the UNECE region.

¹ <http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/projects/2008/0809A.html>

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The regional workshop is a continuation of the previous workshop of the same project that was organized in February 2010 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The workshop will review and discuss methodological materials that had been developed after the Bishkek workshop, taking into account the discussion and decisions taken in Bishkek.

The workshop will also provide an opportunity to take stock of the various initiatives that have been launched in the course of 2010 in the CIS region, including the OSCE/IOM project “Harmonized data collection as a sound basis for policy-making”, and the World Bank funded project on practices in collection and exchange of statistics on labour migration in Russia and selected CIS countries. This will allow creating synergies between the various initiatives and avoid the risk of duplication.

The objectives of the regional workshop include:

- Completion of a study on the status of statistics on international migration in the countries covered by the project, and on ways to improve the development, exchange and dissemination of data
- Finalization of the toolkit “Statistics on international migration – a practical guide for the CIS region” (provisional title) which offers practical steps to improve the production, quality and comparability of migration statistics in the region
- Review and discussion of the draft “Inventory of information sources on migration in the UNECE region”
- Evaluation of data collection process undertaken within and after the first workshop
- Discussion on further initiatives on migration data collection and information sharing among countries in the region
- Promotion of the dialogue between producers and users of international migration data, focusing in particular on the use of statistics for evidence-based policy making
- Improving the efficiency of capacity-building initiatives on migration statistics in the CIS region, by creating synergies and avoiding duplication, particularly with regard to data collection activities.

OUTCOMES

The regional workshop is expected to obtain the following practical outcomes: (a) participants will be better trained in the practices and methods to produce and disseminate migration statistics in accordance with international and regional data standards; (b) availability of methodological material and practical tools (see items first three items above) to improve the capacity to produce migration statistics in the region; (c) improved efficiency of the different projects and data collection activities on migration statistics currently being conducted in the CIS region. (d) the possible elaboration of joint position of international organizations active in the field of migration statistics in the region.

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION

The following 12 countries will be invited to participate at the workshop: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

The participation of two experts from each country is expected: one representing the National Institute of Statistics and one representing another governmental agency dealing with migration statistics as producer

and/or user. The costs associated with the participation of these experts will be covered by the organizers of the workshop according to UN standard practices.

National experts from the Turkish Statistics Institute will also be invited to attend the workshop.

In addition to representatives from UNECE and UNFPA, the following international organizations and agencies will be invited to attend and contribute to the workshop: UNDESA/Population Division, CIS/Stat, IOM, ILO, UNIFEM, OSCE, UNHCR and other partner agencies of the Global Migration Group.