

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**Workshop on Migration Statistics
Geneva, 16 October 2012**

7 November 2012

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

I. Organization and attendance

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) organized this capacity-building workshop on migration statistics together with the World Bank's Migration and Remittances Peer-Assisted Learning (MIRPAL) program and with financial support from the World Bank and United Nations country teams. The workshop preceded the 2012 UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics (Geneva, 17-19 October). The working languages of the workshop were English and Russian.
2. Participants represented statistical offices from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Experts from Georgetown University, the International Organization for Migration, Moscow State University, the World Bank, the University of North Carolina, and UNECE participated as well. The World Bank supported participation from countries from Central Asia and Georgia, UN Country Teams supported participation from Eastern Europe and other Caucasus countries, and Albania was funded by the Albania One UN Coherence Fund.
3. The workshop consisted of a training module on the use of household surveys to measure migration, which included presentations by experts, country presentations, and group exercises. Presentations made at the workshop are available at the UNECE website: http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.10_2.migration.html

II. Objective

4. The objective of the workshop was to train participants on how to use household surveys (either pre-existing or ad hoc) to measure international migration. It included training on survey research methodology, including sampling theory and design, questionnaire development, the measurement of remittances, and policy-relevant survey topics. It also included region-specific examples and exercises to help solidify concepts for participants.

III. Training Module on use of Household Surveys to Measure Migration

5. Borko Handjiski from the World Bank made a brief presentation on the MIRPAL program and current and future programs to develop the use of household surveys in the Central Asia region.
6. Richard Bilsborrow from the University of North Carolina presented on questionnaire design for surveys in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), linking both destination and origin countries. This presentation included topics pertinent to both migrant origin and destination countries, as well as the possible structure of draft questionnaires.

7. Lindsay Lowell from Georgetown University made a presentation on the use of household surveys to measure remittances in the United States. This included examples of survey questions used to measure remittances, including an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the various question formats.

8. IOM made a presentation on the use of household surveys to reflect policy needs in countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including practices and possible directions for future work. This included region specific examples of surveys used to measure remittances, return migration, and diaspora populations.

9. Several countries made presentations about recent, current, or planned work done using household surveys to measure migration. The following countries made presentations: Albania, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.

10. For the first group exercise run by UNECE, participants were split into three groups and assigned three different scenarios. Based on these scenarios they were then given a series of questions related to the implementation of a household survey to measure migration-related phenomena of interest for their scenarios. At the end, each group made a brief presentation on their results.

11. The second group exercise run by the World Bank similarly split participants into three groups. Each group was assigned a section of the draft questionnaire for International Migration and Remittances in the CIS countries, and requested to provide feedback. Questionnaires discussed included those for households, non-migrants, out-migrants, and remittances.

IV. Conclusion

12. Participants expressed satisfaction with the provided training and emphasized its relevance to their needs. They appreciated the opportunity to discuss and exchange experiences among countries and with international experts.
