

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION (EUROSTAT)

Work Session on Migration Statistics
(Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, 10-12 September 2014)

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will be held at the Hotel Codru, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, on 10-12 September 2014
The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 September 2014
and will finish on Friday, 12 September by 5:30 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. UNECE and Eurostat are organising a Joint Work Session on Migration Statistics, in partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics Republic of Moldova, under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The meeting will be held at Hotel Codru in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova. The present note provides information on the meeting. An additional information note with more logistical information will be issued before the meeting.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

2. The Work Session will allow countries to exchange experiences on the methods and techniques used for the collection, processing and dissemination of data related to international migration statistics, as well as to improve measurement of the size, characteristics, and impact of international migration in the UNECE region and beyond.

3. At its plenary session this April, the Conference of European Statisticians held a seminar on migration statistics where it agreed on a number of actions that should lead to improved measurement of migration.¹ The Work Session will discuss how to take these actions forward.

III. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

4. The work programme of the meeting will consist of the substantive topics presented below. The agenda will be prepared before the meeting taking into account the papers contributed by meeting participants. The agenda will be posted, as soon as it is available, on the meeting's web page at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.10.migration2.html>

(i) Experiences from 2010 round of censuses for measuring migration

4. As the 2010 round of censuses comes to a close, the census remains an important source of data on migration, particularly for migrant stocks. This session would allow countries to discuss their experiences from the recent census.

5. Discussion would not only include results from the most recent census but also include methodological issues related to migration, such as coverage, measurement, non-response, or other challenges related to the measurement of migration using population censuses. How does the movement of countries towards administrative-based censuses or "mixed" methods impact our ability to measure migration?

¹ The report is available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.04.ces.html>.

(ii) Better utilization of administrative data sources to measure migration.

6. A number of initiatives have pushed for better utilization of administrative sources to measure migration. What have been countries experiences in this regard, what sort of sources have been used, how is the quality of these data, and what challenges remain to fully realize their potential?

7. One challenge is that administrative data is often not produced by the national statistical office reporting migration statistics. Included in this session could be discussion on ways to improve communication between national statistical offices and agencies that produce administrative data. Would it be possible for countries to produce a list of each system/administrative source used to measure migration, as well as how these sources are used?

(iii) Measurement of “hard-to-count” migrant groups, such as emigrants, temporary migrants, circular migrants

8. Improving the measurement of international migration continues to be challenging for the international statistical community, particularly the collection of data about migrant groups like short-term, temporary, and circular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, irregular migrants, and emigrants. Although these groups are often at the centre of public debate, their number is difficult to accurately assess via regular data sources, either because they fall outside our regular data collection methods, their records are less formalized, or for the reason that their very presence represents or entails a legal violation. In addition, partly due to the reasons outline above, these groups often suffer from higher non-response to regular data collection methods.

9. This session could include discussion of measurement of difficult to measure migrants, such as short-term or temporary migrants, circular migrants, transit migrants, irregular migrants, and emigrants.

(iv) Migration by duration and by reason: definitional and methodological issues

10. This session will discuss definitional and methodological issues related to the measurement of migration. For example, analysis of “intention of stay” vs. “actual stay,” the use of “reason” for migration to define migration flow-types, or even the definition of concepts like “labour migration” (is this concept limited to “temporary” migrants, or should it be based on labour force participation/looking for work in destination countries?).

11. While “reason for migration” is important for the migration typologies we use research has shown that people move for mixed and multiple reasons. How do countries define and measure reasons for migration? Do “visa-types” equal “reason”? Is this information collected in censuses or household surveys? How could we improve these data?

(v) Emerging issues and methodologies for the measurement of migration

12. What emerging issues directly impact the measurement of migration and what new methodologies could be used to improve this measurement? With increased globalization and changes in border regimes, the way countries have traditionally viewed migration could be changing. Movement between many countries has been facilitated, as some form of visa-free regime exists in most regions of the world. Inter-country marriage has increased, as has the number of countries allowing and persons possessing dual-citizenship. Circular migration is believed to be a growing phenomenon, while “big data” has expanded the reach of global data. What impact could these changes have on the way we traditionally collect migration statistics?

13. Similarly, what new methods have countries used to estimate migration, either in terms of modelling of population estimates and projections, ways to synthesis data from different data sources to come to a common migration estimate, and/or the potential use of “big data” (e.g. cell phone usage) to measure migration, and other possible topics. Are other innovative methods being used or tested at NSOs to measure migration?

(vi) Integration of and attitudes towards migrants

14. With the increase of migration flows to the UNECE region, the issue of migration adaptation/integration is on the forefront of policy discussion.

15. This session could discuss a wide range of topics, including measurement of the socioeconomic conditions of migration, attitudes by local population towards migrants, or even touch on measurement of sensitive topics like “xenophobia” or “assimilation.” What sources, measures, and indicators could be used for these topics? What challenges have been encountered and what results have been found?

IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

16. The working languages of the work session are English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages. All other participants are welcome to submit a paper for any topic on the agenda. Authors of papers submitted in Russian are encouraged to provide a short abstract in English (maximum one page), if possible.

17. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Interested national statistical offices and other government bodies should inform the UNECE secretariat of their intention to attend the meeting and contribute a paper (in this case, please indicate the topic of the paper and attach a short abstract) **by 16 May 2014**.
- The full final versions of papers, not exceeding 8 pages including charts, annexes and references, should be sent to the UNECE secretariat in Word format **by 15 August 2014**.
- Presenters are encouraged to use power point presentations, and to send them to the UNECE Secretariat by **5 September 2014**.
- Papers and presentations should be submitted electronically to Mr. Jason Schachter (jason.schachter@unece.org).

18. Papers will be made available on the UNECE website at the following location:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.10.migration2.html>

19. Delegates are encouraged to download the papers from the website and bring their own copies to the meeting. Documents posted on the website before the meeting will not be distributed in the conference room.

20. Additional documents may be distributed during the meeting.

V. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION, REGISTRATION, AND ACCOMODATION

21. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the meeting. Participants representing non-governmental organizations in a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council may also attend. All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organization.

22. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa for the Republic of Moldova. While most country participants will not be required to obtain a visa, for country specifications please see <http://www.mfa.gov.md/entry-visas-moldova>. Applications for visas must be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to "UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics". If you need assistance in obtaining a visa, please request an invitation letter from the Republic of Moldova's National Bureau of Statistics (Ms. Elena Maleru, Senior specialist at the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, phone +373 22 40 30 45) sending an email to: moldstat@statistica.md and elena.maleru@statistica.md. The NBS will send you an invitation letter, which you will need to submit with your visa application. Please attach copy of your passport in the request and copy your request to: social.stats@unece.org.

23. Participants are requested to fill in the attached **registration form** and send it to the UNECE secretariat by email: social.stats@unece.org or by fax: (+41 22 917 0040) **by 1 August 2014** at the latest so that it may be processed well in advance of the meeting.

24. The work session will be held in the Hotel Codru at the address St. 31 August 1989 No.127, MD-2012 Chişinău, Moldova, tel.: +373 22 20 81 04, fax: +373 22 23 79 48, email: sales@codru.md.

25. Please present yourself at the Hotel Codru at 9 a.m. on 10 September 2014, the first day of the meeting, for your registration.

26. A block of rooms will be available at the Hotel Codru for a special rate of \$84 per night for a single room (\$104 for a double room). Funded participants will be booked into this hotel. Non-funded participants should contact the hotel directly **by 1 August** to make their reservation (reservation@codru.md with copy to: sales@codru.md), referencing the UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics. Additional information about hotel reservations and transportation to and from the airport in Chişinău will be provided in the next information note.

VI. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDANCE

27. All queries concerning the meeting should be addressed to:

UNECE Secretariat:

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