

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
Work Session on Migration Statistics
(Geneva, Switzerland, 18-20 May 2016)

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION (EUROSTAT)

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will be held in room V at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.
It will start at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 May 2016
and finish on Friday, 20 May by 4.30 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. UNECE and Eurostat are organising a Joint Work Session on Migration Statistics under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The meeting will be held in room V at the Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix 8, Geneva (Switzerland). The meeting room is near the entrance door 11, one level down (the entrance is on the level of the second floor, the meeting room is on the first floor).
2. The meeting is preceded by the Workshop on Migration Statistics, which will take place on 17-18 May 2016 in room V at the Palais des Nations.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

3. The Work Session will allow countries to exchange experience on the methods and techniques used for the collection, processing, use 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.

III. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

4. The work programme of the meeting will consist of all or part 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 and other documents will be posted on the meeting's web page at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2016.5.migration.html>

A. Data integration and good practices in communication between national statistical offices and producers of administrative data

5. Integration of different data sources has been identified as a very promising avenue for improving migration statistics. This includes (a) integrating administrative sources to

measure migration, (b) combining administrative and non-administrative data sources to measure migration, including statistical modelling, and (c) reconciling migration figures derived from different data sources (triangulation). Inter-agency cooperation on the national level needs to be strengthened in view of the fact that the national statistical office, which reports migration statistics, is rarely the producer of administrative data. At the same time, statistical operations such as data linkage or statistical matching may have to be run to make those administrative data fit for purpose.

6. This session will review countries' experience in integrating different data sources for measuring migration. It will review the first activities and work plan of the recently established task force of the Conference of European Statisticians on this topic. The session will also explore ways to improve cooperation between national migration services, maintainers of central population registers, statistical agencies and other producers of administrative data.

B. Socio-economic characteristics of migrants and people with foreign background

7. As international migration continues to grow, it is becoming increasingly important to increase understanding of migrant groups. International migration can have great societal and economic impacts on both individuals and countries of origin and destination, particularly when viewed through the lens of time. This topic has also become the focus of national policy discussions.

8. In August 2015, UNECE published the task-force report "Measuring change in the socio-economic conditions of migrants", which recommends countries to continue developing data collection methodologies and to collaborate at the international level by sharing their experience. The session will discuss ways to improve the quality of migration data and thus enhance our knowledge about the conditions of migrants.

C. Labour migration and its impact on the labour market

9. Labour mobility is a topic of growing policy interest and concern. However, measurement of labour mobility is challenging as it cuts across several statistical domains. Harmonization of concepts and improved data availability are required to provide a suitable answer to the policy needs and changing economic realities surrounding labour mobility. Main challenges in measuring labour mobility include improving data comparability and coordination of work, enhancing accessibility of existing information and filling data gaps. The Conference of European Statisticians recently set up a task force to develop practical guidance on the compilation of labour mobility statistics.

10. This session will include discussion on how countries have responded to the challenges of measuring labour mobility, what data sources are available in their country and the methodologies they use.

D. Dissemination and use of migration statistics for policymaking

11. Reliable statistics is the corner stone of sound policymaking. High-quality migration statistics enable policymakers to make choices that realize the economic and social benefits of migration. This session focuses on answering questions about how policymakers use

migration statistics, where they perceive shortcomings in migration statistics, what additional data they need, and how the official statistics community could improve the provision of migration statistics from the point of view of policymakers.

12. In addition to focusing on the use of migration statistics, the session discusses dissemination of those statistics. The focus will be on the innovative and efficient ways in which national statistical offices can present and make their data available so that policymakers can fully make use and benefit from it.

E. Production of “quick estimates”

13. The European Statistical Advisory Committee has recently identified “very quick provision of a set of coherent aggregate estimates” as the key short-term requirement for migration statistics. At times of rapid change in migration flows, such need is relevant for policymakers outside the European Union as well. The session would discuss ways of producing such quick estimates, their precision and sources.

F. Asylum seekers and refugees

14. The number of asylum seekers and refugees has increased dramatically over the past few years. Receiving countries are working to accommodate growing numbers of refugees while at the same time facing economic constraints. For countries to make informed policy decisions, they need reliable statistics.

15. There are several challenges and obstacles in the compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics related to asylum seekers and refugees. This session will discuss ways to produce those statistics, how to develop definitions and classifications that are necessary to produce comparable and consistent statistics and how to improve data collection.

G. Irregular migration

16. The collection of data about migrant groups who fall outside the regular typology of migrants is particularly challenging. These groups include short-term and circular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, transit migrants, trafficked persons and irregular migrants. Irregular migration is one of the most salient global policy issues and it is one of the most difficult to measure accurately using regular data sources. The main reason being that the very presence of irregular migrants represents or entails a legal violation.

17. This session will look at different ways to measure irregular migration and the data sources available. Specific questions include: how do countries define irregular migration; what kind of methods countries have developed to measure hard-to-count migrants such as irregular migrants; what kind of data sources are used; and have countries found, for example, household surveys useful in collecting data.

H. Good practices in data exchange between countries

18. As National Statistical Offices are under pressure to deliver more while cutting costs, data exchange between countries can provide an efficient way to reduce the burden of statistical offices and maintain the high quality of statistics. The growing interconnectedness

of countries and the increased movement of people have encouraged statistical offices to look for new methods of collecting data.

19. This session will explore best practices in exchanging data between countries, finding answers to questions such as how to set up and maintain data sharing agreements; what kind of institutional structures are needed for efficient sharing of data; and are there any legal or confidentiality implications that need to be considered.

I. Emerging issues, including new methods to estimate and project migration

20. This session will explore any emerging issues proposed by countries.

IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND LANGUAGES

21. The working languages of the meeting are English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

22. 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.

23. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Intention to participate and contribute a paper should be submitted by **29 January 2016**. If contributing a paper, please indicate the topic and attach a short abstract.
- The full versions of the papers should be sent as Word files by **8 April 2016**.
- Presenters are encouraged to use PowerPoint presentations, and to send them by 16 May.
- All submissions should be addressed to the UNECE Secretariat, e-mail social.stats@unece.org

24. Papers will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2016.5.migration.html>. The posted documents will not be distributed in the meeting room. Participants are encouraged to download them and bring their own copies to the meeting.

V. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION

25. The Work Session is open to representatives of all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Representatives of other Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.3, paras. 11, 12 and 13). All delegates must be accredited by the competent authority of their country or international organization.

26. All participants should register by **8 April 2016** by completing the online registration for the

Work Session: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=j0iw5X>

Workshop: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=erWYZr>

The online meeting registration guideline is available at:

<https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/OMR>. The participants who will be funded by UNECE should register by **4 March 2016**.

27. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible at the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participants reside, with reference to the UNECE Work Session on Migration Statistics. If necessary, the UNECE secretariat can provide a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa. Please indicate this need on the registration form or contact the Secretariat at social.stats@unece.org.

28. In order to enter the Palais des Nations, all participants need to obtain a security pass (ID badge). For this purpose, please present yourself with your passport and the original registration form at the UN Security Identification Office at the Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations (Avenue de la Paix 14, 1210 Geneva; buses 8, F, V, Z and 28, stop Appia) by 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 May. The Security Identification Office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (non-stop). For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the Palais des Nations. A map of the Palais des Nations where you can find the Security Identification Office located at the Pregny Gate is available at http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf

VI. ACCOMMODATION

29. Participants are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. The UNECE secretariat in Geneva is not in a position to provide such services to participants. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the meeting since available rooms may be limited due to other meetings and events taking place in Geneva during the month of May. Maps of Geneva, list of hotels and information for visitors to the Palais des Nations are available on the following website:

<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>. The following information is also available:

- The closest hotel to Palais des Nations is the 5-Star Intercontinental.
- Grand Prè, Cornavin, Suisse are four-star hotels and within 7-10 minutes to the Palais des Nations by buses 8, 5, 28, F, V, Z and trams 13 and 15.
- There are several three-star and four-star hotels near Cornavin, the main train station. These hotels are moderate in price and are 10 minutes by bus or tram and 25-30 minutes on foot from the Palais des Nations. Examples include: Eden, Manotel, Mon Repos, des Alpes, International and Terminus, Montana, Savoy, Suisse, and Windsor.

VII. FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN GENEVA

30. Geneva International Airport now offers incoming passengers a free ticket for public transport. The free tickets are available from a machine in the airport's baggage collection area and allow you to use any public transport (train, tram, bus) in Geneva and surrounding

areas for a period of 80 minutes. Look for the machine pictured below after collecting your luggage and before walking out through the customs area.



31. When checking-in at your hotel you should receive a free Geneva Transport Card, enabling you to use the entire Geneva public transport system free of charge throughout your stay.
32. The Geneva Airport is approximately 4 kilometres from the city centre. The train is the most efficient way to get into the city. Follow the signs to the airport railway station from the arrivals area. All trains leaving from the airport stop at the central Geneva-Cornavin station. The journey takes six minutes. The buses 5 and 28 will bring you from the airport to the Place des Nations.
33. Taxis are readily available from the airport. They are metered, so costs will vary, the journey from the airport into the city centre will usually cost around CHF 30.
34. Tourist and public transport information is available at the Unireso information desk in the airport arrival hall after you go through customs. More information on Geneva's free public transport initiative is available from:
 - Public transport from Geneva Airport: <http://www.gva.ch/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-67/>
 - Free Geneva Transport Card: <http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/index.php?rubrique=0000000417>

VIII. WEATHER

35. The weather in Geneva in May is pleasant, although it may rain. The average day temperature is 14.2 °C. You can check the weather forecast at the local website: <http://www.meteoswiss.admin.ch/web/en/weather.html>. The conference room where the meeting will be held is air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 20-22°C.

IX. CURRENCY

36. The exchange rate of the euro and the Swiss franc is now around 1.09 francs per 1 euro and is subject to daily market fluctuations. For conversion rate, please consult <http://www.ubs.com/global/en/bcqv/calculator.html>. Currency exchange facilities are

available in the city centre and at the UBS bank branch at Palais des Nations, located on the ground floor of C building (door C6). It is open from 08:30 to 16:30, with no lunch break, from Monday to Friday.

X. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

UNECE Secretariat

Mr. Andres Vikat
 Chief
 Social and Demographic Statistics Section
 Statistical Division
 Tel: +41 22 917 2964
 E-mail: andres.vikat@unece.org

Ms. Oyunjargal (Oyuna)
 Social and Demographic Statistics Section
 Statistical Division
 Tel: +41 22 917 4147
 E-mail: social.stats@unece.org

Map of the United Nations premises in Geneva

