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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Work Session on Migration Statistics

Geneva, 18-20 May 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Annotated provisional agenda

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 2:30 pm on Wednesday, 18 May 2016 in Room V.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers
2. Data integration and good practices in communication between national statistical offices and producers of administrative data
3. Migration Statistics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
4. Socio-economic characteristics of migrants and people with foreign background
5. Measuring circular migration
6. Labour migration and its impact on the labour market
7. Dissemination and use of migration statistics for policymaking
8. Emerging issues, including new methods to estimate and project migration
9. Asylum seekers and refugees
10. Discussion on further work
11. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations

The meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat following the provisions of the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2016, approved by the Bureau of the

Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and the UNECE Executive Committee.

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

The UNECE in cooperation with Eurostat regularly organize sessions for the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics. The main purpose of the sessions is to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries and increase knowledge on various issues related to migration statistics. This results in increased capacity by countries to collect, evaluate, and disseminate migration statistics in compliance with the international and UNECE recommendations. The members of the UNECE-Eurostat Steering Group agree upon the proposed provisional agenda on Migration Statistics. The provisional agenda will be presented for the approval by the participants of the session.

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

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.

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.

3. Migration Statistics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be a major driver for policymaking in the coming years. This session will focus on the role of migration statistics in measuring development according to the agreed indicators.

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

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.

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.

5. Measuring circular migration

The report of the Task Force on Measuring Circular Migration will be discussed in light of comments from the recent consultation with the Conference of European Statisticians.

6. Labour migration and its impact on the labour market

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.

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.

7. Dissemination and use of migration statistics for policymaking

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.

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.

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

This topic is open to participants who wish to present evidence of emerging issues in migration statistics.

9. Asylum seekers and refugees

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.

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.

10. Discussion on further work

The meeting is invited to discuss proposals for future international work in migration statistics and topics for the 2017 work session.

11. Adoption of the report

A short report outlining the conclusions and decisions taken at the meeting will be presented for adoption before the meeting adjourns.
