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## **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Conference of European Statisticians**

#### **Work Session on Migration Statistics**

Geneva, Switzerland

30-31 October 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### **Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of officers**

### **Annotated provisional agenda**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 30 October 2017 in Room V.

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of officers
2. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
3. Data integration and administrative data
4. Longitudinal studies of migrants
5. Integration and descendants of migrants
6. Information on regional initiatives
7. Asylum seekers and refugees
8. New methods to estimate migration
9. Labour- and education-related migration
10. Future work
11. Adoption of the meeting report and closing

## II. Annotations

The meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat following the provisions of the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2017, approved by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and the UNECE Executive Committee.

### 1. Opening, 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. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

In September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants” and launched intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration at an intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018. The global compact would set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions. The agreed modalities for the preparatory process leading to the adoption of the global compact include the phases of consultation (April to November 2017), stocktaking (November 2017 to January 2018) and intergovernmental negotiations (February to July 2018). Statistical organizations may be requested to provide inputs to this process. In this session, representatives of international organizations and users of migration data will present on the progress with the preparations and the expectations with respect to statistics.

### 3. Data integration and administrative data

Integration of different data sources has been recognized as an important strategy for improving migration statistics. It 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). Effective use of administrative data for migration statistics requires good coordination between national statistical offices and migration authorities who are responsible for data collection. At the same time, new challenges arise at the statistical offices, where the administrative data needs to undergo statistical operations such as data linkage or statistical matching before it can be further processed to produce official statistics.

This session will review countries’ experience in developing the use of administrative data and combined data sources to produce national, regional and geo-referenced data, including understanding and overcoming where possible the limitations of administrative data. It would also explore ways to improve cooperation

between national migration services, maintainers of central population registers, statistical agencies and other producers of administrative data.

The session will consider the draft report of the Conference of European Statisticians Task Force on Data Integration for Measuring Migration.

#### **4. Longitudinal studies of migrants**

A longitudinal approach is well suited to the analysis of the migrant population because settlement into a new country is a long-term process. In many cases, the key questions when analysing migrant settlement are whether and how the socio-economic outcomes of migrants change or improve with increased length of stay or whether native-born off-springs fare better than their parents. Further analytical benefits include the possibility to study transition between circumstances, such as unemployment to employment, as well as duration to events, such as acquiring citizenship.

Challenges for collecting longitudinal data through panel surveys include the high cost of such surveys and the possible high panel attrition. Countries that can collect such data by linking administrative records have an advantage. A Conference of European Statisticians task force recommended other countries to develop data linking methodologies to acquire longitudinal data sets (“Measuring change in the socio-economic conditions of migrants”, 2015).

This session collects examples of longitudinal analysis of migrants, both from panel studies as well as from administrative data.

#### **5. Integration and descendants of migrants**

The 2015 UNECE publication “Measuring change in the socio-economic conditions of migrants” recommends countries to continue developing data collection methodologies and to collaborate at an international level by sharing their experience. In this context, it is important to progress on indicators measuring migrant integration as the categories and characteristics to be assessed vary across countries and regions. In some areas, specific basic indicators of migrant integration have been identified (e.g. the Zaragoza declaration for the in EU), but the debate is still open. Integration can be seen as a dynamic, multi-dimensional process that should be analysed over time with regard to different areas of integration.

In recent years, the subject of young people with a migratory background is arising in social politics (integration) and consequently it requires more and more reliable and detailed statistical information regarding stocks and flows as well as their characteristics. Statistical data on integration of the descendants of migrants are also required, which can be obtained both from administrative data and from survey.

The session will collect papers about national or international systems for monitoring the socio-economic characteristics of migrants, and the sources, data collection methods and analysis of the integration of the descendants.

#### **6. Information on regional initiatives**

The session will include updates on regional initiatives on improvement of migration statistics.

## **7. Asylum seekers and refugees**

The world is experiencing forced displacement on an unprecedented scale, which has brought the topic of refugees and asylum seekers high on the political agenda. Despite that, the statistics and data needed to inform the development and monitoring of appropriate policies are not sufficient because of numerous challenges 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.

## **8. New methods to estimate migration**

This topic will cover contributions related to new concepts and methods in measuring international migration, including a follow-up on the work of Conference of European Statisticians Task Force on Circular Migration requested from UNECE-Eurostat Work Sessions on Migration Statistics by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians.

## **9. Labour- and education-related migration**

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. In this session, the Conference of European Statisticians Task Force on Measuring Labour Mobility will present an update on the progress in developing practical guidance on the compilation of labour mobility statistics.

The session will also examine how the increasingly common educated-related migration is captured and reflected in the international migration estimates.

## **10. Future work**

The meeting is invited to discuss proposals for future international work in migration statistics and topics for the 2018 work session.

## **11. Adoption of the meeting report and closing**

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

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