Classification of asylum seekers and refugees in migration statistics

Giampaolo Lanzieri
Background

• *Eurostat survey in December 2015*
  • Outcome: different national practices

• *Discussion at the Eurostat WG on Population Statistics in October 2016*
  • Outcome: recommended practice
  • Updated metadata

• *Discussion now taken to the (wider) UNECE area*
What international recommendations say on AS&R

- **Population and housing censuses:**
  - to be enumerated;
  - inclusion in the population subject to meeting the criteria of the population base.
- **International migration:**
  - special category due to uncertainty about their duration of stay;
  - intention of stay should NOT be based on migrants' intention.
- **Vital events:**
  - coverage of events occurring to persons whose residence is based also on intention of stay
The critical issue: duration of stay

- Focus on duration of stay of 12 months (usual residence concept)
- Three main indicators of duration of stay:
  - Intention of stay from migrant's perspective
  - Intention of stay from country's perspective
  - Actual stay
- Additional element: timing of the data collection
  - Details about implementation in the document
Options for an harmonized approach

• **Option 1:** Asylum seekers and refugees are to be included when their actual stay in the reporting country is **of at least one year**. This corresponds to the adoption of 'actual stay' as indicator of duration of stay.

• **Option 2:** Refugees only (persons granted international protection by the reporting country) are to be included, regardless of the actual duration of their stay. This corresponds to the adoption of 'intended stay' from the country's perspective as indicator of duration of stay.
Current practices on asylum seekers

Population on 1.1.2016

Migration flows in 2015

UNECE Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 30-31 October 2017
Thank you for the attention!