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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Work Session on Migration Statistics

Geneva, Switzerland

24-26 October 2018

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 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 24 October 2018 in Room IX.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of officers
2. Use of longitudinal data for migration statistics
3. Integration of data from censuses, administrative sources and surveys for measuring migration
4. Big data and migration
5. Labour migration
6. Asylum seekers and refugees
7. Global recommendations on migration statistics
8. Future work
9. Adoption of the meeting report and closing

II. Annotations

The meeting is organized jointly with Eurostat following the provisions of the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2018, 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 approval by the participants of the session.

2. Use of longitudinal data for migration statistics

The 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. With the increasingly widespread use of administrative data and integration of multiple data sources for producing migration statistics, more and more countries can construct longitudinal datasets without bearing excessive costs. As a result, longitudinal and cohort studies are becoming more common and national statistical offices could consider making them part of the regular production of migration statistics. In 2018, a CES task force started to develop guidance on the compilation of longitudinal indicators, and collect good practices in the production, analysis and dissemination of such data.

This session will provide examples of longitudinal analysis of migration and how longitudinal indicators could become part of regular production of migration statistics.

3. Integration of data from censuses, administrative sources and surveys for measuring migration

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 since 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 and explore ways to improve cooperation between national migration services, maintainers of central population registers, statistical agencies and other producers of administrative data. It will also consider the findings and follow-up to the report of the CES Task Force on Data Integration for Measuring Migration.

4. Big data and migration

This session will explore the use of big data as an additional source for international migration. Experimental applications of this include the use of geo-localised data as well as other use of online services and mobile phone data. This session will feature an invited talk on the achievements and perspectives of this area. Contributions are expected to address concrete and innovative applications of big data for a better understanding of migration, and discuss possibilities for more systematic use of big data in this area, to complement official statistics.

5. Labour 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 suitable answers to the policy needs and changing economic realities surrounding labour mobility. The main challenges in measuring labour mobility include improving data comparability and coordination of work, enhancing accessibility of existing information and filling data gaps. The discussion will refer to the recent task-force report on "Measuring international labour mobility".

6. Asylum seekers and refugees

The number of asylum seekers and refugees has increased dramatically worldwide 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. In the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, United Nations member countries re-iterated their commitment to improve data collection on refugees and migrants, and the first objective of the 2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is to collect and utilise accurate and disaggregated data.

There are several challenges and obstacles faced in the compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics related to asylum seekers and refugees. This session will

discuss ways to produce those statistics and implement the International recommendations on refugee statistics endorsed in 2018 by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

7. Global Recommendations for migration statistics

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) has started work on updating the 1998 Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. The UNSD will share initial findings from this process, and drafts or concept notes are expected to be available for countries' comments. A short discussion will be organized based on this material.

8. Future work

The participants are invited to discuss proposals for future international work in migration statistics and topics for the 2019 work session.

9. 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.
