

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
Workshop on Migration Statistics
Geneva, Switzerland, 23-24 October 2018

Organized in cooperation with CISSTAT

CONCEPT NOTE

The workshop will be held in room IX at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland from 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 23 October to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 24 October 2018

I. TIME AND VENUE

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with CISSTAT is organising a workshop on migration statistics for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The workshop will be held in room IX at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, from 9:30 a.m. on 23 October to 12:30 p.m. on 24 October 2018. The Workshop will directly precede the UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, which will take place from 24 (afternoon) to 26 October.
2. The Workshop is organized under the project "Enhancing coherence and integration of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of 2008 SNA" financed from the World Bank ECASTAT programme.

II. BACKGROUND

3. The need for reliable and disaggregated statistical data on international migration was emphasised by the United Nations member countries in the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (2016). This led to the development of the [*Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*](#), which will be considered for international adoption in December 2018. It should be noted that the first objective of this Compact is to "collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies". UNECE statistical work supports countries in its region in meeting this need, including capacity-building activities to improve migration statistics in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.
4. A promising approach to measuring migration includes integration of different data sources, particularly administrative registers and household survey data. In 2016, UNECE published a [*Handbook on the use of administrative sources and sample surveys to measure international migration*](#), which included concrete recommendations. Countries would benefit

from exchange of experience and guidance on how to address the challenges related to the implementation of the recommendations.

5. Migration statistics for the EECCA region have been published by the UNECE through [the Clearing House \(database\) of Migration Statistics](#). This facilitates the sharing of information and analysis of mirror statistics, which is possible because the majority of migration flows occur between countries of the region. The data are published as reported by national statistical offices to UNECE.

6. An important aspect of migration, particularly in relation to development, is the analysis of remittances. Due to increasing migration, remittances have become an increasingly significant component of the economies of countries both sending and receiving migrants. They can reduce poverty and contribute to economic development in migrant-sending countries.

7. Remittance statistics derived from balance of payments data provide total figures by country and time period, but do not include the remittances transferred through informal channels or in-kind. Additionally, these statistics cannot be disaggregated by characteristics of the remitters and recipients. To understand the determinants and development impact of remittances, it is important to measure them in household surveys.

8. Currently, many countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia collect data on remittances through their household surveys, using various types of surveys and differing questions. However, the resulting statistics are either not produced regularly, not detailed enough or not internationally comparable. Comparable measures are needed to be able to assess the situation in the context of other countries of the region and apply best practices in data collection.

9. To address these data gaps, UNECE developed a harmonized survey module on migration and remittances, which can be included in household surveys by national statistical offices of EECCA countries. The survey module was developed along with a comprehensive report outlining the issues and describing potential approaches for implementation. An electronic discussion on this material among statistical offices was held in May-June 2018.

III. PURPOSE

10. The purpose of the Workshop is to exchange experience and build statistical capacity for producing comparable statistics on migration and remittances using household surveys and administrative data sources. The workshop will have a particular focus on the implementation of the harmonized survey module for migration and remittances.

11. The target audience are statisticians and analysts from national statistical offices.

IV. PROGRAMME

Implementation of the harmonized survey module

12. The workshop will include a presentation on the harmonized survey module, its underlying considerations and aspects of implementation. The module and the report reflect

the comments received from the electronic consultation on this material among statistical offices, held in May-June 2018.

13. Countries will be asked to report in advance on their readiness to implement the harmonized survey module.

14. Participants will be expected to provide input into group discussions on various aspects of the harmonized survey module on migration and remittances. For example, the groups will discuss which existing surveys could be used as a vehicle for the additional module on migration and remittances, and potential barriers or issues that may be faced when implementing the module in the country.

15. A key outcome from the session will be a plan for how to proceed, including a proposed timeline for implementation of the module in each country of the region.

Use of administrative data in producing migration statistics

16. The workshop will follow up on the implementation of [*UNECE Handbook on the use of administrative sources and sample surveys to measure international migration*](#). Countries will present on recent developments, plans and challenges in using administrative data for migration statistics. A facilitated discussion will aim at guiding and stimulating action towards implementing the recommendations of the Handbook.

Clearing House of Migration Statistics

17. The [UNECE Clearing House \(database\) of Migration Statistics](#) is a valuable source of migration statistics in the EECCA region, due to be updated in 2019. Participants will discuss their current uses of the Clearing House statistics, for example analysis of mirror statistics or identification of gaps in their own data sources. The discussion will also include any recommendations that countries may have for broadening the range of collected data, and improving the completeness and consistency of the database.

V. PREPARATION

18. Participants of the workshop will be requested to respond before the meeting to a short questionnaire on the implementation of the harmonized survey module on migration and remittances. Participants will also be requested to share their experience in using the UNECE Clearing House of Migration Statistics and, where relevant, on recent developments in the use of administrative data for measuring migration in their countries.

19. Participants should note that documents posted on [the website](#) before the Workshop will not be distributed in the meeting room. If it is necessary to have printed copies, then participants should download the materials from the website and bring their own copies to the Workshop.

VI. LANGUAGES

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

VII. REGISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

21. For information on registration, visa, accommodation and logistics, please refer to sections V-IX of [the information note](#) of the *UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics* available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47809>.

VIII. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

For further information on the content of the workshop contact:

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