

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Online meetings on migration statistics

- 27 October 2020, 09:00-12:00 CEST (Geneva time):
Measuring migration and remittances in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA countries)
- 28-29 October 2020, 14:00-17:00 CEST (Geneva time):
Measuring migration at times of the pandemic

INVITATION TO REGISTER AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submit abstract: <http://bit.ly/AbstractUNECEMigration2020> by Friday 25 September
Register: <http://bit.ly/RegisterUNECEMigration2020> by Friday 16 October

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

1. As countries grapple with the impacts on their populations of Covid-related restrictions on travel, personal interaction and economic activity, the need for international exchange is greater than ever. This applies also to the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on international migration, also taking into account the fact that restrictions to travel between countries and health protection measures change very rapidly, affecting the numbers of migrants but also the capacity to measure migration flows and stocks.
2. In light of these restrictions on travel and health protection measures, UNECE physical meetings on migration statistics and in other areas are postponed until further notice. In the intervening period until such a meeting can take place, UNECE is convening online meetings to provide migration statistics experts the opportunity to exchange experience on the impact of the pandemic on migration, and on the collection, production and dissemination of international migration statistics.
3. Two online meetings will take place over three days:
 - a. **Measuring migration and remittances in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**
Tuesday 27 October, 09:00-12:00 CEST (Geneva time)
(10:00-13:00 Chisinau/Kyiv/Minsk/Moscow, 11:00-14:00 Tbilisi/Yerevan,
12:00-15:00 Ashgabat/Tashkent/Dushanbe, 13:00-16:00 Bishkek/Nursultan).
 - b. **Measuring migration at times of the pandemic**
Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 October, 14:00-17:00 CEST (Geneva time).

II. PARTICIPATION

4. The main target audience of the meetings includes statisticians and analysts from national statistical offices and international organizations who are responsible for migration statistics. Representatives of academia, civil society and other individuals may also register and will be able to participate subject to available capacity.

5. Only registered participants will be able to connect to the meetings. To register please complete the online registration form at <http://bit.ly/RegisterUNECEMigration2020> by 16 October 2020. Connection links and instructions for joining the events will be sent out by email approximately one week before the meetings.

6. The working languages of the meetings are English and Russian. The organizers expect to provide simultaneous interpretation in these languages. Abstracts should be submitted and presentations delivered in English or Russian only.

III. CONTRIBUTIONS

7. *No written papers are requested.* The events will consist of short presentations (5-7 minutes, maximum 5 slides) followed by facilitated discussions. You may signal your wish to give a presentation during the events by submitting an abstract of approximately 300 words outlining your proposed contribution. Abstracts should be submitted in English or Russian via the online form at <http://bit.ly/AbstractUNECEMigration2020> by Friday 25 September 2020.

Abstracts for all sessions should aim to be forward-looking with the goal of providing information that may be useful for others: e.g. highlighting findings or experiences that could offer valuable lessons learned; and/or showing how these experiences will inform future approaches.

8. The limited time available for the meetings may mean that not all received abstracts can be accepted for presentation at the meeting. In this case the CES Steering Group on Migration Statistics will select the abstracts to be presented. Selected presenters will be given full instructions and deadlines for preparing their presentations and for the conduct of the online event. All abstracts received will be made available on the meeting website and may be used to inform future online discussions (see section IV).

IV. THEMES

A. Exchange of experience among EECCA countries (27 October)

9. The global Covid crisis affected and still affects heavily virtually all world's countries, from the point of view of the public health, and the social and economic life. From the point of view of migration, many international migration flows were suddenly stopped or significantly reduced. Different kinds of restrictions to travel were adopted by many countries, often with frequent changes over time depending on the evolution of the virus spread in the different countries. As a result, migration flows in many countries were irregular, unpredictable, and even more difficult to measure than in "normal" times.

10. In this context, countries will be invited to share information on how the Covid crisis affected the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on international migration and on remittances. Particular attention will be dedicated to surveys, and to changes that may have possibly taken place in the administrative systems of registration, which in some cases could accelerate that transition to electronic data transmission instead of using paper.

11. It is envisaged that basic information on the impact of the Covid crisis on the production of migration statistics could be collected from countries in advance of the meeting, in order to be presented and discussed.

B. Measurement challenges in the Covid crisis

12. The Covid crisis is having significant consequences on methodology used for migration statistics, for various reasons. For instance, governments may need to have more frequent estimates, which could be produced adopting nowcasting or similar methodologies. Countries will be invited to discuss the management of the crisis, and the impact on the statistical production.

C. Measuring the consequences of decline in migration

13. In many countries, the Covid crisis resulted in lower level of immigrants, and this may have significant implications on the economy, including the food, health, housing sectors. Labour migration pattern have been suddenly interrupted or significantly affected, with important implications on unemployment, remittances, and production.

D. Crisis impact on immigrants

14. Immigrants are more harshly affected than others by the pandemic for various reasons. Compared to the overall population, they may have limited access to information, prevention measures, and healthcare. This session will focus on vulnerable and temporary populations, including for instance their health needs.

E. Internal migration

15. Like international migration, internal migration also is heavily affected by the Covid crisis, especially in countries where a lockdown of other measures restricting the movement of persons have been declared. Countries will be invited to share information on the techniques adopted to measure internal migration in these special circumstances, including for instance the potential use of mobile phone data.

F. Definitions of population and migration

16. The progress of the work on the revision of the United Nations recommendations for statistics on international migration will be presented and discussed, including the definitions of population, migration, and place of residence.