

# UNECE Task Force on Population Projections

## Introduction

Eurostat-UNECE Work Session on Demographic Projections  
Geneva, April 20<sup>th</sup> 2016

# Outline

- Background
- Mandate/objectives of task force
- Methodology

# Background

- Objectives of the UNECE
  - Promote pan-European economic integration
  - Exchange and apply best practices and technical expertise
- Objectives of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES):
  - Improve national statistics and their international comparability
  - Achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions across national statistical offices
- CES selected population projections for an in-depth review in February 2014

# Background

- In-depth review\* completed in September 2014 by Canada and the United Kingdom
- The CES Bureau decided to set up a Task Force on population projections to carry out 2 objectives:
  1. Collection of good practices on communicating population projections to users
  2. Creation of database containing metadata on national and international population projections

\* [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2014/October/02-In\\_depth\\_review\\_of\\_projections.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2014/October/02-In_depth_review_of_projections.pdf)

\* [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2015/8Add1-Outcome\\_on\\_population\\_projections.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2015/8Add1-Outcome_on_population_projections.pdf)

# Background

- UNECE Task force on population projections
  - Terms of Reference\* approved February 2015
  - Members:

Canada (chair)	Sweden
Eurostat	Switzerland
Italy	Turkey
Portugal	United Kingdom
Mexico	United Nations Population Division
  - Timelines: 2015 to end of 2016

\* [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2015/February/04-ToR\\_TF\\_on\\_Population\\_Projections.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2015/February/04-ToR_TF_on_Population_Projections.pdf)

# Background

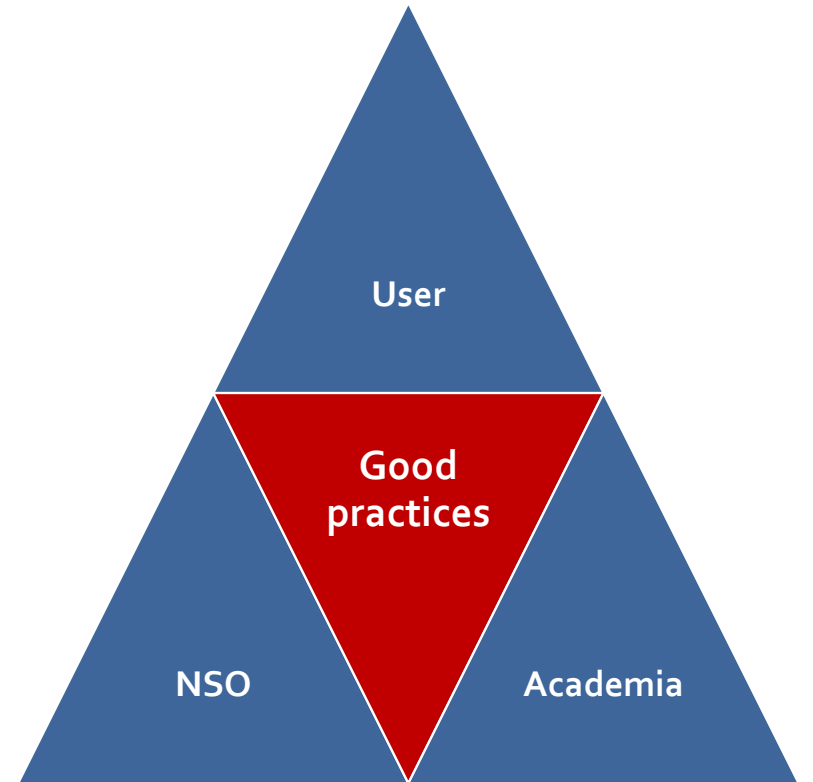
- **UNECE Task force on population projections: Members**
  - **Patrice Dion** (Chair), Head, National Population Projections program, Statistics Canada
  - **Neriman Can Ergan**, Demographic Statistics Expert, TurkStat
  - **Suzanne Dunsmith**, Head of Population Projections, Office for National Statistics
  - **Nora Galbraith**, Analyst, Statistics Canada
  - **Victor Garcia Vilchis**, Special Advisor, INEGI, Mexico
  - **Mehmet Dogu Karakaya**, Demographic Statistics Expert, TurkStat
  - **Raymond Kohli**, Head, Demographic Methodology and Population Projections, Swiss Federal Statistics Office
  - **Giampaolo Lanzieri**, Head of projections, Eurostat
  - **Lena Lundkvist**, Head, National Population Projections, Statistics Sweden
  - **Graça Magalhaes**, Senior Statistician, Statistics Portugal
  - **Marco Marsili**, Head, Estimates, Projections and Population Dynamics, Istat, Italy
  - **François Pelletier**, Chief, Population Estimates and Projections, United Nations Population Division
  - **Claudia Pina**, Head, Demographic Statistics Unit, Statistics Portugal
  - **Paolo Valente**, Coordinator, UNECE
  - **Felix Velez Fernandez Varez**, Vice President, INEGI, Mexico

## First objective of the TF

- Prepare a collection of good practices on communicating population projections
  - Expected output: publication in electronic format

# Methodology: Framework

- Find a balance between the producer restrictions (resources, challenges, etc.), user needs and scientific arguments.
- Prioritize good practices based on their necessity.
- “Science communication is driven by what audiences need to know, not by what scientists want to say” (Fischhoff and Davis 2014).





# Methodology: Tools

- Surveys
  - Survey of NSOs producing population projections among member countries of the UNECE (plus Mexico and UN).
  - Surveys of the users of population projections among countries participating in the Task Force.
- Literature review
- Consultation with a group of experts

## Second objective of the TF

- Guide the Secretariat in establishing a UNECE database of metadata about national and international population projections
  - Expected output: database hosted by UNECE

# Next

- Following presentations
  - Objective A:
    - Disseminating results
    - Transparency
    - Communicating uncertainty
    - Fostering relationships with users
  - Selected results from the surveys
  - Objective B: the database
- This is work in progress: your feedback is important !
- Send feedback to:
  - Patrice Dion: [patrice.dion@canada.ca](mailto:patrice.dion@canada.ca)
  - Paolo Valente: [paolo.valente@unece.org](mailto:paolo.valente@unece.org)