UNECE Task Force on Population Projections

Draft Database on Population Projections Metadata

Eurostat-UNECE Work Session on Demographic Projections
Geneva, April 18-20 2016
Objectives of the Task Force

- **Mandate from CES (from TOR of Task Force):**
  - Prepare a collection of good practices on communicating population projections
    - Expected output: publication in electronic format
  - Guide the Secretariat in establishing a UNECE database of metadata about national and international population projections
    - Expected output: database hosted by UNECE
What is the unit of the database?

- National or international projection exercise (latest available)
- Identified by name of country to which the projection refers (or “Multiple countries”)
- Currently the DB includes 32 projections
Format of the database

- Currently a simple excel sheet
  24 columns/variables
  32 rows/projections
- Final format to be decided later
- General preference to keep simple and light – not too many and/or too technical variables
Information (variables) on time of projection

- Year/month of dissemination (YYYY-MM)
  (if multiple products were published over a period of time, it refers to the earliest date, including web dissemination)
- Start Year (YYYY)
- End Year (YYYY)
  (if different year-ends are used for different products, it refers to the farthest)
- Production frequency (in number of years)
  - Alternative terms considered:
    - Update frequency [implies that there are no changes?]
    - Interval between releases
Information (variables) on base population

• Base population data source(s)

  ISSUE: Discrepancies in info collected, e.g.:
  - Population register
  - Population update
  - Resident population
  - Statistical Office
  - Population estimates
  - Population statistics
  - Census
  - Census + surveys + vital stats...

  RESULT: Information collected is misleading and not useful

  FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped? Or defined better with a closed question? Which categories could be used?
Base population reference date (YYYY-MM)

ISSUE: Similar to “Start year (YYYY)”, confusing. It refers to the same year in most cases, but not always:
  - In many countries, BPRD is December of the year before the “start year”
  - In some countries, BPRD is 1, 2 or 5 years before the “start year”

FOR DISCUSSION: Shall we drop BPRD? Shall we replace BPRD with “Exact date of reference (YYYY-MM-DD)”?
Information (variables) on base population

• Adjustments to the base population (if any)

ISSUE: Information provided only by 7 countries, sometimes misleading. Perhaps too technical for DB.

• FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped?
Information (variables) on population characteristics (other than age and sex)

YES/NO

- Sub-national geography (22 countries)
  We could add more detailed info on geography:
  - consistency bw national and sub-national level
  - number of units
  - type of approach
  - internal migration model

In alternative, one variable “Sub-national geography” with three categories:
"yes, consistent"
"yes, not consistent"
"no"

FOR DISCUSSION: What shall we do?
Information (variables) on population characteristics (other than age and sex)

YES/NO

- Marital status (2 countries only!)
  FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped and considered under “other characteristics”?

- Household type (6 countries)

- Citizenship (4 countries)

- Country of birth (3 countries) [initially “country of birth or origin”]

- Other char. / Special projections (to be specified)
Information (variables) on type of projection and number/type of scenarios/variants

- **Type of projection** [proposed by TF after survey]
  - Deterministic
  - Probabilistic

- **Number and type of scenarios/variants published**

  **ISSUE:** Terms apply mostly to det. projections
  **FOR DISCUSSION:** Rename: “Number and type of scenarios/variants or prediction intervals published”?
Information (variables) on level of detail of projections

- Level of detail for dissemination - Single years of age, until age...
- Level of detail for dissemination - Five year age groups, until age group...
- Level of detail for dissemination (year) [closed question]
  Single years
  Every 5 years
  Other (to be specified)
General information about projections

- **Organization**
  NOTE: In most cases it’s the NSI

- **Email address for direct contact by users** – OPTIONAL (27 countries!)

- **Title of the projection**
  [proposed by TF after survey]

- **Links to dissemination products**
  FOR DISCUSSION: consider separately data links and metadata links?
Additional variables proposed by some TF members

- Availability of assumptions and indicators
  
  FOR DISCUSSION: Shall be added? One or two separate columns?

- Information about whether backward revisions are made on population projections during the revision process, or not
  
  FOR DISCUSSION: Shall be added?

- Population concept used (de facto/de jure)
  
  FOR DISCUSSION: Shall be added?
Summary of open issues:
1) base population

- Base population data source(s)
  ISSUE: Info collected is misleading and not useful
  FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped? Or defined better with a closed question? Which categories could be used?

- Base population reference date (YYYY-MM)
  ISSUE: Similar to “Start year (YYYY)”, confusing.
  FOR DISCUSSION: Shall we drop BPRD? Shall we replace BPRD with “Exact date of reference (YYYY-MM-DD)”?

- Adjustments to the base population (if any)
  ISSUE: Info for 7 countries, misleading, technical.
  FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped?
Summary of open issues:
2) population characteristics (other than age and sex)

• Sub-national geography (22 countries)
  We could add more detailed info on geography:
  - consistency bw national and sub-national level
  - number of units
  - type of approach
  - internal migration model
  In alternative, one variable “Sub-national geography” with three categories:
  "yes, consistent"
  "yes, not consistent"
  "no"

FOR DISCUSSION: What shall we do?

• Marital status (2 countries only!)
  FOR DISCUSSION: To be dropped and considered under “other characteristics”?
Summary of open issues:

3) type of projection and number/type of scenarios/variants

- Type of projection [proposed by TF after survey]
  - Deterministic
  - Probabilistic

- Number and type of scenarios/variants published

  ISSUE: Terms apply mostly to det. projections
  FOR DISCUSSION: Rename: “Number and type of scenarios/variants or prediction intervals published”?