

UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

UNECE-Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses

(13-15 May 2008, Geneva, Switzerland)

UNECE Workshop on Communication and Dissemination of Census Results

(16 May 2008, Geneva, Switzerland)

INFORMATION NOTICE No.1

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The UNECE and Eurostat are organising a Joint Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses on 13-15 May 2008. The meeting will be held in Room VII, Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix 8, Geneva. Information on the purpose and agenda of the Meeting is given in sections II and III below.
2. The Meeting will be followed by a one-day Workshop on Communication and Dissemination of Census Results on 16 May 2008. Also the workshop will be held in Room VII, Palais des Nations. More information on this workshop is given in section IV below.
3. Participants attending the Meeting on Censuses may consider attending also the Workshop on Developing Data Dissemination Systems organised by UNECE before the Meeting, on 12 May 2008 (please refer to <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.05.dissemination3.htm> for more information). This workshop is organized mainly for experts attending the UNECE Work Session on Statistical Dissemination and Communication, also organised by UNECE in Geneva on 13-15 May 2008 (in parallel to the Meeting on Censuses). Please note that this workshop is not specifically related to census issues. However, some of the experts planning to attend the Meeting on Censuses may be interested in also attending this workshop.
4. To summarize, in the week 12-16 May 2008, the UNECE is organizing the following meetings:
 - 12 May: Workshop on Developing Data Dissemination Systems (optional for census experts)
 - **13-15 May: Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses (recommended for census experts)**
 - 13-15 May: Work Session on Statistical Dissemination and Communication (not targeted to census experts)
 - **16 May: Workshop on Communication and Dissemination of Census Results (recommended for census experts).**
5. Participants are encouraged to arrange their travel so that they can benefit from attending more than one of these events.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

3. The main purpose of the meeting is to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries and increase knowledge on various issues related to census quality assurance and evaluation, data editing and validation, and issues associated to difficult-to-measure census topics. This will result in increased capacity by

countries to plan and conduct the population and housing censuses of the 2010 round in compliance with the “CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing”.

6. The target audience of the meeting includes managers and experts in national and international statistical offices responsible for census planning and management.

III. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

7. The programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive topics:

- (i) Census quality assurance and evaluation
- (ii) Data editing and validation
- (iii) Difficult-to-measure topics

8. Detailed explanatory notes on the topics (i) – (iii) are provided below.

Census quality assurance and evaluation

9. In this session, countries are expected to exchange their experiences with regard to strategies for census quality assurance and census evaluation. Census quality must be managed throughout the entire census programme. An appropriate strategy for quality assurance should be developed in advance, and attention to quality should be paid during design, implementation and assessment of census operations.

10. Although the evaluation of census results has always been an essential component of the census operation, the wider use of new ways of census taking has increased the importance of coverage and quality evaluation. There is the need for discussion and an exchange of information between countries to determine best practices in evaluating the quality and coverage for all types of censuses, including 'traditional' censuses and registered-based censuses.

Data editing and validation

11. To obtain accurate census results, data must be free, as much as possible, from errors and inconsistencies, especially after the data processing stage. However, census data are never perfect and may suffer, at different extents, from various sources of data errors or omissions. The procedures developed for identifying errors and omissions and correcting results play a key role in determining the quality of the final census data. Countries are expected to share in this session their experiences in the development of the procedures for census data editing and validation.

Difficult-to-measure topics

12. The CES Recommendation for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing provide countries with guidance on the planning of the next population census, and present the selection of topics to be considered, together with recommendations on definitions and classifications, etc. The CES Recommendations also discuss some of the problems that could be faced by countries in collecting data on specific topics. Problems could be due to various reasons, including for instance the nature of the topics, the type of data collection method adopted, or the characteristics of the sources, for instance when registers or existing surveys are used.

13. In this session, countries are expected to discuss the problems associated with selected difficult-to-measure topics. Attention will be paid also to the topics that are difficult to measure for countries using registers, also taking into account the results of the Expert Group Meeting held in Astana on 7-8 June 2007 (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.06.census2.htm>). The discussion in this session may also include problems associated with the coverage of specific population groups that are traditionally difficult to enumerate, like illegal immigrants, homeless, etc.

IV. ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF CENSUS RESULTS – 16 MAY 2008

14. The UNECE-Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses will be followed by a one-day Workshop on Communication and Dissemination of Census Results on Friday 16 May 2008. This workshop is being held jointly with participants in the UNECE Work Session on Statistical Dissemination and Communication, who are also meeting in Geneva on 13-15 May (in parallel to the Meeting on Censuses).

15. The programme of the workshop is expected to include discussion on: communicating quality; disseminating census microdata; dynamic dissemination of census results; communication methods; and working with the media. The working languages of the workshop are English, French and Russian. English/French/Russian interpretation will be available at the meeting.

16. An information notice for the workshop is available on the UNECE website at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.05.dissemination2.htm>. Participants who wish to contribute a paper for presentation at this workshop should express their interest in accordance with the instructions in the information notice. The agenda and documents for the workshop will be made available on the website above.

17. Participants can register for the workshop by completing the registration form sent with this notice.

V. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION FOR THE MEETING

18. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations, and interested intergovernmental organizations, are welcome to participate in the meeting. All delegates must be accredited by the competent authority of their country or international organization. All delegates attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas must be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of the Switzerland in the country in which the delegates reside, with a reference to the UNECE-Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses. If necessary, the UNECE secretariat can provide a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa. This can be requested from the UNECE secretariat (fax: ++41 22 917 0040 or e-mail: mijidgombo.oyunjargal@unece.org)

19. Delegates should complete the registration form sent with this notice and return it to the UNECE Secretariat (e-mail to mijidgombo.oyunjargal@unece.org) by 29 February 2008. Those intending to submit a paper should take note of the deadlines and requirements under Section VII below.

20. In order to enter the Palais des Nations where the meeting is being held, all participants need to obtain a security pass (ID badge). For this purpose, please present yourself with your passport at the UN Security Identification Office at Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations (Avenue de la Paix 14, Buses 8 and 18, Stop Appia), by 8:30 a.m. at the latest on Tuesday, 13 May 2008. The Security Identification Office is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (non-stop) except official UN holiday. For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the Palais des Nations.

21. Maps of Geneva, list of hotels and information for visitors to the Palais des Nations are available on the following website: <http://www.unece.org/stats/geneva.e.htm>. Please see map of the Pregny Gate on the above website: Geneva', 'Plan of the UN building').

VI. ACCOMMODATION

22. Delegates are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. Information about accommodation options in Geneva can be found at <http://www.geneva-tourism.ch>.

VII. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE MEETING

23. The working languages of the meeting are English, French and Russian. English/French/Russian interpretation will be available at the meeting.
24. For each substantive item on the agenda, the Organizers will invite a limited number of speakers to write and present an **invited paper**. All other participants are welcome to submit a **supporting paper** for any topic on the agenda. The supporting papers will be distributed to the delegates via the Meeting's website. They will not be presented but only summarized by discussants.
25. Both invited and supporting papers can be submitted in English, French or Russian. Invited papers will be translated and therefore they will be available in English, French and Russian, provided that they will be submitted to UNECE **by 18 February 2008**. Supporting papers will not be translated and will be available only in the language in which they are submitted. If supporting papers will be submitted in French or Russian, the authors are invited, if possible, to also submit a short abstract (maximum one page) in English.
26. Invited and supporting papers will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.05.census.htm>
27. The following deadlines and requirements apply:
- Interested national statistical offices and other government bodies should inform the UNECE secretariat of their intention to contribute a supporting paper (indicating the topic) by sending an e-mail message to paolo.valente@unece.org **by 29 February 2008**. The message should include a short abstract, (maximum one page) of the paper, possibly in English.
 - The full versions of papers, *not exceeding 8 pages in length (including tables, references, annexes, etc.)*, should be sent to the UNECE secretariat by the following deadlines:
 - Invited papers should be submitted **by 18 February 2008** at the latest;
 - Supporting papers should be submitted **by 11 April 2008** at the latest;
 - Papers should be submitted in MS Word format electronically to Mr. Paolo Valente (paolo.valente@unece.org).
28. Delegates are encouraged to download the papers from the website and bring their own copies to the meeting. Documents posted on the website before the meeting will not be distributed in the conference room.

VIII. FURTHER INFORMATION

29. For further information, please contact the following organizers:

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