

UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Joint UNECE/Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses
(7-9 July 2010, Geneva, Switzerland)

INFORMATION NOTICE No.1

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The UNECE and Eurostat are organising a Joint Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses. The meeting will be held at the United Nations, Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix 8, Geneva, from 7 to 9 July 2010. Information on the purpose and agenda of the Meeting is given in sections II and III below.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

2. The main purpose of the meeting is to facilitate the exchange of experiences between countries and increase knowledge on various issues related to the organisation of the population and housing censuses of the 2010 round. This will result in increased capacity by countries to comply with the “CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing”.

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

III. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

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

- i. Census communication and dissemination, including the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS);
- ii. Plans for census quality evaluation;
- iii. Beyond the 2010 census round: Plans for the 2020 round.

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

i. Census communication and dissemination, including the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

6. Census communication and dissemination are key components of the census programs, which need to be carefully planned in advance, and provided with the required resources. Census communication is particularly important for censuses that include field data collection for the whole or part of the population. The communication campaign should aim at informing the population about the census, explain its purpose, provide details on the modalities of the data collection, reinforce public trust and ensure the cooperation of the respondents. In this session countries are expected to exchange experiences and information on their plans for the census communication and publicity campaign for the current census. Countries that have already conducted their data collection exercises will also have the opportunity to present the results of the public’s reaction to the communication campaign, and/or explain how they reacted to difficult or unexpected situations.

7. The dissemination of census results should be given prominence in all countries regardless of the census methodology adopted, since “*only used statistics are useful statistics*”. Considering the huge resources normally spent conducting the census and producing the most relevant and accurate results, it is fundamental that appropriate means are identified to disseminate the census results and adequate resources are invested.

8. Countries are expected to share information on their plans for dissemination of census results, including different media to be used and products to be developed to satisfy the various needs of different user categories. Special attention will be paid to the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the dissemination of census results. Eurostat is also expected to report on the development of the EU census hub, to be used for disseminating the results of the 2011 censuses in member countries.

ii. Plans for census quality evaluation

9. No census is perfect and, even though all possible efforts are made to minimise the impact of different types of errors on the census results, it has to be recognised that some errors will always be present. For this reason, it is very important to plan and implement a comprehensive census quality evaluation program. The objective should be the assessment of coverage and content errors. The results of the evaluation should be disseminated together with the census data to give users the most complete information about census results. For traditional censuses, evaluation methodologies based on Post-Enumeration Surveys are normally adopted, in particular to estimate the coverage error. For other census approaches, other methodologies can be adopted, based for instance on sample surveys or other sources used as benchmark. It is expected that countries will share information in this session on their plans for census quality evaluation.

iii. Beyond the 2010 census round: Plans for the 2020 round

10. For the 2010 round of censuses, an increasing number of countries in the ECE region are adopting an innovative census methodology, often with the objective to use data from existing registers, or to address some of the shortcomings of traditional censuses. In several cases the 2010 census was planned as a sort of transition census, in view of a fully register-based census in 2020. For instance, in some countries where registers' coverage and accuracy is currently not fully satisfactory, their data are used in combination with other sources. In this session, countries are expected to share information on their plans for the census of the 2020 round.

IV. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION FOR THE MEETING

11. 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 Joint 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 (e-mail: benedicte.boudol@unece.org)

12. Delegates should complete the registration form sent with this notice and return it to the UNECE Secretariat (benedicte.boudol@unece.org) **by 11 June 2010**. Those intending to submit a paper should take note of the deadlines and requirements under Section VI below.

13. 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 Wednesday, 7 July 2010. The Security Identification Office is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (non-stop). For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the Palais des Nations.

14. Maps of Geneva and information for visitors to the Palais des Nations are available on the following web page: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm> The same web page includes a map of the Palais des

Nations (click on “UN Map”) with indication of the UN Security Identification Office at the Pregny Gate entrance.

V. ACCOMMODATION

15. Delegates are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. Information about accommodation options in Geneva can be found at <http://www.geneva-tourism.ch>. Delegates are recommended to book the hotel well in advance since hotels in Geneva are often fully booked due to the large number of international conferences and events.

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

16. The working languages of the meeting are English and Russian, simultaneous interpretation will be provided and documents will be available in English and Russian.

17. 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. Supporting papers normally are not presented by their authors at the meeting.

18. Both invited and supporting papers can be submitted in English or Russian. Invited papers will be translated and therefore they will be available in both English and Russian, provided that they will be submitted to UNECE **by 12 April 2010**. Supporting papers will not be translated and will be available only in the language in which they will be submitted. If papers will be submitted in Russian, the authors are invited, if possible, to also submit a short abstract (maximum one page) in English.

19. 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/2010.07.census.htm>

20. **The following deadlines and requirements apply:**

- Interested national statistical offices and other government bodies that would like to contribute a supporting paper should inform the UNECE secretariat by sending an e-mail message to paolo.valente@unece.org **by 1 April 2010**. The message should include a short abstract of the paper (maximum one page), 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 12 April 2010** at the latest;
 - Supporting papers should be submitted **by 7 June 2010** at the latest;
- Papers should be submitted in Word format electronically to paolo.valente@unece.org

21. 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.

VII. FURTHER INFORMATION

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

UNECE:

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