

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
FEDERAL STATE STATISTICS SERVICE

High-level Seminar on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS Countries

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Seminar will be held at Hotel Kempinski in Gelendzhik (Russian Federation)
on 16-18 October 2013.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat) are jointly organizing a High-level Seminar on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS Countries, to be held in Gelendzhik (Russian Federation) on 16-18 October 2013. The Seminar is organized in the framework of a three-year cooperation project on censuses and migration statistics with financial support of the Russian Federation.

II. PURPOSE AND TARGET AUDIENCE

2. The purpose is to discuss among heads of national statistical agencies the challenges related to conducting population censuses and producing statistics on international migration. The objectives are the following:

- To review the lessons learned with the 2010 round of population censuses;
- To review the current state of migration statistics;
- To agree upon a future course of action to improve population censuses and migration statistics.

3. The target audience includes heads of national statistical organizations, senior statistical experts and policymakers (data users).

III. AGENDA

4. The meeting will start on Wednesday, 16 October at 9.30 a.m. and close at 1 p.m. on Friday, 18 October.

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

- The traditional census: challenges, problems and solutions
- Alternative census methods: what could be the future options for CIS countries?
- Challenges of migration statistics in CIS
- Use of data from the census, household surveys and administrative sources to improve the measurement of international migration
- Availability and exchange of migration data between countries

The traditional census: challenges, problems and solutions

6. When the population census is carried out in a traditional way, with field enumeration where census enumerators distribute and collect paper questionnaires, the challenges include high costs, complex organization, large temporary field workforce to be selected and trained, long time needed for data processing and timeliness of data (a census is normally conducted every ten years). More recently, additional challenges emerged in many countries, including the difficulty to enumerate some population groups like young people or professionals who have multiple residences, or persons who refuse to open their door to the census enumerators because of security concerns or other reasons. The exchange of experiences about the 2010 round of censuses will help identifying good practices and common solutions for these problems that could be adopted by CIS countries for future censuses. An example is the internet response option that was used with success by several UNECE countries conducting a traditional census in the 2010 round.

Alternative census methods: what could be future options for CIS countries?

7. The use of new data sources and new technologies led many European countries to adopt alternative census methods in the 2010 round. Several countries used data from population registers and other administrative sources to produce census results in combination with a field enumeration of the whole population or a sample survey. Other countries based the census only on data from registers, in some cases using for selected variables results from existing sample surveys like the Labour Force Survey. An alternative method that does not use data from registers is the rolling census adopted in France: some municipalities are surveyed every year over a five-year cycle. The results are aggregated to produce estimates at the local and national level that are updated every year. Which of these options the CIS countries could consider in the future, taking into account the available sources and the national circumstances?

Challenges of migration statistics in CIS countries

8. This session would look at the current state of migration statistics in CIS countries and try to identify issues where CIS countries could make progress by joining forces. The challenges include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Legal base, often leading to duplication of data collection
- Insufficient availability and use of survey data
- Better use of immigration data of destination countries for measuring emigration
- Micro-data access
- Better contact between users and producers of statistics
- Capacity-building

Use of data from the census, household surveys and administrative sources to improve the measurement of international migration

9. The decennial population census is an important source of information on measuring migration, particularly in terms of the stock of migrants and their characteristics. Some countries have also attempted to use censuses to measure other aspects of migration, such as emigration, reasons for move, or migrant flows. This session will look at the use of censuses in the CIS region, as well as possible ways to better utilize this data source to increase our knowledge base on migration. It would also look at the potential use of household surveys and administrative data to measure migration.

Availability and exchange of migration data between countries

10. The measurement of emigration is one of the most difficult challenges for data producers. Data exchange between countries has been seen as a relatively simple method of improving emigration data for sending countries. UNECE has produced guidelines on data exchange, including the establishment of a central repository to share basic migration statistics for countries in the CIS region. The establishment of this data repository increases the potential of regionally comparable migration data, as well as potentially improving estimates of emigration for these countries by utilizing immigration data from other countries in the region. This session would discuss the data exchange process, including the use of the UNECE migration clearing house database created for this purpose.

IV. DOCUMENTATION AND METHOD OF WORK

11. The working languages of the meeting are Russian and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

12. Participants are invited to submit an abstract for a presentation on one of the topics on the agenda.

13. The following submission requirements and deadlines apply:

- Selection of the seminar topic on which the presentation will focus, by **31 July**.
- Presentation abstracts of up to 300 words by **6 September**.
- Presentation slides (PowerPoint files) by **7 October**.
- Please address all submissions by e-mail to Mr Andres Vikat: andres.vikat@unece.org and social.stats@unece.org.

14. Meeting documents, presentations and their abstracts will be made available on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2013.10.hls.html>.

V. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION

15. All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organization.

16. Participants should complete the attached registration form and return it to the UNECE secretariat, e-mail social.stats@unece.org, by **1 July**.

17. All participants attending the Seminar are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. If you require a visa to enter the Russian Federation, please indicate this in the registration form and request an invitation letter from Rosstat (Mr. Ilya Matyushev: imatyushev@gks.ru and Ms. Kate Nikulina: nikulina_e@gks.ru). Rosstat will send you an invitation letter, which you will need to submit with your visa application. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Russian Federation in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the UNECE/Rosstat High-level Seminar on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS Countries.

VI. ACCOMMODATION

18. Air travel of registered participants will be organized and paid for by UNECE. Reservations for all participants will be arranged by the organizers of the Seminar at the Kempinski hotel.

19. Transportation of registered participants between the airport and the hotel will be organized by Rosstat.

VII. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

20. Should you have any questions regarding the information provided above, please contact:

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