

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2021/2022 Bureau
Geneva, 23-24 February 2022

Item III (a) of the Provisional
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STEERING GROUP ON
MIGRATION STATISTICS**

Prepared by the Steering Group

The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Steering Group on Migration Statistics.

I. BACKGROUND

1. Member States of the United Nations have recently reaffirmed the importance of improving migration data. This was expressed at the highest level in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018, [A/RES/73/195](#)) where “collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies” is distinguished as objective number one. In 2021, the United Nations Statistical Commission reiterated the importance of the work done to improve migration statistics, acknowledging the need to provide guidance on data integration and on the potential of using non-traditional data sources, and recognizing with appreciation the initiatives at regional level to improve the production, dissemination and management of timely and comparable migration data and statistics (2021, [E/2021/24-E/CN.3/2021/30](#))

2. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 10 targets relate to migration, including target 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. Furthermore, the United Nations Statistical Commission recommends disaggregating all Sustainable Development Goal indicators by migratory status where relevant, and target 17.18 calls to develop capacity for achieving this.

3. To respond to the policy demand for better migration statistics, continuing action is needed at the international level, including methodological work, exchange of experience and capacity development. Guidance by experts from different national and international statistical organizations would ensure correspondence of these activities with the evolving needs and priorities of member countries in this area, including under rapidly changing circumstances as was the case in the Covid pandemic. The Steering Group on Migration Statistics is well placed to carry out this function.

II. MANDATE

4. The work of the Steering Group is conducted within the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Steering Group will report regularly to the CES Bureau on its activities as well as on emerging issues in migration statistics and possible ways of addressing them.

5. The Steering Group may identify new areas where methodological work could be undertaken by groups of experts (Task Forces or Task Teams) and after having verified the

interest by a sufficient number of CES member countries and the availability of resources, the Steering Group will submit proposals to the CES Bureau for review and approval.

III. OBJECTIVE

6. The objective of the Steering Group is to provide direction to the CES work on migration statistics, advance methodological development and facilitate implementation of methodological guidance on migration statistics.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

7. The Steering Group carries out the following activities:

- a) Supervise and steer the task forces working on migration statistics, and review their reports;
- b) Identify areas in migration statistics where methodological work needs to be undertaken and prepare concept papers and terms of reference;
- c) Act as an organizing committee for the meetings of the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics (the next session is scheduled for October 2022);
- d) Provide advice to the UNECE Secretariat on capacity development and other activities that support implementation of CES methodological guidance on migration statistics.

V. TIMETABLE

8. The work of the Steering Group in relation to coordination and identification of new areas is ongoing. The terms of reference for the Steering Group will be reviewed by the CES Bureau in 2027.

VI. METHODS OF WORK

9. The Steering Group will primarily work via email and video conference. The Steering Group may organize informal meetings at events attended by a significant number of members, such as the meetings of the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics and the Eurostat Working Group on Population Statistics.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

10. As of January 2022, the representatives of the following countries and organizations participate in the Steering Group: Australia, Canada, Israel, Italy (chair), Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States, CIS-Stat, Eurostat and UNECE.

11. UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Steering Group.

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