

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

First Meeting of the 2003/2004 Bureau

Washington, D.C. (United States), 20-21 October 2003

**THE JOINT ECE-EUROSTAT PROJECT ON FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS
(Including draft Terms of Reference of the Task Force on Families and Households)**

Note by the ECE Secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. At the 2003 plenary session of the CES, Statistics Norway presented a proposal to carry out a joint ECE/Eurostat research project on household and family statistics, in order to improve the quality of statistics in this field (CES/2003/19). According to the proposal, the project would consist of the following tasks:

Task 1: To evaluate questions and tabulations on households and families as implemented in the 2000 round of censuses by member countries of Eurostat and the ECE;

Task 2: To compare family and household concepts, definitions, and tabulated results in the census with those from other national and European sources, such as the LFS or EU-SILC;

Task 3: To propose improved recommendations on households and families for the 2010 round of censuses.

2. The findings of the project would serve, on the one hand, the work in connection with the EU-SILC household surveys and, on the other hand, the joint work by Eurostat and the ECE on the new recommendations for the 2010 round of population censuses in the UNECE region.

3. The project proposal was received very positively, and a number of countries and organizations wanted to be more actively involved. The Conference asked the Bureau to follow developments in the work in this area and asked Eurostat and ECE to collaborate closely with interested NSOs.

4. During the preparation of the draft ECE Statistical Programme for 2004, the draft work programme for the joint ECE-Eurostat project on families and households was discussed within the ECE Statistical Division. It was agreed that the following text would be included in the draft Statistical Programme:

- ◆ Work, in collaboration with Eurostat and other interested NSOs (e.g. Canada, Norway and the USA), on the following tasks:

Task 1: Evaluate household and family issues encountered by countries in their 2000 population censuses;

Task 2: Evaluate household and family issues encountered by countries in major European surveys such as EU-SILC and LFSs;

Task 3: Develop and propose improved recommendations on families and households for inclusion in the new set of ECE-Eurostat recommendations for the 2010 round of population censuses in the ECE region;

Task 4: Develop recommendations on families and households for large-scale household surveys.

5. With regard to the composition of the Task Force, after the June 2003 plenary session of the CES, consultations took place between the ECE, Eurostat and countries interested in participating in the project. The proposed composition of the Task Force is shown in the draft Terms of Reference, in an annex to this note.

II. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE BUREAU

6. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the work plan included in the draft ECE Statistical Programme for 2004 and reproduced in para. 4 above, and also to approve the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Families and Households (presented in the annex to this document).

Annex

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK FORCE ON FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Note by the ECE Secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. At the 2003 plenary session of the CES, Statistics Norway presented a proposal to carry out a joint ECE/Eurostat research project on household and family statistics, in order to improve the quality of statistics in this field (CES/2003/19). The Conference asked the Bureau to follow developments in the work in this area and asked Eurostat and ECE to collaborate closely with interested NSOs.

2. After the June 2003 plenary session of the CES, consultations took place between the ECE, Eurostat and countries interested in participating in the Task Force, and a proposal on the composition of the Task Force was finalised (see below). This document proposes the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Families and Households.

II. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE

3. Following consultations between ECE and Eurostat, it is proposed that the Task Force be composed of the following members: Mr. Nico Keilman and Mr. Lars Ostby (Statistics Norway), Mr. Pierre Turcotte (Statistics Canada), Mr. Martin O'Connell (US Bureau of the Census). Representatives of the International Organizations: Aarno Laihonon (Eurostat) and Paolo Valente (UNECE). The possibility of the participation of Finland in the work of the Task Force is currently being discussed.

III. ROLE OF THE TASK FORCE

4. The Task Force should take the necessary steps to launch the project on families and households, and oversee its completion. The proposed project consists of the following tasks:

Task 1: Evaluate household and family issues encountered by countries in their 2000 population censuses;

Task 2: Evaluate household and family issues encountered by countries in major European surveys such as EU-SILC and LFSs;

Task 3: Develop and propose improved recommendations on families and households for inclusion in the new set of ECE-Eurostat recommendations for the 2010 round of population censuses in the ECE region;

Task 4: Develop recommendations on families and households for large-scale household surveys.

5. It is expected that some of these tasks will be carried out through "volunteer" work provided by the participants in the Task Force, assisted when required by representatives of the international organizations.

6. The Task Force should discuss in detail how to carry out the four tasks (and possible additional tasks are feasible) and the timetable for the project.

7. The Task Force should work in close coordination with the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses, and should report regularly to the CES Bureau.

IV. NEXT STEPS

8. In the last quarter of 2003, the Task Force should draw up a detailed work plan and timetable for the project.

9. In February 2004, the Task Force should report to the CES Bureau on the planning and development of the project.