

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**Project “Preparation for the 2020 round of population censuses and  
the production of better migration data in CIS countries”**

**Implemented from 2013 to 2015**

## **Evaluation Report**

**Period of evaluation: 21 November to 31 January 2017**

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**Evaluation commissioned by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

### Evaluation report

The report compiled by Ms. Katerina Kostadinova Daskalovska, independent consultant, to evaluate the UNECE project “Preparation for the 2020 round of population censuses and the production of better migration data in CIS countries”, implemented from 2013 to 2015.

The report was drafted and edited by the consultant and any mistakes and misunderstandings are of her responsibility.

The views and interpretations are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

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**List of acronyms**

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIS-stat	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
EEC	Eurasian Economic Commission
Eurostat	statistical office of the European Union
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSOs	National Statistical Offices
Rosstat	Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation
UNECE	United Nation Economic Commission for Europe
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

## Executive Summary

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the UNECE Project “Preparation for the 2020 Round of Population Censuses and the Production of Better Migration Data in CIS countries”. The evaluation attempted to identify lessons learned from the implementation of the project and to develop practical recommendations for the UNECE Statistical Division, participating countries as well as project partners on how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of capacity-building.

The evaluation covered the Project implementation period from February 2013 to December 2015 i.e. February 2016. Main activities (meetings and workshops) and outputs (guides, reports) and their impact and usefulness were assessed.

The evaluation was carried out through desk study of the relevant documentation and analysis of the collected survey data. Desk study included review of the Project proposal, Project reports, presentations, reports and other materials from the implemented project activities (workshops), projects products as well as some other related materials. The evaluation survey included participants from CIS countries, as well as the UNECE staff involved in Project implementation. The survey was conducted in the period December 2016 -January 2017 by e-mail with two type of written questionnaire tailored for this purpose by the consultant and reviewed by the UNECE project manager. Feedback on the questionnaire 1 was received from 34 respondents (out of 71 covered) from 9 countries (out of 11 covered). Feedback on the questionnaire 2 was received from 3 respondents (out of 18 covered).

### **The evaluation resulted in the following conclusions:**

The Project was well designed and planned. It covered a group of countries with many similarities including the similar needs referring population and housing census and migration statistics. The Project content was identified in close consultation with the involved countries, so that it best addresses their needs. The Project is relevant for the work of UNECE since it is mandated to work towards improving the quality and availability of census data and statistics on international migration. The provided resources were sufficient for the Project implementation. All activities were implemented as planned and reached the expected accomplishments and the Project objectives.

A challenge was related to the long administrative procedure for grants at UNECE and to the involvement of migration agencies and other government agencies in the Project.

A particular added value was the organization of workshops back-to-back with UNECE-wide expert meetings. The project was very highly synergized with the activities of the UNECE statistical programme in the area of censuses and migration statistics. Overall, the modality, implementation and results of this Project is a very good example for future projects of statistical capacity-building.

### **Based on the evaluation findings, the evaluator has two groups of recommendations.**

#### **A. Referring the sustainability of the results of this Project, it is recommended:**

- UNECE to remain in close contact with national statistical offices and to follow up by organizing expert meetings and workshops on censuses and migration statistics where it will monitor the progress in census preparations according to the Recommendations and the implementation of guidance provided in the Handbook on migration statistics.

- UNECE in cooperation with the Project partners and beneficiaries countries to make efforts for more involvement of national migration agencies and other related (to migration) government agencies in international meetings on migration statistics in order to increase their commitment for and involvement in activities for improving the migration statistics in their respective countries.
- UNECE in cooperation with the Project partners and beneficiaries countries for purpose of follow up (mentioned in above two paragraphs and building on the results of the concluded Project), to consider the possibilities for planning and implementing a similar project within the UNECE statistical programme that includes further capacity-building on censuses and migration statistics.
- In addition to the monitoring objective, the new UNECE project can include strengthening household surveys for measuring migration. Also, can be considered the possibility of including production of Handbook on labour migration for CIS countries which would include conditions needed to measure labour migration via sample surveys. Development of such Handbook was announced as a plan activity by CIS-stat in the migration workshop in Minsk 2015.

**B. Based on the identified strengths and challenges in the concluded Project during evaluation and referring to UNECE work it is recommended UNECE to continue running similar capacity-building project by applying the same or similar modality and way of implementation and considering the following:**

- In order to avoid significant restriction on the timing of events due to a long administrative procedure for grants at UNECE, it is preferable to organize meetings in countries with resident United Nations offices where simpler administrative procedures can be applied.
- To ensure donor funding that stretches over several years, which allows better planning, achieving stronger results and lower (per event) administrative burden in managing the funds, compared to projects based on just annual programmes.

## 1. Introduction

The UNECE project “Preparation for the 2020 round of population censuses and the production of better migration data in CIS countries” (hereafter “the Project”) was funded from the Russian Federation and implemented from February 2013 to December 2015, with CIS<sup>1</sup> countries as beneficiaries. The main objective of the Project was to strengthen the capacity of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to conduct population censuses and produce statistics on international migration in compliance with international practices and recommendations. The project aimed at engaging directly both the producers and users of statistics, as change is unlikely to occur unless government stakeholders work together towards this endeavour. The project thus targeted mainly experts in national statistical offices (NSOs) and other agencies producing migration statistics in CIS countries, but also government officials who use census data and migration statistics.

The project included the following activities:

- High-level Seminar on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS countries (Gelendzhik, Russian Federation, 16-18 October, 2013)
- Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland, 4 October, 2013)
- Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland, 22 September, 2014)
- Capacity-building workshop on migration statistics (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 8-9 September, 2014)
- Capacity-building workshop on migration statistics (Minsk, Republic of Belarus, 28-29 May, 2015)
- Production of Handbook on Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in the CIS region in both English and Russian language, January 2015-February 2016

### 1. A. Purpose of Evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the relevance of the Project for the UNECE Statistical Programme and the effectiveness of the Project in strengthening the capacity of CIS countries for producing statistics on international migration and implementing population censuses in the 2020 round in accordance with national data needs and the recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

The evaluation also addressed the efficiency and sustainability of the project, and looked at the ways how to maintain the beneficial effects of the project after its conclusion. In addition, the evaluation attempted to identify lessons learned from the implementation of the project and to develop practical recommendations for the UNECE Statistical Division, participating countries as well as project partners on how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of capacity-building.

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<sup>1</sup> Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

## 1. B. Scope of Evaluation

In accordance with the ToRs for evaluation, the evaluation process suppose to engage national experts and focal points in National Statistical Institutes and other relevant organizations, international and regional consultants, as well as any other subjects involved in project implementation. Based on the evaluation requirements and evaluation questions, at the beginning of the evaluation process, the scope was more precisely defined and the evaluation covered the Project participants from CIS countries, as well as the UNECE staff involved in Project implementation. Main activities (meetings and workshops) and outputs (guides, reports) and their impact and usefulness were assessed.

The evaluation covered the organizational contribution of UNECE throughout the project period from June 2013 to December 2015. The evaluation framework covers this project only, and excludes other capacity building activities carried out by the UNECE Statistical Division. It is important to be aware of the limitations of this particular project and that was not possible to measure its exact individual impact, as its impact might not be isolated from other similar projects.

Gender and human rights aspects were also covered by the evaluation, taking into account guidance provided by the United Nations Evaluation Group on the matter.<sup>2</sup>

Taking into account the former experience of the consultant with CIS countries in similar evaluation, their preference in responding such survey questionnaires more often on behalf on the institution and not on personal capacity, as well the language spoken by the respondents and the consultant, the telephone interviews were not appropriate and only written questionnaires were applied.

## 1. C. Methodology

The implementation of the Project activities and reached results within the Project period from February 2013 to December 2015 is reviewed against objectives, activities, expected accomplishments and indicators set out in the "Preparation for the 2020 Round of Population Censuses and the Production of Better Migration Data in CIS countries", Proposal for a project to be funded from the voluntary contribution of the Russian Federation to UNECE, dated 14 February 2013 (given in Annex 4). The review against the indicators of achievement was limited to the indicators for measuring the achievements only within the Project implementation period. The Project is assessed in terms of the evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability outlined in Section 1 (1.A.Purpose of Evaluation) through answering the key questions given in the ToRs (Annex 1, Part IV. Issues)

The evaluation was carried out through desk study of the relevant documentation and analysis of the collected survey data.

The desk study covered available project documentation; reports, presentations and other materials from the implemented project activities; projects products as well as some other related materials. All reviewed materials are listed in the Annex 3 and part of them is attached to the Report in Annex 4 and 5. For those that are not attached, in Annex 3 are provided links where they can be found. The UNECE Project manager provided the Project documentation and workshops' materials as well as the list with contact details of the participants. In the Annex 3 are provided links where workshops' presentations and reports can be found.

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<sup>2</sup> Available at <http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/980> and <http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/1452>

The survey intended to cover all national experts from CIS countries as well UNECE staff involved in project implementation. For data collection were tailored two types of questionnaires with questions referring the main project activities (meetings and workshops) and products (the handbook) and their impact and usefulness. The questionnaires were prepared by the evaluation consultant and reviewed by the UNECE project manager. The first type of questionnaire given in Annex 7 was sent to all participants in the project activities from CIS countries (Distribution List 1 with 71 persons). The second type given in Annex 8 was sent to UNECE staff involved in the project as well to several persons from CISSTAT and Rosstat for whom we assumed were possibly involved in Project organisation (Distribution List 2 with 18 persons). Distribution List 1 and two are given in the Annex 9.

Initially, the survey suppose to be completed in December 2016, but because of low response rate in the first round, the data collection was prolonged twice and till 20 January 2017. Finally (and after some appeals by phone calls), answers were obtained from all CIS countries, except from Tajikistan and Turkmenistan (from the last only one person was present only in one workshop). In total were received 23 filled questionnaires type 1 on behalf of 34 respondents. One of the received questionnaires was on behalf of 5 persons from one institution and other one questionnaire on behalf of 8 persons from one institution. A system was developed to appropriately record for each of those participants taking into account in which activity they participate i.e. which questions are applicable for them and which are not. Only three completed questionnaires for the second category were received. Some of the persons although were on List 2 had answered the questionnaires type 1.

## 2. Findings

The implementation of the Project activities and results achieved within the Project period from February 2013 to December 2015 is assessed in terms of the evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability outlined in Section 1 (1.A.Purpose of Evaluation). For each criterion are answered the key questions, specific sub-questions based on context and data analyses on Project plan; Annual implementation reports, Terminal report, Reports of the workshops, workshops' presentation and other materials, Compilation of the evaluation results of the workshops held within the Projects and Evaluation Survey results.

### Effectiveness

#### **1. To what extent was the objective of the project achieved?**

The objective of the Project to strengthen capacity of CIS countries to conduct population censuses and produce statistics on international migration was fully achieved.

The logical chain of the project activities, outputs, accomplishments and effects/outcomes are presented in the logical framework given in the Annex 6.

#### **2. How did the project strengthen the national capacity of CIS countries to conduct population censuses and produce statistics on international migration?**

The project strengthened the national capacity of CIS countries to conduct population censuses and produce statistics on international migration by improving the knowledge of the CIS experts about the related fields and providing them tools for planning the 2020 round census and producing migration statistics.

The Project strengthened the national capacity of CIS countries to conduct population censuses by improving their capacity to implement population censuses in the 2020 round in accordance with their data needs and the “Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses”. Statistical offices in CIS countries can proceed with planning their 2020 census using the 2020 CES Recommendations that take into account their situation and align with their data needs.

The Project strengthened the national capacity of CIS countries to produce statistics on international migration by improving the Project participants’ knowledge about new methodologies and latest research on improving the measurement of emigration and possibilities for improving inter-agency cooperation on the national level. In addition, the Project produced a “Handbook on the Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in CIS Countries” The handbook is tailored for CIS countries and builds on their examples and as such is expected to be a useful guide for production of International Migration in CIS Countries.

The papers presented by CIS experts in the project workshops and at the adjacent UNECE expert meetings remain available online and constitute important reference material on the practice in censuses and migration statistics in CIS countries.

### **3. To what extent were the expected accomplishments of the project achieved?**

The Project achieved fully the expected accomplishments set out in the Project proposal.

The expected accomplishments set out in the Project proposal are the following one:

- EA1. Data producers and policymakers in CIS countries have better knowledge of the needs and the potential use of census and migration data for policymaking;
- EA2. Improved capacity of CIS countries to implement population censuses in the 2020 round in accordance with their data needs and the CES recommendations;
- EA3. Improved capacity of CIS countries to produce statistics on international migration.

The achievement of expected accomplishments is assessed based on the completed outputs and deliverables during the process of the Project implementation. The indicators of the achievements that referred to measures and activities expected to be taken by CIS countries in the period after the Project implementation are not taken into account because:

- The Project reports and the documentation from the Project activities provide information on the period of the Project implementation;
- The evaluator did not attempt through the survey to collect information on number of measures and activities taken by CIS countries after the Project completion, since the scope of evaluation in the ToRs is limited to the period of the Project implementation.

However, some of the answers on the open questions in the survey are indicating that the CIS countries already started to use 2020 CES recommendations for planning their censuses or to use the

Handbook for improving the current migration surveys or in preparing a new one (Annex 11.2. Survey results).

**3.1. How did the project contribute to increasing the capacity of countries to conduct population censuses in compliance with international practices and recommendations?**

Through the census workshops held within the Project, the experts from CIS countries provided direct input in the preparation of the CES Recommendations for the 2020 census round, to ensure full relevance and applicability of the CES Recommendations for CIS countries. Statistical offices in CIS countries can proceed with planning their 2020 census using the 2020 CES Recommendations that take into account their situation and align with their data needs.

The main objectives of the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing are:

- (a) to provide guidance and assistance to countries in the planning and execution of their population and housing censuses; and
- (b) to facilitate and improve the comparability of census at the UN regional level through the identification of a core set of census topics and the harmonization of concepts, definitions and classifications.

The Recommendations are also expected to be used as the general framework for the European Union programme for the 2021 round of population and housing censuses from which data are to be provided to Eurostat by Member States under the provisions of Regulation (EC) 763/2008.<sup>3</sup>

In preparation to their censuses, the CIS countries undertake efforts towards improving the methodological consistency of censuses and the comparability of their results across countries. The census workshops held within the Project, contributed to these efforts. The census managers and experts from CIS countries discussed their experiences with the census of the 2010 round, the difficulties they found in implementing the CES Recommendations for the 2010 census round, and their needs in view of the preparation of the Recommendations for the 2020 census round, reviewed the draft Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, identified issues, and discussed proposals for the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses. Thus the workshops helped the experts from the CIS countries to provide direct input in the preparation of the CES Recommendations for the 2020 census round and to ensure full relevance and applicability of the CES Recommendations for CIS countries. The gained understanding of CIS countries' practice in the 2010 census and the prepared CES Recommendations for 2020 census with relevance and applicability for CIS countries, led to improved capacity of experts of CIS countries to implement population censuses in the 2020 round in accordance with their data needs and the CES Recommendations.

In the context of the pre-approval consultation on CES Recommendations for the 2020 census among all CES countries in spring 2015, nine CIS countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine) responded and supported the recommendations. Of them, Armenia, Russian Federation and Tajikistan provided specific comments.

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<sup>3</sup> UNECE, *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing*, UNITED NATIONS, New York and Geneva, 2015, page iii

**3.2. How did the project contribute to increasing the capacity of countries to produce statistics on international migration in compliance with international practices and recommendations?**

The project contributed to increasing the capacity of CIS countries to produce statistics on international migration in compliance with international practices and recommendations by improving the Project participants' knowledge about new methodologies for estimating emigration; by adopting decisions on focusing further efforts on the harmonization of concepts and definitions between countries and by producing a "Handbook on the Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in CIS Countries".

Through the workshops on migration held within the Project, experts from CIS countries learned from each other's experience in implementing the action plan for improving migration statistics in the CIS region. They also learned about new methodologies and latest research on improving the measurement of emigration. Decisions were made on focusing further efforts on the harmonization of concepts and definitions between countries, improving inter-agency cooperation on the national level and on publishing the information that would explain to the users the advantages and disadvantages of various data sources.

The "Handbook on the Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in CIS Countries" produced within the Project, is tailored for CIS countries and builds on their examples and as such is expected to be a useful guide for production of International Migration in CIS Countries. Key concepts and definitions for the measurement of migration presented in the Handbook are the respective one given in the United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and in the UNECE Census recommendations. The Handbook provides Proposals and recommendations for improvement and increasing the harmonization and comparability of migration information.

**4. To what extent the planned activities contributed to achieving the objective and the expected accomplishments?**

The Project activities were appropriate and consistent with the Project objective and expected accomplishments and their successful completion fully contributed in achieving the Project results.

To achieve the expected accomplishments referring population census and statistics on international migration, the Project included one high-level seminar on population censuses and migration statistics and four regional workshops for CIS countries (two on population and housing censuses and two on migration statistics). As well was prepared a guide on the use of administrative data and household surveys to measure international migration in the CIS region. The activities are explained in more details in the following paragraphs referring to the evaluation sub-question 4.1 to 4.5 and question 5.

**4.1. How did the high-level event contribute to enhancing the capacity of countries in the different thematic areas covered by the project (i.e. population censuses and migration statistics)?**

The presented and discussed topics on the seminar contributed the top management and experts in

statistical offices and migration agencies of CIS countries to be better informed of the needs and the potential use of census and migration data for policymaking. The Conclusions of the Seminar provided strategic direction for CIS countries' actions in improving population censuses and migration statistics and specified the focus of further activities in this Project.

UNECE and the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat) jointly organized the High-level Seminar on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS countries, in Gelendzhik (Russian Federation) on 16-18 October 2013.

At the seminar were represented 9 out of 11 CIS countries (no representatives from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). The Seminar was attended by 23 heads and senior experts of national statistical offices, 6 representatives from migration agencies, 4 from and the Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS (CISSTAT) and one participant from Moscow State Lomonosov University. In addition to the participants from CIS countries, there were experts from Austria, Spain, United Kingdom, and the International Organization for Migration. Altogether, 44 participants attended, of whom 20 were women.

The programme of the seminar included nine sessions discussing the population censuses and migration statistics. The sessions on census included presentations and discussions on challenges, problems and solutions if traditional census; alternative census methods (what could be the future options for CIS countries?) and future of population census in CIS countries. UNECE presented an overview of the 2010 census round in the region and the process of preparation for the 2020 round and CIS-stat presented problems and perspectives referring Population census of the 2020 round in the CIS region. Belarus and Kyrgyzstan had presentations on their 2009 population and housing census and Republic of Moldova on their forthcoming census in 2014. Austria had presentation on Challenges in the transition from traditional to register-based census in Austria and UK a presentation Beyond 2011 - A new paradigm for population statistics (use of administrative sources for producing statistics without having a population register).

The sessions on migration statistics included presentations and discussions on challenges of migration statistics in CIS countries; use of data from the census, household surveys and administrative sources to improve the measurement of international migration and availability and exchange of migration data between countries.

CIS STAT representative had a presentation on *Population and migration statistics: situation in the CIS region* and representative from Moscow State Lomonosov University a presentation on *Challenges of migration statistics in the CIS region*. Representatives from Russian Federation, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Spain had presentations on:

- Activity of Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation in the field of migration statistics production
- Methodological approaches to the measurement of migration in Ukraine and
- Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Migration Statistics in Spain.

In addition IOM had presentation on *Enhancing Evidence Base of Migration Management & Policy Development: IOM approaches and actions*

The seminar ended with conclusions on the way forward with population censuses and migration statistics. Referring the population censuses on the seminar were adopted the following conclusions:

- National statistical offices of CIS countries should remain closely involved in the preparation of the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 census round, to ensure that harmonised solutions are found for their specific situations and data needs. The most pressing need is to establish common operational definitions for the place of usual residence, economic activity and labour migrants in the census.
- For the 2020 round, CIS countries should consider methodological and technological innovations, such as using the internet, tablet computers and e-mapping, all of which could essentially improve the efficiency of census-taking.
- The use of administrative registers in CIS countries is increasing. National statistical offices should be actively involved in developing and adapting administrative sources for statistical use, taking into account the efficiency gains that this can have for the country's entire statistical system.
- In planning the content of the next census, national statistical offices should engage in dialogue with the data users and policymakers to be able to meet the national information needs.
- To focus their efforts, CIS countries need a strategy on how to prepare for their future censuses. Such strategy could aim at maximising efficiency gains and other improvements by the 2030 round of censuses.

Referring the migration statistics on the seminar were adopted the following conclusions:

- The differences in the methodologies of compiling migration statistics remain a concern. As a first step towards better understanding of migration statistics and their discrepancies, statistical offices should publish more metadata and explain to the users the advantages and disadvantages of the various data sources.
- To improve migration statistics, national statistical offices should work in close cooperation with migration services, ministries of interior, labour authorities and other bodies responsible for the management of migration. Access to various administrative data on migration should be improved.
- There is a need for a guide on the use of administrative data for the measurement of international migration in CIS countries.
- Countries where the registration systems of migration are still paper-based should maximise efforts for installing electronic systems that allow efficient data processing.
- Household surveys should take a more prominent place in the system of data sources on migration. There is a need for a guide on the use of household surveys for improving the measurement of international migration in CIS countries.
- Statistical offices should aim at integrating the different sources of migration data into a system where the different components complement each other.
- The UNECE Clearing House of Migration Statistics is a useful tool for better understanding of migration statistics of CIS countries, for the estimation of emigration in particular. CIS

countries should remain committed to provide migration data and related metadata for sharing through the Clearing House.

At the seminar were presented future activities referring the above presented conclusions, in fact the activities of this Project.

***4.2. How did the workshops on population censuses increase the capacity of CIS countries to conduct the population census of the 2020 round in compliance with the CES recommendations?***

At the census workshops, census managers and experts from CIS countries discussed their experiences with the census of the 2010 round, the difficulties they found in implementing the CES Recommendations for the 2010 census round and the needs in view of the preparation of the Recommendations for the 2020 census round. At the second workshop they reviewed the draft Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and proposed concrete improvements. Provided direct input in the preparation of the CES Recommendations for the 2020 census round, contributed to ensuring full relevance and applicability of the CES Recommendations for CIS countries. The gained understanding of CIS countries' practice in the 2010 census round led to improved capacity of experts of CIS countries to implement population censuses in accordance with their needs and the CES Recommendations.

Within the Project proposal as two main activities were planned and implemented two meetings for CIS experts in order to prepare substantive contributions to the CES recommendations for the 2020 round of population censuses. Namely, UNECE in partnership with Rosstat and CIS-stat organized two workshops on Population and Housing Censuses in Geneva:

- The first one on 4th October 2013, back-to-back with the meeting of the UNECE-Eurostat Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses (30 September – 3 October).
- The second one on 22 September 2014, back-to-back with the meeting of the UNECE-Eurostat Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses (23-26 September).

The 2013 Workshop was attended by 14 census experts and managers representing from all CIS countries except Azerbaijan, out of which 13 were from NSOs and one from CIS-STAT. The workshop was attended as well as from the following countries and organizations: Albania, Australia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well CISSTAT, UNECE, UNSD and UNFPA. Experts from the United Kingdom and CISSTAT facilitated the discussion. Altogether, 32 participants attended, of whom 16 were women.

At the Workshop, census managers and experts discussed their experiences with the census of the 2010 round, the difficulties they found in implementing the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations for the 2010 census round, and their needs in view of the preparation of the Recommendations for the 2020 census round.<sup>4</sup>

In the first part of the Workshop, CISSTAT presented an overview of the 2010 census round in the CIS countries. As challenges that the CIS countries had to face during their last round of census were

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<sup>4</sup> The documents of the 2013 and 2014 workshops are available at the UNECE web site:  
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2013.10.census2.html>.  
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.09.census2.html>.

pointed the negative attitudes in society towards the census, difficulties in hiring and training the staff and the low wage levels for the interviewers in view of their high workload.

UNECE presented a comparable view on the conducted censuses in CIS countries and in EU countries in the 2010 round. Differences were noted in the data collection methods and data dissemination. Referring to the applied methodology, differences were noted in the coverage of the recommended core topics on persons.

In the second part of the Workshop, the representatives from CIS countries provided short oral reports on the census in their country, and on tentative plans for the 2020 round of censuses.

With regard to the 2020 census round, a number of topics were discussed on which changes are expected for the new census recommendations, and countries may need specific guidance. They include: measurement of economic activity (unemployment, voluntary work), marital status (de-jure and de-facto), migration (international and internal), emigration measures, data quality (change of census methodology), measuring data quality, timing of census, outsourcing (scanning and printing of census questionnaires), management and competences of the outsourcing project, public resistance, use of social media, dissemination of data, timing of a pilot census, use of consultancy companies (measurement of benefits), small area data (the smallest area possible), GIS technology (electronic mapping), use of administrative registers, set-up of a permanent census unit and census planning horizon.

The representatives from CIS countries were discussing and asking advice about register-based census, alternative methods of data collection, data capture and processing technology, data coding and on the use of scanners.

The second workshop in 2014 was attended by experts and managers representing all CIS countries except Turkmenistan and Ukraine (11 from NSOs and 3 from CIS-STAT), than Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Georgia, Italy, Latvia, Montenegro, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, as well as Eurostat, CIS-stat and the United Nations Statistics Division. Experts from the United Kingdom and CIS-Stat facilitated the discussion. Altogether, 40 participants attended, of whom 18 were women.

At the Workshop, the census managers and experts from participating countries discussed their experiences with the census of the 2010 round, reviewed the draft Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, identified issues and discussed proposals for the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses.

In the first session of the Workshop, countries provided short updates on the operations related to their census of the 2010 round. The Republic of Moldova and Georgia provided more detailed reports on their censuses, conducted respectively in May and in November 2014. The presentations and the following discussion highlighted some interesting issues and difficulties encountered by countries, and lessons learnt from their census operations. One of the issues registered in several countries was decreasing participation in the census although in most countries participation in the census is mandatory by law. In Russia, the number of refusals increased significantly in the 2010 census (more than five million on any questions of the questionnaire, compared to about one million in the 2002 census). The new legislation planned for the next census assumes making participation mandatory and hopefully reducing refusals.

In the session devoted to analysis of results from the 2010 census round, the representative of CIS-stat presented the results of a study of migration based on the censuses of the 2010 round in CIS countries. The study provided a number of significant and interesting results referring usually resident and the present population in the country, temporarily present and temporarily absent persons etc. An interesting example was presented on migration between Tajikistan and Russia, based on data from the 2010 censuses in the two countries and from administrative sources.

In addition, CIS-stat presented the plans for the 2020 census round, including the harmonization of the census timing, topics and definitions, and the definition of a number of tables for better understanding of migration processes among CIS countries.

In the session devoted to plans for next censuses of 2020 round, the countries provided a short update on the preparations for the census of the 2020 round, highlighting innovations and significant issues.

In the session devoted to the draft CES Recommendations for the 2020 census round the representative from the United Kingdom, presented the main changes from the 2010 to the draft 2020 CES Census Recommendations. The representative from CIS-stat noted some difficulties that can be expected for CIS countries in view of the next census round. They include the risk of double enumeration for children who study away from the family home, but also for workers or military personnel living away from home. Other issues on which CIS countries may have difficulties include the geo referencing of census data, and the recommended definition of urban and rural areas. In addition, participants from various countries commented on possible difficulties in the implementation of the new CES Recommendations for the 2020 round referring definitions of locality, urban and rural areas, the identification of the place of usual residence for students returning home regularly, and for military personnel.

Based on the outcomes of the discussions at the previous sessions, in the final session were considered and agreed some proposals for UNECE-Eurostat meeting on population and housing censuses (23-26 September 2014) for changes to the draft CES Recommendations connected with identification of the usual residence for the students and military personnel as well for urban/ rural definition.

***4.3. How did the workshops on migration statistics increase the capacity of CIS countries to produce statistics on international migration in compliance with international recommendations and practices?***

At first workshop was discussed an action plan for improving migration in the CIS region and looked methodologies for estimating emigration. The second workshop discussed the use of administrative data and examined the use of sample surveys to measure migration. Participants also discussed the draft Handbook *Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in the CIS region*. Both workshops included presentations by experts, country presentations and group exercises. Decisions were made on focusing further efforts on the harmonization of concepts and definitions between countries, improving inter-agency cooperation on the national level and on publishing the information that would explain to the users the advantages and disadvantages of various data sources.

Within the Project proposal as two main activities were planned and implemented two capacity-

building workshops on migration statistics. UNECE organized this workshop in cooperation with Rosstat and CIS-stat as well National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (for the first one) and National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus in Minsk (for the second one).

The first one was on use of population censuses and household surveys to measure international migration in CIS countries, held on 8-9 September 2014 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. This workshop was held back-to-back with the 2014 UNECE Work Session on Migration Statistics. The second workshop on migration statistics was held on 28-29 May 2015 in Minsk, Republic of Belarus

At the 2014 meeting in Chisinau were represented statistical offices from all CIS countries, except Turkmenistan (23 participants, 16 from NSOs, one from a ministry, one from Moscow State Lomonosov University and 5 from CIS-STAT). In addition, the workshop attended the representatives from the following countries: Albania, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Mexico, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. Experts from CIS-stat, EEC, Eurostat, ILO, IOM, Moscow State University, UNDESA, UNDP and UNECE participated as well. Altogether, 47 participants attended, of whom 24 were women.

The objectives of the workshop were (1) to discuss the action plan for improving migration statistics in the CIS region, as developed by CISStat, and (2) to introduce participants to methodologies and research on improving measurement of emigration. The workshop included discussion on ways to mainstream migration in CIS member states, dissemination and use of migration data, labour migration statistics, coordination between government agencies for the purpose of collection and improving migration statistics, as well as training on methodology to measure emigration, including inter-country data exchange and sources and methods to measure emigration. It also included region-specific examples and a training exercise to help solidify concepts for participants.

The first day was about an action plan for improving migration in the CIS region. Discussions and presentations<sup>5</sup> were organized in four sessions.

The first session was devoted to mainstreaming migration in CIS member states. The introductory presentation by the representative from Moscow State University was on harmonization of migration statistics in the CIS region. CISStat made presentation on ways and means of improving the quality of migration statistics in the CIS region covering as well the problems of the CIS member states and international experience.

The topics of the second session were dissemination and use of migration data. CIS-stat reviewed international information sources on international migration in the CIS region. The presentation of the representative from Moscow State University provided a user's perspective on the database of the Russian Federal Migration Service (FMS). UN-DESA provided an overview of the UN Global Migration Database and their recent dissemination efforts. The Russian Federation made a country presentation on their efforts to disseminate migration information to the general public.

Session 3 was devoted on labour migration statistics. The introductory presentation was done by ILO on and was on implications of new resolutions of the 19th International Conference of labour Statisticians on the measurement of labour migration. CIS-stat presentation included an overview of international definitions for migrants workers and data sources used to measure this concept. In

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<sup>5</sup> Presentations made at the workshop are available at the UNECE website:  
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.10.migration1.html>

addition, CIS-stat presented their proposed definition of “migrant worker” for use in the CIS region. UNECE provided an overview of definitions used to measure labour migration, as well as proposals to integrate labour migration into Labour Market Information Systems (LMIS). Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova gave country presentations on trends and efforts to measure labour migration to and from their respective countries.

Session 4 was on coordination between government agencies for the purpose of collecting and improving migration statistics. CIS-stat made a brief presentation illustrating ways that countries could improve coordination between internal government agencies to improve the quality and efficiency of data collected on migration statistics. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan made country presentations highlighting the legal and administrative procedures underlying the collection of migrations statistics, as well as coordination efforts in their countries.

The second day looked at methodologies for estimating emigration. Session 5 was on data exchange between countries (use of data in destination countries to compute outmigration from origin countries). UNECE presented a summary of efforts to improve measurement of emigration through data exchange between countries. These included results of the Task Force to measure emigration using data from destination countries to compute outmigration from origin countries, as well as establishment of the Migration Clearing House Database to exchange migration information in the CIS region. Eurostat discussed efforts made to support data exchange between countries (i.e. “mirror statistics”) for cross-validation purposes. Practices used to exchange data, the current state of the data exchange operation, as well as recent proposals to exchange micro-level data on migration were discussed.

The last session 6 discussed data sources and methods used to measure emigration. Representative from Moscow State University provided an overview of current methods and data sources (administrative sources, censuses and household surveys, and consulate data) used to estimate emigration and their strengths and limitations. UNECE summarized additional methods to estimate emigration. Lithuania, Norway, Hungary, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan made presentations on their methods to collect and improve measurement on emigration in their countries.

In concluding session, the participants from CIS countries reaffirmed the need to continue to try and improve harmonization of concepts and definitions between countries, as well as the need for increased coordination within and between countries in the production of migration statistics and data exchange (e.g. use of “mirror statistics” to evaluate and estimate migration flows). Labour migration, undocumented in particular, was seen as the main driver of migration in the region, and improving its measurement critical to migration statistics in general.

It was agreed that National Statistical Agencies should work in closer cooperation with migration services, ministries of interior, labour authorities, and other bodies responsible for the management of migration. Finally, it was deemed important to modernize statistical systems and install electronic systems that improve the efficiency of data processing and dissemination and encourage publication of metadata to explain to users the advantages and disadvantages of various data sources.

At the 2015 workshop on migration statistics in Minsk were present representatives from statistical offices from all CIS countries except from Turkmenistan and Ukraine (23 representatives, 14 from NSOs, 6 from ministries, one from Moscow State University and two from CIS-stat). Experts from the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Slovenian State Statistical Service and UNECE participated as well. Altogether, 30 participants

attended, of whom 20 were women.

The objective of the workshop was to exchange experience in using administrative data and sample surveys to measure international migration and to obtain feedback from CIS countries on a handbook being developed on this topic for the CIS region.

The workshop had two parts over two days and was structured around chapters being produced for the handbook by two consultants. The first day was devoted to the use of administrative data and the second day examined the use of sample surveys to measure migration. The workshop included presentations by experts, country presentations and group exercises<sup>6</sup>.

The first consultant provided an overview of sources of administrative data in the CIS region, the main advantage of administrative sources, the strengths and weaknesses of the various types of administrative data and general data quality concerns. The second presentation provided by the consultant was on how to use sources of administrative data to measure migration in the CIS region.

In addition, the first day were given countries' presentations on the use of administrative data to measure migration by Armenia, Kazakhstan, and the Republic of Moldova. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia described their efforts to improve missing information from unregistered migrants in their Central Population Register, through integration of information from other administrative data sources. The Bureau of Migration and Asylum of the Republic of Moldova presented the results from Moldova's Extended Migration Profile, including their methods to calculate international migration. The International Organization for Migration presented on the administrative sources they use to collect and monitor international migration. CIS-stat also made a presentation on improving labour statistics in the CIS-region. UNECE gave an overview of the Migration Clearing House database, including its origin and current update.

The final session of the day discussed ongoing regional initiatives to improve migration statistics. CIS-stat made a proposal to use immigration statistics from countries of destination for the calculation of population estimates in countries of origin. This use of mirror statistics was advocated for the CIS-region to improve estimates of emigration.

The second day, the other consultant presented an overview of surveys methods to measure migration. This overview included the different topics that are best suited for using sample surveys, different types of sample surveys available to researchers, and what needs to be taken into consideration when choosing which survey to use. Sample surveys were deemed more appropriate for measuring the determinants and consequences of migration, particularly though the use of specialized migration surveys. In addition, the consultant presented the second part of the chapter that was under development and related to survey design and implementation.

Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees presented information about their recent on-line survey of highly skilled blue card holders in Germany, including the methodology used and challenges faced while conducting this survey. Armenia, Belarus, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Moldova gave a number of national examples of the use of sample surveys to measure migration. The Russian Federation discussed plans to conduct a micro census in 2015, which will include a number of questions on international migration. The Republic of Moldova detailed recent

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<sup>6</sup> Presentations made at the workshop are available at the UNECE website:  
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37886#>

surveys conducted in its country to measure migration, including its Household Budget Survey (for remittances) and ad hoc labour migration modules added to its Labour Force Survey. CIS-stat discussed their plans to develop a Handbook on labour migration for CIS countries, which would include conditions needed to measure labour migration via sample surveys.

The consultant reviewed sample surveys recently implemented in the CIS region, provided some general assessment guidelines, and concluded with a set of recommendations to improve the use of sample surveys in the region.

The conclusions of the workshop included a plan how to finalize the handbook. For the purposes of generating migration statistics from administrative data sources, it was agreed that national statistical agencies should work in closer cooperation with migration services, ministries of interior, labour authorities, and other bodies responsible for the management of migration. Coordination between agencies should be included as part of statistical action plans, which would provide a legal framework for better inter-agency data exchange. In particular, more representatives from migration services should attend migration statistics events organized by UNECE and other international organizations. In the chapter on household surveys, participants appreciated the rich methodological material provided. It was agreed that further work on this chapter should focus on elaborating specific recommendations for improving the use of migration-related surveys, taking into account the resources and capacities for survey-taking in the CIS region.

***4.4. To what extent is the guide on the use of administrative data and household surveys to measure international migration expected to increase the capacity of CIS countries to produce statistics on international migration?***

The handbook *Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in the CIS region* produced within the Project is tailored for CIS countries and builds on their examples. As such is expected to be a useful guide and of great practical value for the producers of migration data in those countries. Still the improvements in their statistics on international migration depends a lot on the governments and their commitment to the improvements and their political will for making required adjustments. Some of the NSOs informed that are already introducing changes in their migration surveys or in other surveys with containing migration topics. According to UNECE Statistical Division, the production of migration statistics improved in several countries as evidenced by the increased comprehensiveness of their responses to UNECE data collection efforts in 2015 compared to 2013.

As planned in the Project proposal, UNECE coordinated the production of a handbook entitled the *Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in the CIS region*. Two consultants drafted the guide. Feedback on the first draft was received at Minsk workshop. The guide was circulated for final consultation in December 2015 to statistical offices of CIS countries with a request to provide comments by 1 February 2016. Based on these comments, the Guide was finalized and published<sup>7</sup> in October 2016.

The Handbook is tailored for CIS countries and builds on their examples and as such is expected to be a useful guide and of great practical value for the producers of migration data in those countries.

<sup>7</sup> The handbook in English and Russian is available on the UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44114>

Chapter I of the handbook describes the key concepts and definitions for the measurement of international migration. Chapter II provides practical information on the sources of administrative data and their use, and highlights the related methodological and organizational challenges. Chapter III addresses the use of sample surveys to measure international migration and provides an inventory of migration surveys and best practices. Chapters II and III conclude with concrete recommendations for national statistical offices and other migration data producers. Case studies are included in the guide and best practices are identified.

Although the Handbook provide a solid methodological base and practical guidance for the producers of the migration statistics in CIS countries, the improvements in their countries' statistics on international migration depends a lot on the governments of CIS countries. Namely, is important to have their commitment to the improvements and their political will for making adjustments in the national statistical system to implement the internationally agreed recommendations, to make required amendments in the respective regulation and to make administrative adjustments and facilitate the cooperation among administrative sources and statistical institutions.

In accordance with the information obtained through the evaluation survey, some of the countries are already introducing changes in their migration surveys or other surveys containing migration topics. Based on information from UNECE Statistical Division, the production of migration statistics improved in several countries as evidenced by the increased comprehensiveness of their responses to UNECE data collection efforts in 2015 compared to 2013. In 2015, both Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan provided data on long-term emigration by country of next residence for the first time while Ukraine provided data on long-term immigration and emigration for the first time.

#### ***5. What were the challenges/obstacles to achieving the expected results?***

The Project was implemented as planned, the Project activities were carried out as planned and reached expected results.

According to the Terminal report of the project prepared by the UNECE Secretariat, a challenge that was noted, but finally didn't jeopardize the success of the Project, is related to the long administrative procedure for grants at UNECE, which puts a significant restriction on the timing of events. It is therefore preferable to organize meetings in countries with resident United Nations offices where simpler administrative procedures can be applied.

The involvement of migration agencies and other government agencies is essential for improving migration statistics, but it remains difficult to engage them in international meetings on this topic because statistics is not their main concern. Efforts to engage them need to continue at the national level (both top management level and experts) as well as international level.

## **Sustainability**

#### ***6. Could the results be further sustained?***

The results can be further sustained. UNECE remains in close contact with national statistical offices

and is following up by organizing expert meetings and workshops on censuses and migration statistics where it monitors the progress in census preparations according to the Recommendations and the implementation of guidance provided in the Handbook on migration statistics.

UNECE is following up by organizing expert meetings and workshops on censuses and migration statistics where it monitors the progress in census preparations according to the Recommendations and the implementation of guidance provided in the Handbook on migration statistics. UNECE remains in close contact with national statistical offices, which allows focusing the workshops on the issues of particular concern to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. All countries of the region have subscribed to the ECOSOC resolution on carrying out the census in the 2020 round. CIS countries have additionally confirmed their commitment to the census at the level of Head of State.

The biennial data collection for the UNECE Clearing House on Migration Statistics supports exchange of migration data and monitoring of improvements in data availability. A further UNECE project will aim at strengthening household surveys for measuring migration.

Overall, the UNECE statistical programme includes further capacity-building on censuses and migration statistics, building on the results of the concluded Project.<sup>8</sup>

***6.1. To what extent will the benefits of the project continue after completion and without overburdening recipient countries and stakeholders?***

The benefits of the project will continue after Project completion and without overburdening recipient countries and stakeholders. The obtained knowledge through the workshops held within the Project, the 2020 CES Recommendations and the Handbook supposed to be used in planning of the 2020 round censuses and in production of migration statistics in CIS countries.

Statistical offices in CIS countries can proceed with planning their 2020 census using the “Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses” that take into account their situation and align with their data needs.

Statistical offices and other producers of migration statistics in CIS countries have the handbook “Use of administrative sources and sample surveys to measure international migration in the CIS region” that is tailored for CIS countries and builds on their examples.

The papers presented by CIS experts in the project workshops and at the adjacent UNECE expert meetings remain available online and constitute important reference material on the practice in censuses and migration statistics in CIS countries.

***6.2. How is the stakeholders’ engagement likely to continue? In case, how will the capacity built to ensure that institutions will take over and sustain the benefits?***

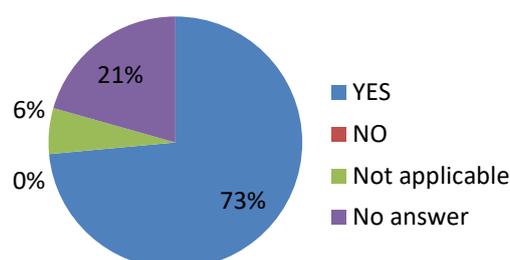
The NSOs already started to use the 2020 CES Recommendations and the Handbook supposed to be used in planning of the 2020 round censuses and in production of migration statistics in CIS countries. UNECE remains in close contact with NSOs and is following up and monitors the progress in the related fields covered with the Project.

25 out of 34 respondents to the Evaluation survey, on Question 12 (*Are you going to use the new set of Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses as a tool for preparing the 2020 round census in your county?*) answered with “Yes” (for 5 the question was not applicable and 7 didn’t answer the question). On the open question 19 (*How do you use the training provided with this Project?*) some of the respondents noted that they are already using the Recommendations for preparation of their 2020

<sup>8</sup> In accordance with the information received from the Project manager

Census.

Figure 1. Question 12. Are you going to use the new set of Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses as a tool for preparing the 2020 round census in your county?



On the open question 19 (*How do you use the training provided with this Project?*) some of the respondents noted that they are already using the Recommendations for preparation of their 2020 Census. As well, some have noted that are using the knowledge on migration statistics for methodological improvements of their related surveys (Ukraine for example used for the preparation of methodological materials on organization of labour migration sample survey).

According to the survey, the majority of the managers and experts from CIS countries who participated in the Project remain on the same working field; three NSOs reported in total 5 persons who are still in the NSO but working in other area and three who left the institution.

UNECE remains in close contact with national statistical offices and is following up by organizing expert meetings and workshops on censuses and migration statistics where it monitors the progress in census preparations according to the CES Recommendations for 2020 round censuses and the implementation of guidance provided in the Handbook on migration statistics.

### 6.3. To what extent do the partners and beneficiaries 'own' the outcomes of the work?

Both, the partners and the beneficiaries in the Project 'own' the outcomes of the work. Both had their inputs in the project and is expected both to have impacts by the Project outcomes.

The UNECE Statistical Division together with the UNECE Steering Group on Population Censuses reviewed of the 2010 round of population censuses to prepare the CES recommendations for the 2020 round. CIS-stat and Rosstat have both been actively involved in the Steering Group. With the Project, Rosstat, CIS-stat and the national offices of other CIS countries were involved more closely in the preparation of the CES recommendations for the 2020 census round and their experts provided direct input to ensure full relevance and applicability of the CES Recommendations for CIS countries. Beneficiaries are provided with a tool for census preparation, in return UNECE supposed to get back from the countries comparable census data.

This Handbook *Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in the CIS region* was prepared under the responsibility of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The objective of the handbook is to guide statisticians and other professionals in producing and using data on international migration from administrative sources and household

surveys in CIS countries.

The obtained knowledge with the Project activities and the provided tools strengthened the capacity of the CIS national statistical offices for census preparation and producing migration statistics. In return, is expected the CIS countries to provide UNECE with comparable census and migration data and to have more substantive contribution to the Clearing House for Migration Statistics.

**6.4. What were the major factors that influence the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the project?**

The major factors that influence/ will influence the sustainability of the project after its completion can be considered through sustainability of the project results and it depends/will depend on the commitments and activities of the Project beneficiaries in the forthcoming period.

The major factors that influence the successful implementation of the project were the carefully designed objectives and the relevant content for the Project stakeholders, the commitment for statistical capacity-building of the CIS countries, and timely provided donor funding for the whole period of the Project implementation. In addition, organization of workshops back-to-back with UNECE-wide expert meetings enabled the experts from CIS countries to follow and participate in the cutting-edge discussions on their topics, thus contributing to their professional development and knowledge.

According to the assumptions and risks stated in the Project Proposal, the sustainability of the project results<sup>9</sup> depends on commitments of the governments of CIS countries to:

- carrying out population censuses in the 2020 round and having a political will for making adjustments in the national statistical system to implement the internationally agreed recommendations, as well as a will to share internationally the statistics and the concepts and definitions used in their compilation; and
- improving their countries' statistics on international migration.

In this context, further exploration of the Project sustainability is limited, since in the evaluation ToRs only the period of Project implementation is under scope of this evaluation.

## Efficiency

**7. Were the resources sufficient for achieving the results? Were the results commensurate with the resources?**

The Project resources were sufficient and achieved the expected results. The results commensurate with the resources.

The indicative budget of the project for the whole implementation cycle stated in the Project Proposal is US\$ 282,500, including the United Nations standard programme support charge of 13% on all incurred project expenditures. In addition, the UNECE in-kind contribution in the form of staff time over the 3 years period of the project amounts to 3 months of a P-4 and 2 months of a P-3 level Statistician, and 1 month of a G-6 Programme Assistant. As well the Project manager is from UNECE. The planned and obtained resources were sufficient for achieving the planned results and the

<sup>9</sup> Here we refer to results after the period of Project implementation which is not under scope of our evaluation

achieved results commensurate to the resources.

**Table 1. Project budget by activity and years**

Project activity	Year			Amount US\$
	2013	2014	2015	
A1. Opening high-level event with policymakers and data producers of CIS countries	x			70.000
A2.1. Expert meeting for CIS experts to prepare substantive contributions to the CES recommendations for the 2020 round of population censuses, to be held back-to-back with the 2013 UNECE Expert Meeting on Population Censuses	x			40.000
A2.2. Expert meeting for CIS experts on finalizing the CES recommendations on the 2020 round of population censuses, to be held back-to-back with the 2014 UNECE Expert Meeting on Population Censuses.		x		40.000
A3.1. Expert meeting for CIS experts on the use of population censuses and household surveys to measure international migration in CIS countries, to be held back-to-back with the 2014 UNECE Work Session on Migration Statistics		x		40.000
A3.2. Expert meeting for CIS experts on improving the use of administrative sources to measure international migration in CIS countries			x	40.000
A3.3. Production of a guide, in Russian and English, on the use of administrative data and household surveys to measure international migration in the CIS region			x	20.000
<b>Total</b>				250.000

**8. Were the results achieved on time? 9. Were all activities organized efficiently and on time?**

Project activities were carried out as planned and reached expected results. Only the work on the handbook took longer than expected and required an extra round of consultation among countries, which led to a two-month delay from the originally planned completion time (February 2016 instead of December 2015).

According to the Terminal report of the project prepared by the UNECE Secretariat, a challenge faced in the Project is related to the long administrative procedure for grants at UNECE, which puts a significant restriction on the timing of events. It is therefore preferable to organize meetings in countries with resident United Nations offices where simpler administrative procedures can be applied.

## Relevance

**10. To what extent did the project respond to the priorities and needs of the beneficiary countries? How relevant was it to the target groups' needs and priorities?**

The project accomplishments and outcomes are appropriate to the expressed priorities and needs of the beneficiary countries.

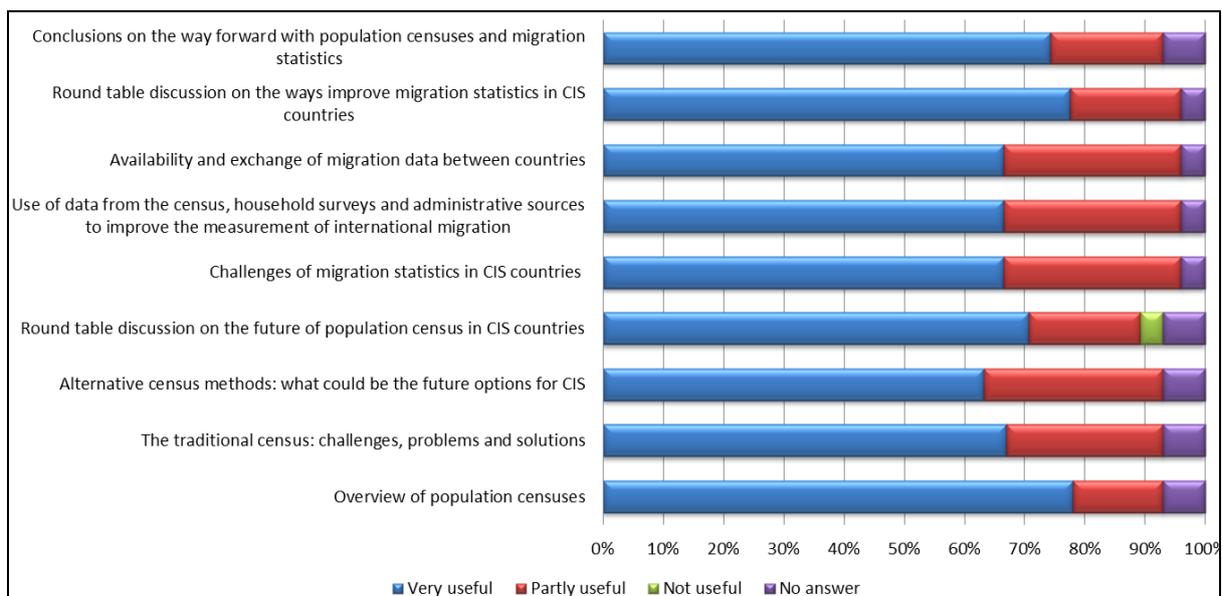
The population census is a unique source of data providing specific information critical for social and economic policy and forecasting. For each census round CIS countries, undertake efforts towards improving the methodological consistency of censuses and the comparability of their results across countries. The high-level seminar and two workshops on census included in the Project activities enabled to CIS countries to make a major contribution in preparation to the recommendations for the 2020 round of censuses and to ensure the required census data comparability. Statistical offices in CIS countries can proceed with planning their 2020 census using the “Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses” that take into account their situation and align with their data needs.

In UNECE meetings, CIS countries have expressed the need to improve the measurement of international migration, by utilising better the censuses, household surveys and administrative sources. This includes better coordination between migration statistics producers. CIS countries share commonalities both in the migratory processes (e.g. much of their international migration flows occur between them) and in their registration, however, the availability of data on international migration as well as its reliability and comparability fall short of the needs for evidence-based policymaking in this area. The project was designed to improve this situation. Through the high-level seminar and two workshops for migration, experts provided a thorough review and exchange of experience on the procedures and challenges of collecting migration statistics and the discrepancies in the applied definition. The challenge of weak coordination between migration statistics producers was addressed by engaging the different producers as well as users in the project events. The Handbook produced within the Project provides practical guidance to statisticians and other professionals in producing and using migration data from administrative sources and household surveys. While relying on the internationally agreed concepts and definitions, the handbook is specifically tailored for CIS countries and builds on their examples. It is thus expected to be of great practical value for the producers of migration data in those countries.

The project facilitated the active participation of census and migration experts from CIS countries in UNECE-wide expert meetings, which has allowed them to learn from a wide range of country experience, including the most advanced. This has contributed to statistical capacity-building in their countries. In addition, the papers presented by CIS experts in the project workshops and at the adjacent UNECE expert meetings remain available online and constitute important reference material on the practice in censuses and migration statistics in CIS countries.

The evaluation carried out among the participants at the end of High-level Seminar on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics showed that 63 to 78% of the participants found that the workshops sessions were very useful for their future work.

**Figure 2. High-level Seminar on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS Countries**  
**“Evaluation of usefulness of the seminar sessions for your future work”**



According to the evaluation carried out at the end of the Census Workshop held on 4. October 2013 in Geneva, most of the participants agreed on the usefulness of the workshop topics and answered with ‘very useful’. None of the participants chose ‘not useful’ for their future work.

**Figure 3. Evaluation of the Census Workshop held on 4. October 2013 in Geneva**

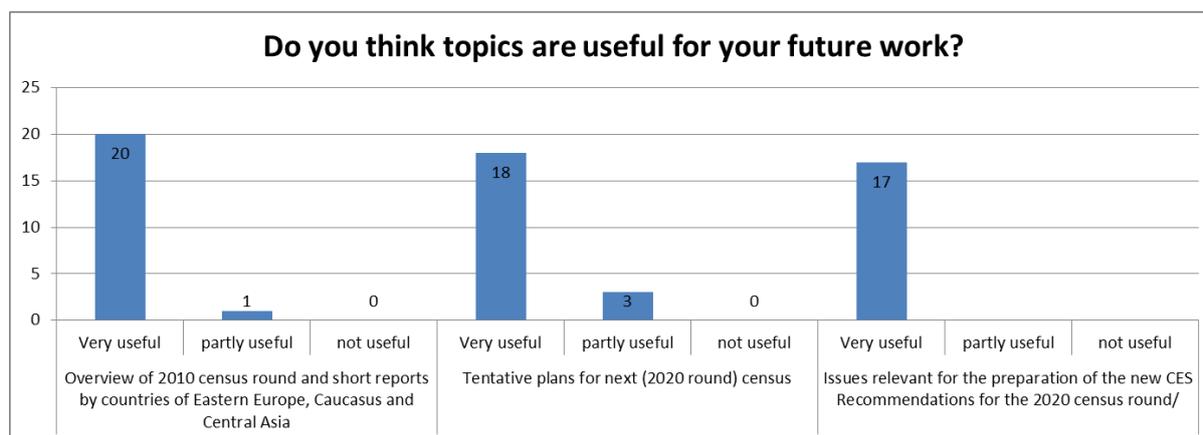
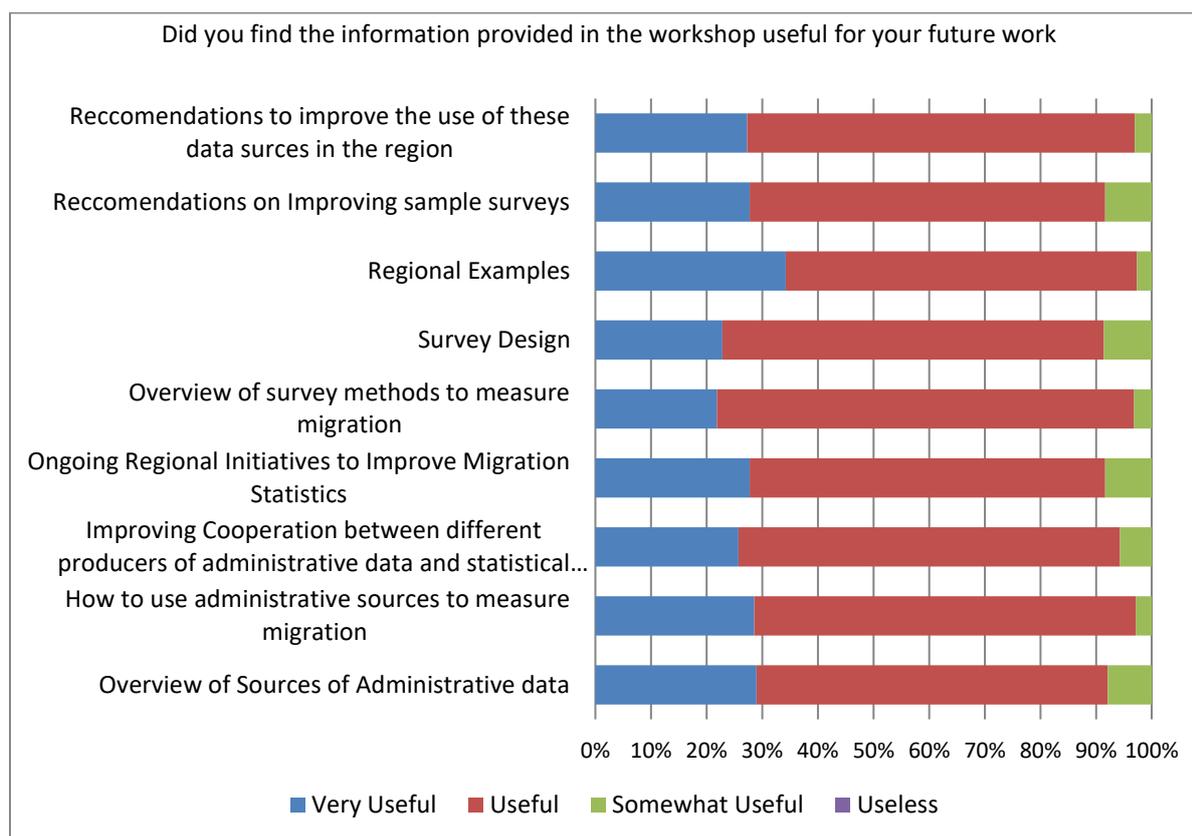


Figure 4. Evaluation of the Workshop on migration statistics held in Minsk, Belarus, 2015



### 11. How relevant was the project for the UNECE region needs and priorities?

Data harmonization and comparability are vitally important for UNECE region. The project activities had contributed to development of common methodologies and practices, which will serve as the basis for comparable census results across countries as well as data on international migration.

The aim of UNECE methodological work is to develop and promote international standards, guidelines and recommendations to respond to countries' demand to improve the quality and comparability of official statistics and the efficiency of statistical production (UNECE Statistical Programme 2017, para 14).

### 12. What is the relevance of the project for the work of UNECE?

The Project is relevant for the work of UNECE since is mandated to work towards improving the quality and availability of census data and statistics on international migration.

UNECE as a multilateral platform facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its fifty-six member States and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity through:

- policy dialogue,
- negotiation of international legal instruments,
- development of regulations and norms,

- exchange and application of best practices as well as economic and technical expertise,
- technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition.

The census recommendations are a flagship of UNECE statistical programme. Member countries attach great importance to it because of the fundamental role of the census in a country's statistical system. Through the outcomes of the high-level seminar and two workshops for census experts, CIS countries contributed strongly to the preparation of the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, and ensured that the recommendations are applicable to their countries and aligned with their data needs. Applying the recommendations in the 2020 round of censuses would ensure that the collected data are of even greater value for policymaking and have high level of international comparability.

UNECE is mandated to work towards improving the quality and availability of statistics on international migration. The high-level seminar and two workshops for migration experts provided a thorough review and exchange of experience on the procedures and challenges of collecting migration statistics and the discrepancies in the applied definition. The application of practical guidance provided in the *Handbook on the Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in the CIS region* is expected to result in improved and more comparable statistics on international migration submitted by CIS countries to UNECE.

**13. To what extent are the objectives of the project still valid? How can the project be replicated in other contexts?**

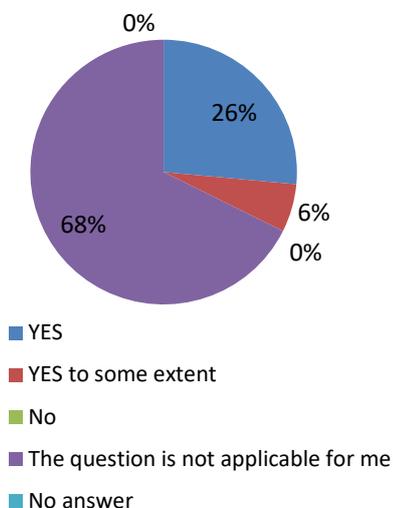
The objective of the Project was to strengthen capacity of CIS countries to conduct population censuses and produce statistics on international migration. The UNECE statistical programme includes further capacity-building on censuses and migration statistics, building on the results of the concluded Project. Further activities are expected in organizing expert meetings and workshops on censuses and migration statistics where UNECE will monitor the progress in census preparations according to the Recommendations and the implementation of guidance provided in the Handbook on migration statistics. About international migration, a further UNECE project will aim at strengthening household surveys for measuring migration.

**14. To what extent are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with and relevant to the overall objective and expected accomplishments?**

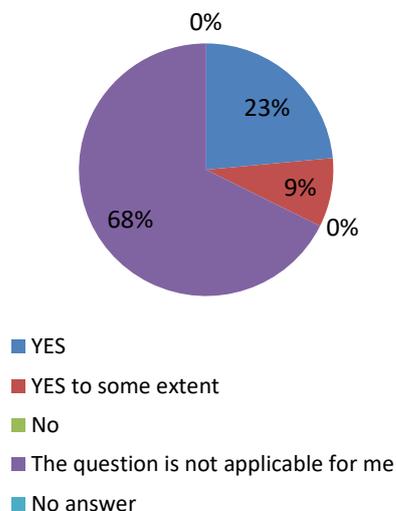
Project activities and outputs are fully consistent with and relevant to the overall objective and expected accomplishments. This conclusion is drawn on the fact that the expected accomplishments are reached with the planned activities and produced outputs. This is also opinion of the respondent in the survey (Annex 11, questions 3-6, 12-13, 16).

Figure 5. Evaluation questions 3 and 4

Question 3. Did you receive at the High-level Seminar useful information on the needs and the potential use of census and migration data for policymaking in CIS countries?



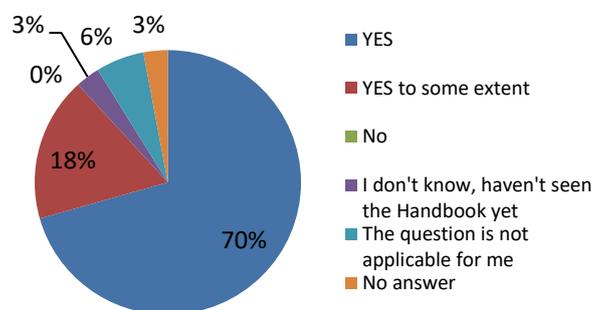
Question 4. In your opinion, did the conclusions of the seminar reflect the needs of CIS countries?



**15. To what extent are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with and relevant to the intended impacts and effects?**

The activities and outputs of the project are fully consistent with and relevant to the intended impacts and effects. This conclusion is drawn on the fact that the intended impacts and effects are reached with the planned activities and produced outputs.

Figure 6. Question 16. In your opinion, does the Handbook provide practical guidance to statisticians in producing and using data on international migration from administrative sources and household surveys in CIS countries?



### 3. Conclusions and recommendations

The Project was well designed and planned. It covered a group of countries with many similarities including the similar needs referring population and housing census and migration statistics. The Project content was identified in close consultation with the involved countries, so that it best addresses their needs. The Project is relevant for the work of UNECE since it is mandated to work towards improving the quality and availability of census data and statistics on international migration. The provided resources were sufficient for the Project implementation. All activities were implemented as planned and reached the expected accomplishments and the Project objectives.

A challenge is related to the long administrative procedure for grants at UNECE, which puts a significant restriction on the timing of events. It is therefore preferable to organize meetings in countries with resident United Nations offices where simpler administrative procedures can be applied.

The involvement of migration agencies and other government agencies is essential for improving migration statistics, but it remains difficult to engage them in international meetings on this topic because statistics is not their main concern.

A particular added value was the organization of workshops back-to-back with UNECE-wide expert meetings, which exposed the experts from beneficiary countries to the cutting-edge discussions on their topics, thus contributing to their professional development and knowledge. This modality also supported the raising of issues relevant to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in these UNECE-wide meetings.

Holding one high-level meeting has a rationale in a multi-year project that covers different topics as it can strengthen the commitment of statistical offices to the project activities and reach common understanding of strategic goals.

The project was very highly synergized with the activities of the UNECE statistical programme in the area of censuses and migration statistics: (1) it was directly linked to the UNECE-wide process of preparing the census recommendations for the 2020 round; (2) it strengthened the representation and contribution of CIS experts to the UNECE-wide expert meetings; (3) the activities of this project motivated the preparation of a study on the census practices of CIS countries in the 2010 round in another project funded by UNFPA; and (4) selected experts from outside the CIS region were contributing to the project workshops and the high-level meeting with their advanced expertise.

Overall, the modality, implementation and results of this Project is a very good example for future projects of statistical capacity-building.

**Based on the evaluation findings, the evaluator has two groups of recommendations.**

#### **A. Referring the sustainability of the results of this Project, it is recommended:**

- UNECE to remain in close contact with national statistical offices and to follow up by organizing expert meetings and workshops on censuses and migration statistics where it will monitor the progress in census preparations according to the Recommendations and the implementation of guidance provided in the Handbook on migration statistics.
- UNECE in cooperation with the Project partners and beneficiaries countries to make efforts for more involvement of national migration agencies and other related (to migration)

government agencies in international meetings on migration statistics in order to increase their commitment for and involvement in activities for improving the migration statistics in their respective countries.

- UNECE in cooperation with the Project partners and beneficiaries countries for purpose of follow up (mentioned in above two paragraphs and building on the results of the concluded Project), to consider the possibilities for planning and implementing a similar project within the UNECE statistical programme that includes further capacity-building on censuses and migration statistics.
- In addition to the monitoring objective, the new UNECE project can include strengthening household surveys for measuring migration. Also, can be considered the possibility of including production of Handbook on labour migration for CIS countries which would include conditions needed to measure labour migration via sample surveys. Development of such Handbook was announced as a plan activity by CIS-stat in the migration workshop in Minsk 2015.

**B. Based on the identified strengths and challenges in the concluded Project during evaluation and referring to UNECE work it is recommended UNECE to continue running similar capacity-building project by applying the same or similar modality and way of implementation and considering the following:**

- In order to avoid significant restriction on the timing of events due to a long administrative procedure for grants at UNECE, it is preferable to organize meetings in countries with resident United Nations offices where simpler administrative procedures can be applied.
- To ensure donor funding that stretches over several years, which allows better planning, achieving stronger results and lower (per event) administrative burden in managing the funds, compared to projects based on just annual programmes.