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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Conference of European Statisticians

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#### Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

## Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2018

### Note by the Secretariat

#### *Summary*

The document provides a short summary of the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2018. The information in the report will be included in an online reporting system, the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS), which is used within the United Nations secretariat for reporting on programme performance. The document is submitted to the Conference for approval.



## I. Description of the main accomplishments in 2018

### A. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

1. In 2018, 35 international organizations contributed to the statistical work of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), which coordinates statistical activities in the UNECE region.

2. International statistical work was reviewed in depth in four statistical areas with the purpose of improving inter-agency coordination and eliminating overlaps and gaps in statistical activities in the UNECE region. The four reviews addressed the following topics: (i) measuring social exclusion; (ii) use of satellite image data in official statistics; (iii) statistics and data on cities; and (iv) redefining national statistical systems/role of national statistical systems in the new data ecosystem.

3. As a result of the in-depth reviews conducted in 2018, the Bureau decided to launch follow-up work on measuring social exclusion. The role of national statistical systems in the new data ecosystem will be discussed further in a CES seminar in June 2019 on emerging roles of national statistical offices as offices for statistics and data. As a follow-up to an earlier in-depth review of gaps in gender statistics in 2017, the Bureau established a new Task Force on communication of gender statistics and decided to conduct an in-depth review on measuring gender identity in February 2019.

### B. Methodological work

4. The work of the UNECE Statistical Division is fully aligned with SDGs, facilitating country-led reporting of statistics for SDGs in two main ways. First, UNECE is supporting national statistical offices as providers and national coordinators of statistics on SDGs. In 2018, a number of practical tools were prepared to facilitate implementation of the *CES Road map on statistics for SDGs* in countries. A second pilot of SDG data flows was conducted, involving 40 countries and 6 custodian agencies responsible for SDG indicators. The pilot explored ways to improve data flows and communication between countries and custodian agencies to harmonize SDG statistics.

5. Second, the Statistical Division undertakes methodological work and national statistical capacity development to inform policy decisions for the achievement of SDGs through work on demographic, social, economic, and environment statistics. In 2018, UNECE provided methodological support for measuring progress towards SDGs in 20 out of 55 statistical areas of the Classification of International Statistical Activities.

6. In 2018, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau endorsed five methodological guidelines, namely (i) *Guidance on data integration for measuring migration*; (ii) *Measuring international labour mobility*; (iii) *Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses*; (iv) *Guidance on modernising statistical legislation*; and (v) *Guidelines on the use of statistical business registers for business demography and entrepreneurship statistics*. UNECE developed these in cooperation with countries and the following partner organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and World Trade Organization (WTO).

7. Following the 2017 *CES Recommendations on communicating population projections*, UNECE established a database on population projection metadata. A High-Level Seminar on Strategic Partnerships was held in April 2018 which led to developing principles and a framework for creating strategic partnerships in official statistics.

8. Five draft CES guidelines and recommendations were prepared in 2018 for discussion by the Conference in 2019, namely on (i) *recommendations on the role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters*; (ii) *Guidelines on producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators*; (iii) *Satellite account for education and training: compilation guide*; (iv) *Recommendations on measuring older populations in institutions* and (v) *Strategic communications framework*. The guidelines and recommendations are presented in more detail in Section II.A. *Recommendations on measuring intra-household power and decision-making* were also prepared but will be submitted to the CES Bureau for review in October 2019 and for discussion by the Conference in 2020 to take into account the results of an ongoing pilot testing of the Recommendations.

9. Under the auspices of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) two priority projects were implemented in 2018: Strategic Communication Framework and the second phase of Common Statistical Data Architecture. In addition to the projects, the HLG-MOS Modernisation Groups produced several outputs, including revisions of Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organization (GAMSO), training materials on risk management, and a renewed public Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA) Service Catalogue.

### C. Capacity development

10. In 2018, CES endorsed a new *UNECE Statistical capacity development strategy*, which reinforces the principle that capacity development activities should be user driven. In 2018, UNECE carried out 8 regional and 4 national training workshops for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia with the support of the regular budget, the budget for technical cooperation, funding from the United Nations Development Account and external funding sources. In addition, a number of advisory missions were conducted at the request of countries. With these activities, UNECE supported countries' capacity to develop statistical systems for monitoring progress towards SDGs, to provide gender-sensitive indicators, and to fill gaps identified in Global Assessments of national statistical systems. As indicated by surveys, 97 per cent of experts who took part in UNECE training workshops in 2018 considered the training to be of high quality and useful for their work.

11. These activities contributed to progress in areas identified for improvement in Global Assessments of national statistical systems. Global Assessments analyze progress of countries with developing statistical systems in implementing international standards and compliance with the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*. They are carried out at countries' request jointly with Eurostat and EFTA. In 2018, the Global Assessments of national statistical systems in Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan were completed, and the Global Assessment of national statistical system in Georgia was launched. The reports of the Global Assessments completed in 2018 will be released in early 2019.

12. To address member States' requests for assistance in implementing the recommendations, in 2018 UNECE has been carrying out two United Nations Development Account (UNDA) projects<sup>1</sup> to strengthen the capacity of countries for the sustainable development of statistics in the sub-region. UNECE also carries out some externally funded projects, for instance a project funded by the World Bank to "enhance coherence and integration of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA)".

<sup>1</sup> The title of the UNDA 9<sup>th</sup> tranche project is "Supporting the implementation of the global assessment recommendations in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia", and the title of the UNDA 10<sup>th</sup> tranche project is "Programme on statistics and data to build countries' capacity for monitoring progress towards SDGs".

## D. UNECE statistical database

13. Progress was made in the availability of high quality macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in the UNECE statistical database. The country overview tables were among the most actively used data along with gender and economic statistics.

14. Downloads of statistical data from the UNECE statistical database consistently grew, and the share of downloads via mobile devices has also increased. In 2018, improvements made in the timeliness and reliability of data along with the availability of quick statistics, maps, graphs and country rankings have attracted new users.

## II. Outputs prepared in 2018

### A. Manuals, guidelines, recommendations and compilations of best practices

15. The Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau endorsed the following guidelines and recommendations in 2018:

- *Guidance on data integration for measuring migration* describes good practices and provides practical guidance for integrating different data sources to improve the measurement of immigration, emigration and net migration;
- *Measuring international labour mobility* provides practical guidance on the definitions, methods and data sources that can be used to measure labour mobility and includes country case studies;
- *Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses* cover operational, practical, technical and legal aspects of using multiple data sources for censuses, in particular register and administrative data. They also provide methods and good practices for measuring coverage and quality of the various sources;
- *Guidance on modernizing statistical legislation* defines common elements and requirements for modern legal frameworks to guarantee flexibility, independence, integrity and accountability of national statistical systems and high quality of official statistics;
- *Guidelines on the use of statistical business registers for business demography and entrepreneurship statistics* provides definitions and guidance on the compilation of key business demography indicators, and linking statistical business registers with information from other sources to produce entrepreneurship indicators.

16. UNECE Task Forces prepared the following five statistical guidelines for submission to the 2019 CES plenary session for endorsement:

- *Recommendations on the role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters* clarify the role of official statistics in providing data related to hazardous events and disasters and identify practical steps how national statistical offices in coordination with national agencies responsible for disaster management can support disaster management and risk reduction;
- *Guidelines on producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators* provide guidance on good practices for national statistical offices in producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators. The guidelines clarify the possible roles of statistical offices in producing such indicators and provide operational guidance for the offices that produce or consider producing these indicators;
- *Satellite account for education and training: compilation guide* provides guidance on compiling this satellite account based on the results of pilot testing of the account in countries with different economic circumstances and data availability;

- *Recommendations on measuring older populations in institutions* provide standard definitions and classifications of “institution” and “institutional populations” as they pertain to older people and provide guidelines for statistical offices on how to include such populations in the production of statistics on ageing-related topics;
- *Strategic communications framework* provides advice and material to support the implementation of strategic communication frameworks by official statistics organisations. It addresses questions of branding, crisis and issue management and necessary skillsets, and includes a communication maturity model;

17. All publications, including the above manuals, guidelines, recommendations and compilations of best practices, will be made available at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/statistics/publications.html>

## B. UNECE statistical database

18. The statistical database is available at: [w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en](http://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en), providing:
- Macroeconomic data (national accounts main aggregates, industrial production, labour force, wages, price indices, purchasing power parities, exchange rates, and globalization indicators);
  - Social and demographic data with gender breakdown (population, fertility, families and households, work and the economy, education, public life and decision making, health and mortality, crime and violence, science and ICT, and life balance);
  - Transport and forestry statistics provided by other UNECE Divisions;
  - Clearinghouse for migration statistics for the CIS countries;
  - Country overview tables and tables with a country ranking and country profiles, charts and maps.

## C. Websites and wikis maintained by the UNECE Statistical Division

19. The UNECE Statistical Division’s website ([www.unece.org/stats](http://www.unece.org/stats)) provides information about the Division’s work and includes links to final products and other materials. These links include:

- Links to official statistical organizations: [www.unece.org/stats/links.html](http://www.unece.org/stats/links.html)
- Statistical work related to SDGs: [www.unece.org/stats/sde/sdg.html](http://www.unece.org/stats/sde/sdg.html)
- Statistical database website: [w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en](http://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en)
- Gender statistics website with multimedia training videos: [www.unece.org/stats/gender.html](http://www.unece.org/stats/gender.html)
- Library of training materials on statistics: [www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/train](http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/train)

20. In addition to the website, the Statistical Division maintains a collaborative Wiki platform for experts to communicate with one another and to share knowledge and tools. The Statistical Division has currently 138 wiki spaces with 1878 active users. The Wikis and knowledge bases on different subjects can be found at: <https://statswiki.unece.org>.

## III. List of meetings organized in 2018

21. Documents for public meetings are available at: [www.unece.org/statistics/meetings-and-events.html](http://www.unece.org/statistics/meetings-and-events.html). In 2018, the UNECE Statistical Division organized 40 meetings and workshops presented in the Annex. This includes 36 regional or sub-regional events, and 4 national events.

## Annex I.

## List of meetings held from January to December 2018

<i>Jointly with</i>	<i>Meeting (venue)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Capacity Building</i>
	Workshop on the SEEA Central Framework and SDG indicators (Minsk, Belarus)	15-18 January 2018	X
	CES Bureau meeting (Helsinki, Finland)	14-15 February 2018	
OECD	Seminar on SEEA implementation (Geneva, Switzerland)	21-22 February 2018	
	High-level seminar on strategic partnerships in official statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	11-12 April 2018	
	Workshop on ModernStats World (Geneva, Switzerland)	11-13 April 2018	
UNSD	Workshop on reporting and communicating statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (Geneva, Switzerland)	16-17 April 2018	X
	Meeting of the Task Force on exchange and sharing of economic data (Geneva, Switzerland)	16-17 April 2018	
Eurostat, UN-GGIM: Europe	Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS - UNECE Meeting on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	18 April 2018	
	Second expert meeting on statistics for sustainable development goals (Geneva, Switzerland)	18-19 April 2018	
	Regional coordination meeting on statistics for SDGs (Geneva, Switzerland)	20 (a.m.) April 2018	
ILO	Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices (Geneva, Switzerland)	7-9 May 2018	
OECD, Eurostat	Group of Experts on National Accounts (Geneva, Switzerland)	22-25 May 2018	
	Workshop on disseminating, communicating and using gender statistics (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)	29-31 May 2018	X
	Kyrgyzstan national workshop on Shared Environmental Information Systems and environmental statistics for SDGs (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)	11-13 June 2018	X
	66 <sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, Switzerland)	18-20 (a.m.) June 2018	
	Workshop on statistics for SDGs and strategic partnerships for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (Geneva, Switzerland)	20 June 2018	X
	Workshop on statistical data dissemination and communication (Cork, Ireland)	25-27 June 2018	
	Kazakhstan national workshop on material flow accounts and waste statistics for SDGs (Astana, Kazakhstan)	16-18 July 2018	X
EFTA	Workshop on human resources management and training (Oslo, Norway)	12-14 September 2018	
	Meeting of the Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation)	13-14 September 2018	
	Workshop on statistical data editing (Neuchatel, Switzerland)	18-20 September 2018	
	Task Force on measuring intra-household power and decision-making (Geneva, Switzerland)	19-21 September 2018	

	Workshop on population and housing censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	24-25 September 2018	X
Eurostat	Group of Experts on population and housing censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	26-28 September 2018	
	Meeting of the Task Force on a set of core climate change-related statistics and indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	1-2 October 2018	
EFTA, ESCAP	13th SPECA Working Group on Statistics	1-3 October 2018	X
	Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics	2-4 October 2018	
	Regional workshop on the compilation, dissemination, and use of Supply and Use tables (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova)	2-4 October 2018	X
	National workshop on Supply and Use tables	5 October 2018	X
	Meeting of the Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters (Geneva, Switzerland)	5 October 2018	
	Workshop on statistical data collection (Geneva, Switzerland)	10-12 October 2018	
	CES Bureau meeting (Geneva, Switzerland)	14-15 October 2018	
	Workshop on migration statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	23-24 October 2018	X
Eurostat	Work Session on migration statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	24-26 October 2018	
ECE Env. Div.	Joint Task Force on environmental statistics and indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	25-26 October 2018	
	Task Force on measuring old-age population in institutions (London, United Kingdom)	29-30 October 2018	
	Workshop on modernisation of official statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	26-30 November 2018	
	Workshop on harmonization of poverty statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	28 November 2018	X
	Expert Meeting on harmonization of poverty statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	29-30 November 2018	
	Sub-Regional Workshop on Statistical Production Architecture and Software Sharing (Belgrade, Serbia)	5-6 December 2018	X