IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME 2019

Note by the Secretariat

The document provides a short summary of the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2019. It is partially derived from 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 annex includes the list of meetings organized in 2019.
The Bureau reviewed and adopted the document.

I.   Description of the main accomplishments in 2019

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

1.   In 2019, 38 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 three statistical areas with the purpose of improving inter-agency coordination and eliminating overlaps and gaps in statistical activities in the UNECE region. The three reviews addressed the following topics: (i) various types of satellite accounts, (ii) measurement of gender identity, (iii) international migration and cross-border mobility.

3.   As a result of the in-depth reviews conducted in 2019, the Bureau decided to launch task teams that will develop a regional networking platform on the measurement of gender identity and an online inventory of satellite accounts compiled by countries. The Conference is also continuing to develop its partnership with the Europe Region of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe), including plans for back-to-back plenary sessions in 2020, with a joint day on topics of mutual interest.

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. A number of practical tools were prepared by UNECE to facilitate implementation of the *CES Road map on statistics for SDGs* in countries. By end of 2019, 37 countries in the ECE region

had set up their national reporting platforms. Work has started to prepare the Second Edition of the CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs.

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 2019, 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 2019, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau endorsed five methodological guidelines, namely (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) *Phase 1 of the strategic communications framework*. UNECE developed these in cooperation with countries and the following partner organizations: European Space Agency (ESA), Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UN ECLAC, UN ESCAP, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

7.   Seven draft CES guidelines and recommendations were prepared in 2019 for discussion by the Conference in 2020, namely on (i) *Guide to sharing of economic data*; (ii) *CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (version 2.0)*; (iii) *Poverty measurement: guide to data disaggregation*; (iv) *New frontiers for censuses beyond 2020*; (v) *Recommendations on Measuring Intra-Household Power and Decision-Making*; (vi) *Guidance on communicating gender statistics*; and (vii) *Guidance on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics.* The guidelines and recommendations are presented in more detail in Section II.A.

8.   Under the auspices of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) two priority projects were implemented in 2019: the second phase of the Strategic Communication Framework and the Machine Learning. In addition to the projects, the HLG-MOS Modernisation Groups produced several outputs, including a new version of the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM, version 1.2), a new version of the Generic Statistical Data Editing Model (GSDEM, version 2.0), the first version of the Core Ontology for Official Statistics and reports describing how to use multiple models together: GSIM, Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organization (GAMSO).

C.   Capacity development

9.   Since 2018, CES endorsed a new *UNECE Statistical capacity development strategy*, which reinforces the principle that capacity development activities should be user driven. In 2019, UNECE carried out 12 regional and 2 national training workshops for the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the 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.

10.   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 2019, the Global Assessment of the national statistical system in Georgia was completed, Global Assessments of the national statistical

systems of Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, as well as Sector Reviews of statistical information technology in Armenia and Georgia, were launched.

11.   To address member States' requests for assistance in implementing the recommendations, UNECE has been implementing a United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project[1] in 2019, to strengthen the capacity of countries for the sustainable development of statistics in the sub-region. UNECE also carried out two externally funded projects: 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)", and a project on "Supporting CIS countries to provide high quality statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards SDGs" by the Russian Federation.

D.   UNECE statistical database

12.   Progress was made in the availability of high quality macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in the UNECE statistical database. Work started on the expansion of the database to include selected Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The country overview tables were among the most actively used data along with gender and economic statistics.

13.   Downloads of statistical data from the UNECE statistical database consistently grew, and the share of downloads via mobile devices has also increased. In 2019, 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 2019

A.   Manuals, guidelines, recommendations and compilations of good practices

14.   The Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau endorsed the following guidelines and recommendations in 2019:

- *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

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[1] The title of the UNDA 10th tranche project is "Programme on statistics and data to build countries' capacity for monitoring progress towards SDGs".

organisations. It addresses questions of branding, crisis and issue management and necessary skillsets, and includes a communication maturity model.

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

- *Guide to sharing of economic data* aims to facilitate exchange and sharing of economic data to ensure correct measurement of global production and provide meaningful data on activities of multinational enterprises. It analyses concrete examples of data exchange, identifies obstacles and provides guidance, tools and principles to overcome the barriers to data sharing;

- *CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (version 2.0)* and its implementation guidelines include 44 climate change-related indicators recommended for implementation in the region, describe the selection criteria for the indicators and the underlying statistics and SEEA accounts, and guide countries in establishing their national sets of climate change-related indicators;

- *Poverty measurement: guide to data disaggregation* consolidates current and emerging good practices in disaggregating poverty indicators and in assessing their robustness, and provides recommendations to statistical offices for the production, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated poverty measures;

- *New frontiers for censuses beyond 2020* offer an in-depth analysis of the future of population and housing censuses after the 2020 round, which will inform the recommendations for the 2030 round of censuses;

- *Recommendations on measuring intra-household power and decision-making* makes an inventory of existing indicators and sources, and provides recommendations to statistical offices for measuring the gendered dimensions of intra-household power and decision-making;

- *Guidance on communicating gender statistics* assists national statistical offices in communicating to policymakers and the public on six key themes: gender pay gap, gender-based violence, the language of gender in statistical communication, maintaining impartiality when communicating gender statistics, interacting with users of gender statistics, and addressing data gaps in gender statistics;

- *Guidance on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics* shows how longitudinal data could be developed and used for international migration statistics, and proposes key longitudinal indicators related to the study of international migration and best practices for dissemination.

16.   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

17.   The statistical database is available at: 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

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

- Statistical work related to SDGs: www.unece.org/stats/sde/sdg.html

- Statistical database website: w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en

- Online statistical profiles of UNECE countries in publication format, linked to the database: w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en/PDFCountryProfiles

- Gender statistics website with multimedia training videos: www.unece.org/stats/gender.html

- Library of training materials on statistics: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/train

- Links to official statistical organizations: www.unece.org/stats/links.html

19. 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 96 wiki spaces with 2192 active users. The Wikis and knowledge bases on different subjects can be found at: https://statswiki.unece.org.

III. List of meetings organized in 2019

20. Documents for public meetings are available at: www.unece.org/statistics/meetings-and-events.html. In 2019, the UNECE Statistical Division organized 32 meetings and workshops presented in the annex. This includes 30 regional or sub-regional events, and 2 national event.

Annex
List of meetings held January to December 2019

Jointly with	Meeting (venue)	Date	Capacity Building
OECD	Joint OECD-ECE Seminar on SEEA implementation (Geneva, Switzerland)	20-21 February	
	CES Bureau Meeting (Washington, D.C., USA)	28 Feb.-1 March	
ROSSTAT, UNEP, OECD	ROSSTAT/UNECE/UNEP/OECD Joint Workshop on environment-related SDG indicators (Moscow, Russian Federation)	19-21 March	X
	Meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts (Geneva, Switzerland)	9-12 April	
	3rd Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs (Geneva, Switzerland)	15-16 April	
UNSD	Workshop on Statistics for SDGs (Geneva, Switzerland)	17-18 April	X
	Workshop on Gender Statistics (Neuchatel, Switzerland)	13-14 May	X
	Work Session on Gender Statistics (Neuchatel, Switzerland)	15-17 May	
	Workshop on Energy Statistics for Use in Policy Tracking (Dushanbe, Tajikistan)	21-22 May	X
	Workshop on Data Integration (Belgrade, Serbia)	21-23 May	
	Workshop on Statistical Data Dissemination and Communication (Gdansk, Poland)	12-14 June	
	Uzbekistan National Workshop on environmental and livelihood SDG indicators (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)	12-14 June	X
	67th Plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Paris, France)	26-28 a.m. June	
	ModernStats World Workshop (Geneva, Switzerland)	26-28 June	
	Regional Workshop on Consumer Price Indices (Minsk, Belarus)	11-13 September	X
	Workshop on Culture Evolution (Geneva, Switzerland)	11-13 September	
	Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	16-17 September	X
	Expert Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	18-20 September	
Eurostat, EFTA	Eurostat-UNECE-EFTA High-Level Seminar for EECCA Countries	24-26 September	X
	Group of Experts on Business Registers (Geneva, Switzerland)	30 September-2 October	
	Expert Forum for Users and Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	3-4 October	
	Workshop on Statistical Data Collection (Geneva, Switzerland)	14-16 October	
	CES Bureau meeting (Geneva, Switzerland)	16-17 October	
Environment Division	Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	28-29 October	
	Workshop on Migration Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	28-29 October	X
Eurostat	UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	29-31 October	
	Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality (The Hague, Netherlands)	29-31 October	
	Group of Experts on Measuring Quality of Employment (Geneva, Switzerland)	6-8 November	
	Workshop on Modernisation of Official Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	18-20 November	

Eurostat	Eurostat-UNECE Work Session on demographic projections (Belgrade, Serbia)	25-27 November	
	Workshop on harmonization of poverty statistics to measure SDG 1 (Geneva, Switzerland)	4 December	X
	Expert Meeting on measuring poverty and inequality: SDGs 1 and 10 (Geneva, Switzerland)	5-6 December	