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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Work Session on Migration Statistics

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 10-12 September 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Annotated provisional agenda

To be held at the Hotel Codru, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, starting at 9:30 am on Wednesday, 10 September 2014.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers
2. Experiences with using data from the 2010 round of censuses for measuring migration
3. Emerging issues and methodologies for the measurement of migration
4. Better utilization of administrative data sources to measure migration
5. Measurement of “hard-to-count” migrant groups
6. Migration behaviour, intention, and indicators of integration
7. Future work
8. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations

The meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat following the provisions of the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2014, approved by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and the UNECE Executive Committee.

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

The UNECE in cooperation with Eurostat regularly organize sessions for the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics. The main purpose of the sessions is to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries and increase knowledge on various issues related

to migration statistics. This results in increased capacity by countries to collect, evaluate, and disseminate migration statistics in compliance with the international and UNECE recommendations. The members of the UNECE-Eurostat Steering Group agree upon the proposed provisional agenda on Migration Statistics. The provisional agenda will be presented for the approval by the participants of the session.

2. Experiences with using data from the 2010 round of censuses for measuring migration

As the 2010 round of censuses comes to a close, the census remains an important source of data on migration, particularly for migrant stocks. This session will allow countries to discuss their experiences from the recent census. Discussion will not only include results from the most recent census, but also include methodological issues related to migration, such as coverage, measurement, non-response, or other challenges related to the measurement of migration using population censuses.

3. Emerging issues and methodologies for the measurement of migration

What emerging issues directly impact the measurement of migration and what new methodologies could be used to improve this measurement? With increased globalization, the way countries have traditionally viewed migration could be changing. Movement between many countries has been facilitated, as some form of visa-free regime exists in most regions of the world. Inter-country marriage has increased, as has the number of countries allowing and persons possessing dual-citizenship. Circular migration is believed to be a growing phenomenon, while “big data” has expanded the reach of global data. What impact could these changes have on the way we traditionally collect migration statistics? Similarly, the session will discuss what new methods countries have used to estimate migration, either in terms of modelling of population estimates and projections, ways to synthesise data from different data sources to come to a common migration estimate, and/or the potential use of “big data” (e.g. cell phone usage) to measure migration, and other possible topics.

4. Better utilization of administrative data sources to measure migration

A number of initiatives have pushed for better utilization of administrative sources to measure migration. This session will discuss country experiences in this regard, including sources used, the quality of these data, and what challenges remain to fully realize their potential. One challenge is that administrative data are often not produced by the national statistical office reporting migration statistics. Included in this session will be discussion on ways to improve communication between national statistical offices and agencies that produce administrative data.

5. Measurement of “hard-to-count” migrant groups

Improving the measurement of international migration continues to be challenging for the international statistical community, particularly the collection of data about migrant groups like short-term, temporary, and circular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, irregular migrants, and emigrants. Although these groups are often at the centre of public debate, their number is difficult to accurately assess via regular data sources, either because they fall outside our regular data collection methods, their records are less formalized, or for the reason that their very presence represents or entails a legal violation. In addition, partly due to the reasons outline above, these groups often suffer from higher non-response to regular

data collection methods. This session will include discussion of measurement of difficult to measure migrants, including, but not limited to, return migrants, circular migrants and emigrants.

6. Migration behaviour, intention, and indicators of integration

This session will discuss definitional and methodological issues related to the measurement of migration, including migration behavior and migrant integration. This session could include discussion on how “intention” of stay differs from “actual” stay and the use of “reasons” to define migration-flow types. Also, with the increase of migration flows to the UNECE region, the issue of migration adaptation/integration is on the forefront of policy discussion. This session will examine recent efforts to measure the integration and socioeconomic conditions of migrants.

7. Future Work

The meeting is invited to discuss proposals for future international work in migration statistics and topics for the 2016 Work Session. At its April 2014 plenary session, the Conference of European Statisticians held a seminar on migration statistics where it agreed on a number of actions that should lead to improved measurement of migration. The Work Session will also discuss how to take these actions forward.

8. Adoption of the Report

A short report outlining the conclusions and decisions taken at the meeting will be presented for adoption before the meeting adjourns.
