

## Draft Guidelines on Assessing the Quality of Administrative Sources for Use in Censuses

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The Task Force on Assessing the Quality of Administrative Sources for Use in Censuses, established under the Conference of European Statisticians, has spent the past year working hard to develop a draft set of Guidelines. We met in person in early March 2020 and decided to structure our work according to the stages of quality assessment: source, input, process and output. This structure is designed to enable the reader to focus on the different quality assessment needs, and the tools and processes for meeting these needs, at each of the four stages. The Guidelines are intended to be valuable to countries across the UNECE region, no matter what their census methodology or where they currently stand in the transition to greater reliance on administrative sources. Our work includes country case studies from Task Force members, illustrating the various challenges and showcasing the solutions found by countries across these four stages.

This session will summarize the main structure of the draft Guidelines and the key recommendations arising from our work. The current draft of the Task Force's report, while still pending some further work to complete it, will be shared in advance with participants registered for this online meeting. We welcome any feedback that participants can offer to ensure we cover all the necessary ground in the Guidelines, as well as any further country examples you may be able to offer to illustrate good practice.

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced the hand of many countries, pushing them to make much more rapid decisions about the use of administrative data for census operations than would otherwise have been the case; and perhaps entailing the use of administrative sources where this had not previously been foreseen. The unprecedented circumstances may also have altered the relative weight given to the different dimensions of quality when assessing administrative sources. The Task Force welcomes examples of any of these situations, as we wish to ensure that the Guidelines take into account the most up-to-date quality assessment considerations and offer guidance to countries to tackle future challenges in census-taking.