Conference of European Statisticians

Objective, achievements, main directions and challenges

Padraig Dalton, CES Chair Director General of the Central Statistics Office of Ireland

UNECE Executive Committee Geneva, 13 January 2023







Objective of the Conference



Objective:

To advance official statistics at the national and international levels in the region.

Achieved through:

- Streamlining international statistical work
- Developing guidelines to enhance data quality
- Supporting countries' capacity in particular on measuring progress towards SDGs
- Providing a statistical database and a platform on SDGs



All the CES work supports the achievement and measurement of SDGs

Key achievements in 2022



23 events

- Expert meetings, workshops and webinars
- CES plenary session jointly with UN-GGIM: Europe
- Close collaboration with Eurostat, EFTA, OECD,
 UNSD and regional commissions



7 statistical guidelines

- Guidance on statistics on children
- New data sources for measuring migration
- Measuring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men
- Handbook on forms of employment
- Machine learning for official statistics
- Synthetic Data for a national statistical organization
- Measuring the value of official statistics

2 new areas reviewed

- Collaboration with private data providers
- Data ethics

3rd SDG report and regional platform on statistics

- 2022 report tracking progress for the Regional Forum
- Knowledge hub and database for statisticians and analysts
- Dashboard for policymakers and public

Access to data held by the private sector for official statistical purposes is a key challenge ahead – support from national governments and relevant ministries is needed

30th Anniversary of adoption of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by UNECE



PRINCIPLE 1. RELEVANCE, IMPARTIALITY AND EQUAL ACCESS

PRINCIPLE 2. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ETHICS

PRINCIPLE 3. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

PRINCIPLE 4. PREVENTION OF MISUSE

PRINCIPLE 5. SOURCES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

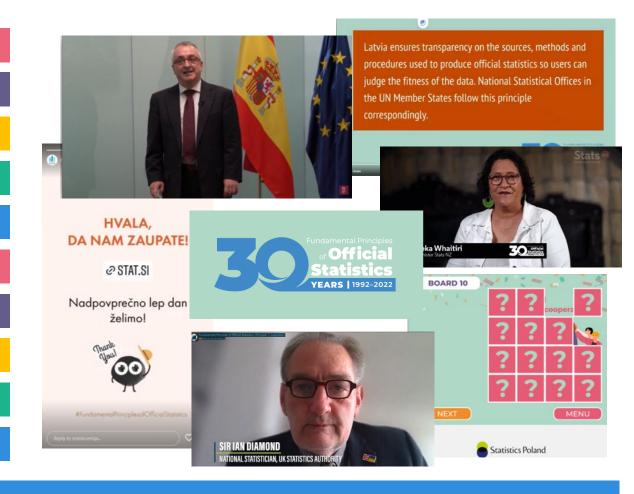
PRINCIPLE 6. **CONFIDENTIALITY**

PRINCIPLE 7. **LEGISLATION**

PRINCIPLE 8. NATIONAL COORDINATION

PRINCIPLE 9. USE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

PRINCIPLE 10. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



Marking 30 years of common foundation for informed society – from adoption by UNECE in 1992, through adoption by the UN General Assembly in 2014, to the anniversary campaign by 170 contributors in 15 languages

Main areas of work

Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics

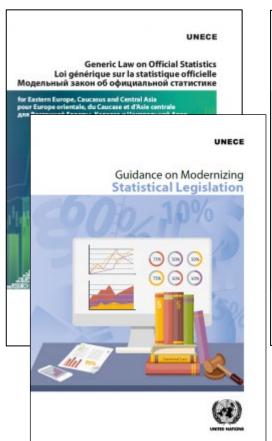


Priority areas

- Fundamental Principles and Core Values of Official Statistics
- Data stewardship
- Legislative framework of official statistics
- Measuring the value of official statistics
- Classification of statistical activities

Focus in 2023

- Facilitating access to data held by the private sector for purposes of official statistics
- Steering Group on Statistical Legislation





More than 24 countries worldwide have used UNECE guidelines on statistical legislation to revise their laws. Regional versions were produced by ECLAC and ESCWA.

Economy and globalization

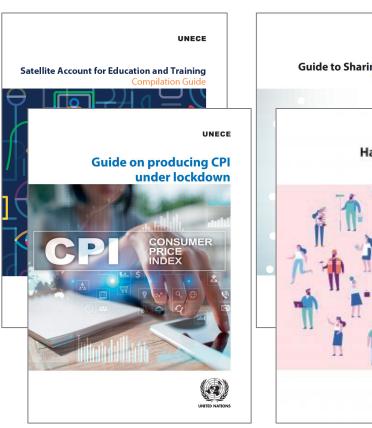


Priority areas

- Data sharing and collection from multinationals
- Well-being, sustainability and human capital
- Globalization and digitalization
- Quality of employment
- Prices

Focus in 2023

- Supporting global update of the System of National Accounts
- Measuring new forms of employment
- Measuring well-being



UNECE **Guide to Sharing Economic Data** in Official Statistics Handbook on Forms of Employment

A handbook on measuring forms of employment (such as 'gig' economy, platform work etc.) allows to assess how well our societies are living up to the promises of productive and decent work for all

Population, gender and society

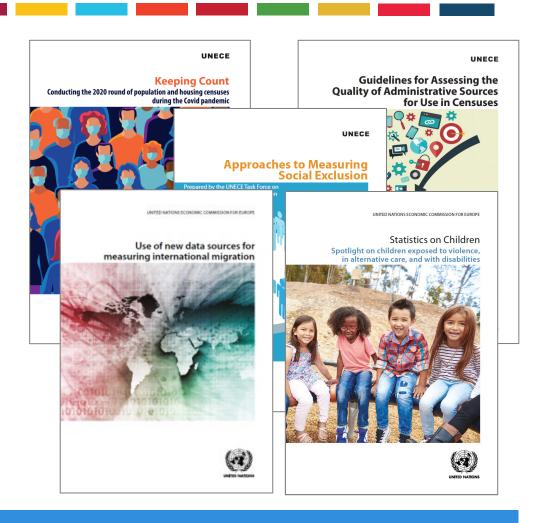


Priority areas

- Population and housing censuses
- Poverty and social exclusion
- Gender
- Migration and labour mobility
- Children and youth

Focus in 2023

- 2030 census recommendations
- Social cohesion
- Measuring emigration and improving timeliness of migration statistics
- Hard-to-reach population groups



Sustainable development, environment, climate change and hazardous events



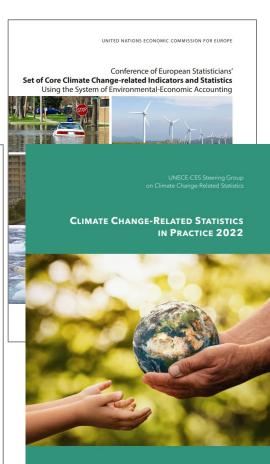
Priority areas

- Sustainable development
- Climate change-related statistics and indicators
- Environment statistics
- Hazardous events and disasters
- Circular economy

Focus in 2023

- Set of core disaster-risk related indicators
- Measuring circular economy
- Role of NSOs in achieving climate objectives





In 2021, UNECE convened the first global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics that have now become annual attracting participants from all continents

Modernization of statistical production

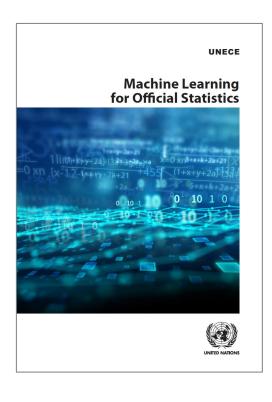


Priority areas

- Standards and models of statistical production
- Machine learning and artificial intelligence
- Privacy preserving techniques
- Strategic communication
- Integrating geospatial and statistical data

Focus in 2023

- Data science and modern methods in official statistics
- Data interoperability and cloud
- Co-creation and reuse of training







With over 750 community members, UNECE's High Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics remains at the forefront of global efforts to modernize official statistics

Supporters



CES would like to thank:

- All countries for their support and active participation
- All country donors: Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and United Kingdom
- Major partners: EU, Eurostat, EFTA, CIS-Stat, IMF, OECD, World Bank
- EXCOM for your support



Issues for EXCOM decision



EXCOM is invited to:

- Approve the programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2023 (ECE/CES/2022/16 and ECE/CES/2022/16/Add.1).
- Approve the mandates and terms of references of the Steering Groups (ECE/EX/2023/L.1, annexes I to V).
- Comment on the achievements and future priorities of the Conference of the European Statisticians (Chair's report)

Thank you!

Padraig Dalton, CES Chair Director General of the Central Statistics Office of Ireland

Geneva, 13 January 2023





