

**INF. 2**

2 February 2024  
ENGLISH ONLY

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS  
**Workshop on the International Recommendations on Statistics on Refugees,  
Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness**  
Geneva, Switzerland, 6 May 2024

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Inform secretariat** of your intention to give a presentation by **15 February**

### I. INTRODUCCION

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), are jointly organizing the [Workshop on the International Recommendations on Statistics on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness](#), on 6 May 2024 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
2. The workshop will be followed on 7 and 8 May by the [meeting of the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics](#), organized by UNECE in collaboration with EGRISS, IOM and UNHCR.
3. This call for contributions for the workshop is addressed to statisticians, researchers and analysts from the national statistical offices, ministries and other government agencies, experts from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and experts from the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that produce or use statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless people statistics and who wish to give a presentation at the workshop.
4. Detailed information on registration to the workshop, venue and other logistics aspects is available in the logistical information note on [the workshop's web page](#).

## II. BACKGROUND

5. By mid-2023, 110.3 million people were estimated to be forcibly displaced globally, representing a surge in conflicts, violence and disasters around the world. Similarly, the number of stateless persons continues to rise, primarily due to improved registration and coverage, with 4.4 million individuals estimated to be stateless by mid-2023<sup>1</sup>. In the European context, the challenges of forced displacement and statelessness remain pertinent, particularly as the region hosts one-third of the world's refugee population, has experienced a significant increase in internal displacement in recent years<sup>2</sup>, and hosts a significant number of stateless persons. More than half of the displaced population hosted in Europe originates from Ukraine, as the full-scale war that started in February 2022 has forced millions of people from their homes as refugees or internally displaced within the country (11.7 million by mid-2023).
6. Several key international commitments made by UN member states, such as the [Sustainable Development Agenda 2030](#); the [Global Compact on Refugees](#); [UNHCR's Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024](#); and the [Report of the High-level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), emphasise the need for improved national data on refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and stateless persons to support the development of evidence-informed policies that are geared towards resolving these crises and improving the lives of affected populations. Central to this need for evidence is availability of quality, timely and comparable nationally produced statistics.
7. Established in 2016, the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) mandated [Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics](#) (EGRISS) has directly responded to this demand through the development of the International Recommendations on [Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics](#), which were endorsed by the UNSC in 2018, 2020 and 2023, respectively. Comprised of 57 countries and 36 international and regional organisations<sup>3</sup>, the Expert Group continues to respond through its current mandate that focuses on supporting countries to implement these Recommendations and pursue the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national statistical systems.
8. Momentum is building around this agenda demonstrated by the progress made by countries in Europe and beyond to implement the Recommendations. As results from EGRISS' Global Annual Inclusion ([GAIN](#)) Survey demonstrate, 39 countries have reported efforts in this regard including 9 UNECE member states. More recently, pledges made to pursue '[Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Statistical Systems and Surveys](#)' made in the context of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, indicate growing political will to continue to strengthen this area of statistics.

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<sup>1</sup> [Mid-Year Trends Report 2023 | UNHCR](#)

<sup>2</sup> [IDMC | GRID 2023 | 2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement \(internal-displacement.org\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> EGRISS members include several UNECE member states such as: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

9. Despite this positive news, however, systematic inclusion of refugees, IDPs and statelessness in national statistical production in Europe is lacking. While important efforts have been made in recent years to improve the availability and quality of data related to asylum systems and processes in the region, comparable official statistics on the stocks, profiles and socio-economic situation of refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons is still lacking for several countries in the region.
10. To respond to the policy demand for better statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless populations, continuing action is needed at the regional level, including exchange of experiences and capacity development in areas that correspond to the evolving needs and priorities of member countries, including under rapidly changing circumstances as with the case of the Ukraine displacement crisis.

### III. PURPOSE

11. Building on the above context and recognising the uptake of the international statistical recommendations in the region can be further extended, this workshop will create a space for a timely discussion between experts of UNECE member states on strategies and approaches to strengthen forced displacement and statelessness statistics, and to identify a pathway for clearer linkages to migration statistics in the region. Following the suggestions of the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians [Task Team on updating the Classification of Statistical Activities](#) (CSA), in June 2022, this UNECE-EGRISS workshop provides a forum for experts to explore implementation of the CSA 2.0 revisions, importantly covering under a new 'migration' classification (as separate and distinct from 'population and migration' under CSA Rev.1, October 2009).
12. Co-organized by several EGRISS member organisations including UNECE, UNHCR and IOM, the workshop will inform the existing network and outcomes of the UNECE Expert Group on Migration Statistics to share experiences and enhance cooperation on the production of official statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons. It will raise awareness of the International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics and related resources, share experiences from member states and other examples of regional cooperation, concerning their implementation and sharing valuable lessons learned.

### IV. OBJECTIVES

13. Overall, the workshop has the following objectives:

#### **Raising awareness of the international recommendations**

14. The workshop will include a general presentation of the [International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics \(IRRS\)](#), [International Recommendations on IDP Statistics \(IRIS\)](#), and [International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics \(IROSS\)](#) and other related resources. Participants will be invited to share their views on the relevance of these recommendations for their national contexts and share plans and experiences with their practical implementation.

### **Sharing experiences of implementing the recommendations in different national contexts**

15. The EGRISS Secretariat has actively monitored the implementation of the international recommendations at national, regional and global levels, identifying so far 31 examples of country implementation in the European region, with the majority showcasing the utilisation of administrative data sources. These diverse implementation examples offer a wealth of experiences that can serve as the foundation for an exchange of insights gained from these endeavours.
16. The workshop will be an opportunity for interested countries to share their experiences of utilizing the Recommendations to improve official statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, highlighting how different data sources can be used, and to identify good practice and address common challenges associated with both the technical and coordination aspects. Experiences on the following areas are of particular interest:
  - Using and linking different administrative data systems to produce official statistics on these populations.
  - Inclusion of refugees, IDPs and/or stateless persons in national population systems.
  - Inclusion of refugees, IDPs and/or stateless persons in national or regional household surveys.
  - Consideration of displacement and statelessness in national population estimates and projections.
  - Alternative data sources used to enhance statistics on forced displacement and statelessness.
  - National coordination mechanisms or processes used to include these populations into national statistical systems, particularly in light of the CSA 2.0 revisions on migration statistics, including IDPs.

### **Opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation**

17. The workshop will foster a joint discussion to identify possible avenues to enhance regional cooperation around statistics on forced displacement and statelessness within the region, building on existing cooperation platforms as relevant, in order to make further progress over the next few years. This would include identifying the capacity development needs of participating Member States and where possible, making connections with organizations that can provide the needed support. This will have the added benefit of informing the work of the EGRISS task team on regional engagement and capacity development in Europe.

## **V. LANGUAGES:**

18. The workshop will be held in English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in these languages.

## VI. INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

19. Participation in the workshop is restricted to representatives from accredited national or international institutions, in line with rules governing meetings hosted by UNECE (see the logistical information note on [the workshop's web page](#)). Participants must register online **by 5 April 2024**, by completing the [online registration form](#) (short title: Workshop on Refugee Statistics).
20. Participants are encouraged to identify their own sources of funding. Financial support will be available for a limited number of participants. Participants wishing to discuss possibilities for financial support should contact UNECE at [social.stats@un.org](mailto:social.stats@un.org) **by 26 February 2024**, indicating the name, position and role of the participant for whom funding is requested.
21. Participants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS), International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS). To facilitate this, participants may access the [E-learning course](#) that introduces the three sets of recommendations through 6 introductory modules.
22. The event will consist of short presentations (7-10 minutes) followed by facilitated discussions and group work activities. **Participants are invited to signal their wish to give a presentation during the workshop by submitting an abstract of approximately 200 words outlining the proposed contribution. Abstracts should be submitted in English or Russian to EGRISS at [sijuwade@unhcr.org](mailto:sijuwade@unhcr.org) by 26 February 2024.**
23. Abstracts should aim to be forward-looking with the goal of providing information that may be useful for others: e.g. highlighting lessons learnt and/or challenges from implementation experiences; and/or showing how these experiences have been addressed and/or will inform future approaches. Given limitations in the schedule, it might not be possible to accommodate all requests to present during the workshop. Presentations that reflect the diversity of country and cross-country experiences as well as examples from different data sources and displaced populations of interest are welcome. Priority will be given to proposals related to one or more areas of interest outlined above.

### 24. Please take note of the following deadlines:

26 February 2024	Please send an e-mail to EGRISS at <a href="mailto:sijuwade@unhcr.org">sijuwade@unhcr.org</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- to express your <b>intention</b> to give a presentation, and</li><li>- to submit a short <b>abstract</b> (200 words) in English or Russian.</li></ul>
26 February 2024	Participants who would like to discuss possibilities for financial support should contact UNECE at <a href="mailto:social.stats@un.org">social.stats@un.org</a> indicating the name, position and role of the participant for whom funding is requested.
5 April 2024	All participants attending the workshop must <b>register</b> online by 5 April 2024 by completing <a href="#">the online registration form</a> (Short title: Workshop on Refugee Statistics)

## VII. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

**UNECE:**

Paolo Valente  
Social and Demographic Statistics Section  
UNECE Statistical Division  
E-mail: [paolo.valente@un.org](mailto:paolo.valente@un.org)

**EGRIS Secretariat:**

Charis Sijuwade  
Assistant Statistics Data Analysis Officer  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
E-mail: [sijuwade@unhcr.org](mailto:sijuwade@unhcr.org)