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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Tenth meeting  
Geneva, 30 November 2006

**DECISIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Note by the secretariat

Programme of work for 2007

Terms of Reference of the Teams of Specialists (new and revised)

1. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) adopted at its 19-20 October 2006 meeting the UNECE Statistical Programme 2007. The Programme includes no changes in respect to the programme budget fascicle 2006-2007. The Executive Committee is invited to approve the Statistical Programme 2007, attached as Annex I.
2. At the same meeting, the CES Bureau reviewed the Teams of Specialists working under the CES umbrella. Fourteen Task Forces completed their work in 2006 and are therefore discontinued. The Bureau adopted the Terms of Reference for two new groups to be set up:
  - Task Force on confidentiality aspects of statistical data integration (Annex II),
  - Task Force on measuring volunteer work (Annex III).

3. The Bureau also adopted the revised Terms of Reference for two groups that were renewed:

- Steering Group on population and housing censuses (Annex IV),
- Task Force on families and households (Annex V).

4. The Executive Committee is invited to approve (a) the establishment of the two new groups mentioned in paragraph 2 above and their Terms of Reference as provided in Annexes II and III; and (b) the renewal of the two groups mentioned in paragraph 3 and their revised Terms of Reference as provided in Annexes IV and V.

## ANNEX I

## LIST OF ACTIVITIES IN THE UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME 2007

## I. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNECE STATISTICAL DIVISION

## 1. Coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region

*Activity 1.1: Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA/IP Database)*

The Database of International Statistical Activities (formerly called Integrated Presentation) brings together the statistical programmes of work of about 30 international agencies active in the UNECE region.

*Activity 1.2: Annual UNECE Statistical Programme*

The Annual UNECE Statistical Programme presents all statistical activities carried out by the various UNECE Divisions and Units.

*Activity 1.3: Secretariat support for the work of the CES and its Bureau*

Provide secretariat support for the work of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), which is the Sectoral Committee of the UNECE Statistical Division, and its Bureau. The CES coordinates the statistical activities of the three main international organizations working in the UNECE region, Eurostat, OECD and UNECE, as well as the statistical activities of CIS-STAT, UNSD, and other organizations in the UN system, such as IMF, ILO, WHO and the World Bank. The work of the Conference is steered by its Bureau.

*Activity 1.4: Monitoring the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*

Monitoring the adherence to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in CIS and South-East European countries as the custodian organization of the Principles. Ensuring adherence to the Official Principles of International Statistical Activities within UNECE.

*Activity 1.5: Coordination of Technical Cooperation in Central Asia*

Following the decision of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians, the Statistical Division of the UNECE will continue to coordinate the technical cooperation in statistics carried out by international and national organizations in Central Asian countries.

## 2. Collection, processing and dissemination of macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics

*Activity 2.1: Economic data collection, analysis and advice (Economic database)*

Collect, process and publish economic statistics for the UNECE member countries in a publicly available database with online access.

*Activity 2.2: Gender statistics database*

Provide relevant, timely and harmonized statistics for gender policy analysis. Set up a group of specialists to advise the UNECE on the development and improvement of the Gender Database.

***Action in relation to Activities 2.1 and 2.2***

Implement the recommendations of the external assessment of statistical databases, namely:

(i) stabilise the resource basis of the Statistical Division for work on the database and its dissemination infrastructure at the level foreseen for the year 2007; (ii) improve the quality and timeliness of data; (iii) increase the country coverage, in particular for South-Eastern Europe and the CIS countries, as far as data are available at national level; (iv) improve the methodological documentation of the database; (v) further develop the functionality of the database with the aim of facilitating access and increasing user friendliness; (vi) increase the efforts to make the databases better known, to identify users and obtain feed-back from them, and to continue monitoring the use of the database.

***Activity 2.3: Coordination of UNECE statistical databases***

Provide coordination and support services to other UNECE divisions regarding the consistency of statistical data and terminology, and the use of data collection, storage and dissemination methods.

***Activity 2.4: Statistical profiles of UNECE member countries***

Annual publication of statistical country profiles of the UNECE region prepared on the basis of the [stat@unece](mailto:stat@unece) database with a few additions from other UN based databases. This publication is promotional material that is used to increase awareness about the UNECE region, promote the official statistics and the UNECE in general.

***Activity 2.5: Support to external clients***

Support to the external users of the statistical information disseminated by the UNECE Statistical Division via Internet.

***Activity 2.6: Promotional activities***

Provide statistical data and information about the UNECE Statistical Division's activities for promotional purposes.

**3. Methodological work in various statistical areas*****Activity 3.1: Indicators related to the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration***

Contribute to the monitoring of progress towards achievement of the goals specified in the Millennium Declaration in South-East European and CIS countries. Contribute to the Secretary-General's Annual Report on the progress towards achievement of the Goals worldwide.

***Activity 3.2: Statistical information processing***

Enhancing international cooperation, harmonization of methods and exchange of experience concerning the methodological and organizational aspects of statistical data processing. The area focuses on structures, models and procedures, in particular management of information systems, facilitation of raw data reporting and exchange of aggregated data.

***Activity 3.3: Statistical data editing (SDE)***

Enhancing harmonization of methods and concepts, and exchange of experience in issues related to data quality control at the collection phase. A medium-term focus is on editing and imputation

of data originating from administrative sources and editing near source (e.g. editing by respondents).

***Activity 3.4: Statistical confidentiality and access to microdata***

Enhancing international cooperation, harmonization of methods and exchange of experience in the area of statistical confidentiality. The work covers managerial, statistical and organizational issues related to the statistical confidentiality protection and disclosure control for both microdata and tabular data. Particular attention is paid to bringing the CES Guidelines and Core Principles for Managing Statistical Confidentiality and Microdata Access into the everyday practice of statistical agencies.

***Activity 3.5: Statistical metadata (METIS)***

Facilitating harmonization of data models and structures for statistical metadata in the context of statistical information processing and dissemination. Providing a forum for discussing metadata issues that are internal to the statistical offices, to complement the other international initiatives that deal with the data collection needs of international statistical agencies.

***Activity 3.6: Managing statistical output for dissemination***

Promotion of good practices in dissemination of statistical information by national statistical offices in the light of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

***Activity 3.7: National Accounts***

Promote the implementation of the methodology of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) in UNECE member countries with an emphasis on the Western Balkan and CIS countries. Contribute to the update of the 1993 SNA. Carry out research work and surveys of country practices.

***Activity 3.8: Price indices***

Support the development of statistical systems and the implementation of internationally accepted standards and methods so as to increase the quality and international comparability of price statistics, in particular in the South-East European and CIS countries.

***Activity 3.9: Agriculture statistics – Task Force on rural development***

Publication of Handbook on Rural Development Statistics and Agriculture Household Income.

***Activity 3.10: Business registers***

Develop and disseminate standards, norms and best practices concerning statistical business registers. Work on the statistical unit and consistency of business demography data in various databases with the aim of increasing the quality and international comparability of business registers.

***Activity 3.11: Short-term Statistics (STS)***

Development of a professional environment for international cooperation and provision of methodological and technical assistance in the field of STS to NSOs, particularly to South-East European and CIS countries.

***Activity 3.12: Migration statistics***

Contribute to the improvement of the quality and availability of statistics on international migration by developing common definitions and methods, and promoting them across the UNECE region.

***Activity 3.13: Population and housing censuses***

Promote the implementation of the new *CES Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses* by countries and support countries in preparations for the next population and housing census.

***Activity 3.14: Labour statistics***

Contribute to the work of the ILO Task Force on the measurement of quality of work aimed at the development of methodologies and identification of good practices on the measurement of various aspects related to labour conditions.

***Activity 3.15: Crime and justice statistics***

Work towards the preparation of guidelines for comparable crime and justice statistics based on victimization surveys in the UNECE region (in collaboration with UNODC) and explore the possibility of developing an analytical framework to compare crime statistics based on administrative records.

***Activity 3.16: Health statistics***

Work towards the improvement of the comparability of health status statistics in the UNECE region, in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Eurostat.

***Activity 3.17: Gender statistics***

Methodological work on gender statistics. UNECE serves as an institutional framework for work on gender statistics in the region. The knowledge and expertise of UNECE staff on gender statistics enhances their unique role in supporting the work on gender statistics in the CIS and Balkan countries in collaboration with other agencies (i.e., UNDP/Bratislava, the World Bank, USAID, U.S. Census Bureau, among others).

***Activity 3.18: Social statistics***

Provide substantive and organizational support to the UNECE forum on social statistics. The forum oversees the UNECE work on social and demographic statistics and initiates and monitors work on the development of common survey modules within the UNECE region.

***Activity 3.19: Families and households***

A project aimed at developing common survey modules to measure new forms of families and households.

***Activity 3.20: Demographic projections and population statistics***

Contribute to the organization of the Joint Eurostat/UNECE Work Session on Demographic Projections, tentatively planned in Bucarest, June 2007. This meeting will be dedicated to the exchange of experiences and discussion of methodologies in the field of demographic projections and recalculation of population data between two population censuses.

***Activity 3.21: Sustainable development statistics***

Provide secretariat and logistical support to the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD). The aim of the WGSSD is to identify good practices to assist national governments and international organizations in developing official statistics and designing indicator sets in the area of sustainable development.

**4. Technical assistance to UNECE member countries*****Activity 4.1: Short-term technical cooperation***

Specific advisory services in statistics to South-East European and CIS countries.

***Activity 4.2: Statistical capacity building in SEE and CIS countries***

Multi-annual statistical capacity building and developed dissemination activities in South-East European and CIS countries.

***Activity 4.3: Statistical literacy and evidence-based decision structures***

Promoting understanding and use of statistical information by government officials, NGOs, business, research and educational institutions in cooperation with NSOs. Assistance to NSOs in performing these activities.

***Activity 4.4: Making National Statistical Systems more gender sensitive***

Promoting the improvement of the quantity and quality of gender statistics in SEE and CIS countries.

**II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY OTHER UNECE DIVISIONS****5. Subprogramme on Housing, Land Management and Population*****Activity 5.1: Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)***

The GGP is a system of national Generations and Gender Surveys (GGS) and contextual databases, which aims at improving the knowledge base for policymaking in UNECE countries. The Programme is developed and maintained by the GGP Consortium including seven premier academic, research and statistical organizations, and the Population Activities Unit (PAU). Coordination of the Programme by UNECE PAU is subject to availability of extrabudgetary funds.

***Activity 5.2: Statistical Support to Monitoring Ageing-Related Policies***

Monitoring policies related to population ageing is part of the follow-up to the implementation of the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002* (MIPAA) in the UNECE region. The statistical aspect of this work includes developing and maintaining a database of policy-relevant indicators and descriptions of actions undertaken in response to the commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of MIPAA. This activity is financially supported by the Government of Austria.

***Activity 5.3: Data on environment***

Ad hoc environmental data collection to support the Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR).

**Activity 5.4: Data on Housing**

Data collection on housing to support the work on Housing Country Profiles (CP).

**6. Timber Subprogramme****Activity 6.1: Collection, processing and dissemination of forest sector statistics**

Collection and dissemination of data on forest resources, production and trade of forest products.

**Activity 6.2: Analytical and methodological work on forest sector statistics**

Analytical and methodological studies on different issues in the area of forest sector statistics.

**Activity 6.3: Technical cooperation on forest sector statistics**

Capacity building in member countries through workshops and meetings of national correspondents.

**7. Transport Subprogramme****Activity 7.1: Collection, processing and dissemination of transport statistics**

Collection and dissemination of transport statistics, including data on motor traffic, road traffic accidents and rail traffic.

**Activity 7.2: Methodological work on transport statistics**

Development of the new edition of the Glossary of transport statistics and of new sets of Draft recommendations to Governments on motor traffic and rail traffic in Europe.

**III. PRELIMINARY LIST OF MEETINGS PLANNED FOR 2007**UNECE Statistical Division

Meeting	Approximate dates
4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee on Sustainable Development (Paris)	January 2007
Meeting of the CES Bureau (Geneva)	12-13 February 2007
Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (Geneva)	28-30 March 2007
Joint ECE/ILO/Eurostat Seminar on Quality of Work (Geneva)	18-20 April 2007
Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality (SDC)	April 2007
Meeting on Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) (Geneva)	May 2007
5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee on Sustainable Development (Geneva)	May 2007
Joint UNECE/ Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva or Kazakhstan)	30 May - 1 June 2007
55 <sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva)	week of 11-15 June 2007



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Approximate dates</b>
Joint ECE/Eurostat Seminar on Business Registers (Geneva)	date to be determined
Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting of Directors of social statistics (Luxembourg)	September 2007
Meeting of the CES Bureau	October 2007
Work Session on Electronic Data Reporting for Primary Data Collection (EDR)	October 2007
Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Work Session on the Measurement of Health Status (Geneva)	October 2007
UNECE/UNODC Meeting on Crime Statistics (Geneva)	November 2007
Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics (Geneva)	5-7 December 2007
Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (SDE)	late 2007/early 2008

#### Technical assistance workshops and meetings

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Approximate dates</b>
Training workshop for SPECA countries on new technologies for population censuses (Geneva)	May 2007
Training workshop for SPECA countries on implementation of the new Census recommendations for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses (Dushanbe, Tajikistan)	March 2007
Workshop for SPECA countries on measuring the non-observed economy (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)	25-27 April 2007
Regional workshop for SEE and CIS countries to train trainers on how to make national statistical systems more gender sensitive	May 2007
Meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group	(week of 11-15) June 2007
Workshop for SPECA countries on Statistics on Health Status (Turkmenistan)	September 2007

#### UNECE Other Divisions

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Approximate dates</b>
Meeting of the Generation and Gender Programme International Working Group	January 2007
Meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics	January 2007
Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics	March 2007
Meeting of the Task Force Monitoring Regional Implementation Strategy of Ageing-Related Policies	spring 2007
Inter-secretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics	spring 2007
Meeting of the Working Party VI on Transport Statistics	6-8 June 2007
Inter-secretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics	autumn 2007
Meeting of the Generation and Gender Programme Consortium Board	autumn 2007

## **ANNEX II**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TASK FORCE ON CONFIDENTIALITY ASPECTS OF STATISTICAL DATA INTEGRATION**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. In a relatively small number of countries, integration of administrative data sources in particular has been an important part of the administrative information infrastructure of government. In more recent years, a number of national statistical organizations have been pursuing the development of new statistical datasets constructed by integrating unit record administrative and/or survey data. These integrated datasets can then be used to compile new official statistics and/or support a range of economic and social research not possible using traditional sources.
2. Integration of unit record data from different sources has been seen to have a number of benefits, including the production of new or enhanced statistical outputs that fill identified information gaps; the production of more disaggregated information for measures where some information currently exists; the ability to carry out policy-relevant research using integrated datasets; the potential to use integrated data to improve or confront existing data sources; and the potential to reduce respondent burden or, alternatively, to collect additional information at no extra cost to respondents.
3. At the same time, country experience to date with the process of developing data integration projects has been that they are very resource-intensive; particularly as they require very careful management of privacy and confidentiality concerns in order to try to mitigate any concerns from data suppliers, respondents, the general public and watchdogs such as a Privacy Commissioner or an Ombudsman. In cases such as where taxation or social security data is being used, the supplier agency can often have legislative requirements that place limits on the use of and access to their data.

#### **II. DELIVERABLE**

4. A draft set of data integration standards and associated protocols which aim, amongst other things, to establish best practice in this area in order to unify approaches internationally, and to agree on some core principles for observing the confidentiality principle in the creation and dissemination of integrated datasets.

#### **III. TASKS**

5. To produce a draft set of (a) principles and (b) associated protocols/guidelines for data integration projects that:
  - consider whether these need to vary for individual and business data; and
  - are general enough to be able to be adapted by the countries that participate in the Conference of European Statisticians;and:

- to submit a draft proposal for the consideration by the Conference of European Statisticians;
- if accepted, compile a set of current best practices to guide implementation.

6. The United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics should be used as a guide on length and style for the presentation of the draft principles and guidelines. This work should also be seen in the context that the 2003 Conference of European Statisticians saw support for research as an important activity of the national statistical offices.

#### **IV. TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

7. The Task Force membership will be chosen to represent the varying interests of the members of the Conference of European Statisticians. Mr Brian Pink (New Zealand) will act as Chairman of the Task Force.

#### **V. MODUS OPERANDI**

8. During the development of the draft principles and protocols/guidelines, the Task Force will consult with member countries, representatives of the research community, and selected bodies concerned with privacy issues. This does not preclude the Task Force from collaborating with others who may have an interest in the topic.

9. The Task Force will conclude its work by June 2008.

## **ANNEX III**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TASK FORCE ON MEASURING VOLUNTEER WORK**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. A major challenge in household survey research is the ability to compare estimates from one survey to another. Comparability is possible when common definitions and measurement approaches are applied. However, the rigour and discipline required in the development and implementation of standards across surveys is difficult to achieve. The complexity is further enhanced when harmonizing across countries.
2. The exploratory nature of social research on one hand encourages survey developers to try new collection approaches to advance knowledge. However, over the years there have been a number of survey best practices developed that could save researchers valuable time and money as well as improve data quality and comparability.
3. A 2005 UNECE/EUROSTAT sponsored meeting of Heads of Social Statistics focused discussions on ways to find greater comparability across the social statistics domain. As a result, five countries agreed to participate in an experiment where the concept of volunteer activity would be used to evaluate the feasibility of achieving comparability. Participants for this working group include Canada, United States, Denmark, Australia and Italy (EUROSTAT as an observer).

#### **II. EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

4. The overall objective is to enhance and promote comparability of social research across countries. To this end, the concept of volunteering will be used in an experiment to demonstrate the practical and theoretical challenges in achieving comparable measurements. There are two levels of outputs – one directly related to international standards specific to defining and measuring volunteering, the second a broader perspective on best practices for promoting and achieving international harmonization of social research.
5. The Task Force is expected to:
  - gather intelligence and create an inventory of concepts and questions currently being used to measure volunteer activity;
  - evaluate and provide value added information as to the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches;
  - make recommendations for definitions, survey instruments and standard methods for measuring volunteering as part of official statistics;
  - analyse the lessons learned from this experiment and provide guidance on how to achieve greater harmonization of social science research across countries.

### III. ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCE

- (a) Compile an inventory of the existing survey methodologies found in each participating country that defines and measures volunteering.
- (b) Broaden the intelligence gathering and support for the initiative through discussions and involvement of key players from other organizations such as Points of Light Foundation (United States), Imagine Canada, Volunteering Australia, John Hopkins Research Institute, U.S. Corporation for National and Community Service etc.
- (c) Communicate with other countries involved in this research to determine the interest and potential for partnership.
- (d) Conduct a workshop of experts and users to solidify the inventory and evaluate the various measurement approaches.
- (e) Prepare an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches to defining and measuring volunteering.
- (f) Compile a set of recommendations for defining and measuring volunteering as part of official statistics. These recommendations should be broad in scope to address basic information needs such as number of volunteers to more robust information needs that contribute to the satellite accounts. This would require including concepts such as time use and hours of unpaid work etc.
- (g) Document the process taken towards harmonization, identifying the issues and best practices.

### IV. TIME TABLE FOR ACTIVITIES

Compile preliminary inventory	November – March 2007
Communicate and engage other sector players	November – March 2007
Organize Workshop	November – June 2007
Evaluation of strengths and weaknesses (part of workshop agenda)	May – August 2007
Prepare draft summary for review	October 2007
Compile draft recommendations	October – December 2007
Communication and consultation on recommendations	Jan – March 2008
Final recommendations	April 2008

### V. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

6. The resource requirements to complete activities vary from one country to another. Further investigation is required to determine the extent to which the other players such as Volunteering Australia, Points of Light and John Hopkins have completed similar exercises. The hope would be to engage these other players to support the work, thus offloading some of the work load of the statistical agencies. The estimates for involvement range from two to six months full-time but this depends on the breadth of the research and pre-existing information. Another approach is to limit the research activity according to the time and resources available.

7. Members of the working group will be asked to contribute to coordinating the work and planning a workshop. This is estimated to be 1-2 days per month with certainly more time closer to the workshop date. Statistics Canada is willing to take a leadership role but will rely heavily on the partnership and support of the participating countries.

8. At the time of writing this document, the initial contacts made with organizations such as Volunteering Australia, John Hopkins Research and Imagine Canada indicate strong support and great interest in this project.

## **VI. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS**

- (a) The Task Force will evaluate existing research on approaches to measuring volunteering and agree upon a standard approach to use in the test.
- (b) Opportune costs must be kept to a minimum.
- (c) The agreed upon approach must have credibility within the user community of each country.
- (d) The scope of volunteering must be defined within operational limitations. The definition should fall within the scope of existing research and adhere to best practices for minimal respondent burden and survey costs.
- (e) The proposed approach will comply with the “fit for use” data quality guidelines.
- (f) The result should be questions that can be incorporated into existing collection vehicles.
- (g) Other non participating countries should be consulted so that the final recommendations are seen to address a variety of users.
- (h) The work should be completed within two years.
- (i) Each country is responsible for incurring costs associated with participation.

## **VII. MEMBERSHIP**

Australia, Canada (Chair), Denmark, Finland, Italy, United States, Eurostat and UNECE .

## **ANNEX IV**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE STEERING GROUP ON POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. During the last three years, the CES Programme on population and housing censuses has focused on the finalization of the CES Recommendations. The mandate given by the CES to the Steering Group related exclusively to the Recommendations. Following the adoption of the CES Recommendations in June 2006, this note now presents a proposal for a new CES programme on population and housing censuses oriented to address issues related to the implementation of the CES and Global Recommendations and of national census programmes.

#### **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORK**

2. It is proposed that the UNECE Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses coordinates and oversees the implementation of a new ECE Programme on censuses which will focus on:

- promoting the implementation of the newly adopted “CES recommendations for the 2010 censuses of population and housing” in the countries of the UNECE region;
- facilitating the exchange of experiences among member countries on subjects such as census methodology, technology or census content (definitions, classifications, etc.);
- promoting the exchange of experiences in innovative methodology for census taking in collaboration with other regions;
- assisting UNECE to provide assistance to SEE and CIS countries, in the preparations for the next population and housing census.

#### **III. PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

3. The Steering Group will organize meetings and other activities related to the objectives of the work. In particular, the Steering Group will decide on the content and the form of the meetings, which will focus on the following topics:

##### Census technology

- Many countries are planning to make use in their census of innovative technological tools, such as handheld devices, Internet, or other systems for census data collection, dissemination, etc. Countries could benefit from an exchange of experiences in these areas, looking in particular at the lessons learnt from countries where a census was taken in 2005 or 2006. Outsourcing is also a topic where it would be useful to have an exchange of information.

##### Census content

- Based on the new CES recommendations for the 2010 censuses, some training activities should be organised to help countries, in particular in SEE and the CIS, to implement the recommendations. These activities should be focused on specific areas where countries experienced difficulties in the last census round, or where different practices were followed, affecting the comparability of data. These areas include:

- treatment of migrants, particularly labour migrants, and counting of population living abroad (long-term migrants);
- economic characteristics (including activity status, status in employment, main source of livelihood, etc.).

#### Dissemination of census data

- While dissemination of census results is always dealt with at the end of the census operations, this should be brought to the attention of census managers at an earlier stage of planning. The UNECE meeting of census experts in 2008 should be organized during the same week as the UNECE meeting of the specialists on dissemination. This would allow for a one-day joint session to discuss issues related to the dissemination of census data.

#### Coverage and quality evaluation

- Although the evaluation of census results has always been an essential component of the census operation, the wider use of new ways of census taking has increased the importance of coverage and quality evaluation. There is the need for discussion and an exchange of information between countries to determine best practices in evaluating the quality and coverage for all types of censuses - including 'traditional' censuses and register-based censuses.

#### Census methodology

- There is the need to better involve the countries in the region in a focused and technical discussion on census methodology. Such discussion should address issues related to censuses based on data collected through field operations and data collected from administrative records. Examples of issues to be addressed are:
  - What is the best length for the enumeration period, considering the enumeration method, quality and the implications on census organisation and costs?
  - In what circumstances and how should administrative registers be used for censuses (to reduce costs, for example), particularly if they do not cover all core topics or if the quality of their data is not very high?
  - What are the possible uses of address/dwelling/building registers for the census? How can they be regularly updated?
  - In what circumstances and how can sampling be used during the census?

### **IV. MEMBERSHIP**

17. Canada (chair), Armenia, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, CIS Statistical Committee, UNSD, Eurostat and UNECE.

### **V. REPORTING**

18. The Steering Group will report each year in October to the CES Bureau on the results of the activities that are carried out and the major actions proposed.

19. The terms of reference of the Steering Group will be reviewed by the CES Bureau in 2009.



## **ANNEX V**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TASK FORCE ON FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. Families and households statistics was highlighted as one of the emerging topics in social statistics at the first joint UNECE-Eurostat-OECD Meeting of Directors of Social Statistics. Different forms of living arrangements such as same-sex couples, living apart together, commuters between households (people with multiple residences), persons living apart but within a network were discussed as family and household types that are becoming more and more relevant in modern societies and that need to be defined at international and regional levels. These areas were also identified as a field where common survey modules could be designed. During the discussion, it was also pointed out that understanding of family background and history is of increasing policy concern as it affects social outputs of individuals, such as education and employment.

2. The existing UNECE Task Force on families and households has worked in the past two years to update the section on families and households of the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing. During this work, major problems were identified in measuring reconstituted families and in identifying a distinguishing line between private and institutional households. While reconstituted families have always existed caused by widowhood, the current challenge is to map those caused by union dissolution followed by repartnering.

#### **II. EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

3. Within the overall objective of improving the relevance of families and households statistics, the Task Force is expected to:
- define the concepts related to policy concerns that would include the new forms of families and households<sup>1</sup> to the issues related to family background;
  - develop an analytical framework under which different forms of households and families can be measured;
  - assess the feasibility of implementing the concept for administrative data or survey use in the UNECE region after taking into account the results of the testing.

#### **III. ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCE**

4. The Task Force will carry out the following activities:
- (i) prepare a work plan for delivering the outputs outlined above;

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<sup>1</sup> Reconstituted families, same-sex couples, living apart together, people with multiple residences, persons living within a family or social network.

- (ii) identify the families and households forms that are “emerging” and relevant for a better measurement of family background. This includes the review of research and analysis carried out in the region in the field of families and households and the definition of those forms of family engagements that are increasingly affecting the living arrangements of people in the ECE region;
- (iii) analyse the existing international and regional standards and their relevance to measurement of the emerging forms of families and households;
- (iv) analyse countries’ practices in measuring emerging forms of families and households. Survey modules used in national statistical offices to measure the emerging forms of families and households will be reviewed together with large scale studies undertaken by other relevant institutions such as Eurostat (EU SILC, EU LFS) and ECE PAU (GGP);
- (v) design an analytical framework to measure emerging forms of families and households in the UNECE region. This will include where relevant the development of survey modules;
- (vi) develop a testing protocol, organize and coordinate the testing for measuring the analytical framework of the survey prototype in different countries;
- (vii) study the applicability of the framework to data collected through administrative records;
- (viii) evaluate the testing and finalize the analytical framework to be presented at the Meeting of UNECE Directors of Social Statistics.

#### **IV. TIMETABLE FOR ACTIVITIES AND INTERMEDIATE OUTPUTS**

September 2006	Work plan finalized and submitted to the Social Statistics Task Force
December 2006	Definition of emerging forms of families and households
April 2007	Analysis of countries’ experience and existing international standards finalized
July 2007	Draft framework developed
September 2007	Draft framework and testing protocol presented to the UNECE Meeting of Directors of Social Statistics
June 2008	Field testing in selected countries finalized
September 2008	Analysis of testing results presented at the UNECE Meeting of Directors of Social Statistics

#### **V. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE**

5. Italy (Chair), Armenia, Australia, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Norway and United States.

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