United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Conference of European Statisticians
Group of Experts on Migration Statistics
Work Session on Migration Statistics
Geneva, 29–31 October 2019
Item 9 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the meeting report

Report of the Work Session on Migration Statistics

Note by the Secretariat

I. Attendance

1. The joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics was held on 29–31 October 2019 in Geneva. It was attended by participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Colombia, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan. The European Commission was represented by Eurostat. The International Labour Organization (ILO), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), Eurasian Economic Commission, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office for ECA, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) were also represented. Experts from the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) and the Lomonosov Moscow State University participated at the invitation of the UNECE secretariat.

2. A number of participants could attend the Work Session thanks to the financial support from the World Bank ECASTAT project.

II. Organization of the meeting

3. Ms. Rebecca Briggs from the United Kingdom was elected as Chair of the meeting.

4. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting:
   a. Definitions of population and migration;
b. Data integration for measuring migration;
c. Use of longitudinal data for migration statistics;
d. Communication and use of migration statistics;
e. Measuring emigrants and hard-to-reach groups of migrants.

5. The discussion at the meeting was based on papers that are available on the UNECE website.¹

III. Recommendations for future work

6. Participants supported the plan for completing the work of the Task Force on the Use of Longitudinal Data for Migration Statistics.

7. Participants recognised the need to work towards using new types of data sources, such as mobile devices, social media networks, satellite images and Internet platforms. This should lead to a review of examples of use of new data sources for the benefit of producing official migration statistics.

8. The Steering Group will prepare a concrete proposal for this work, and present it to the February 2020 meeting of the Conference of European Statisticians Bureau for approval. Canada, Georgia, Spain, United Kingdom and United States expressed readiness to contribute to this activity.

9. Participants recommended that the next Work Session on Migration Statistics should take place in autumn 2020. Participants took note that a meeting room and interpretation for this are reserved at the Palais des Nations in Geneva for 28-30 October 2020.

10. The following topics were suggested for discussion in the 2020 Work Session:
    a) Definitions of population and migration;
    b) Data integration for measuring migration;
    c) Measuring integration of migrants
    d) Use of longitudinal data for migration statistics;
    e) New data sources for measuring migration;
    f) Communication and use of migration statistics;
    g) Measuring emigrants and hard-to-reach groups of migrants;
    h) Methods to estimate and project migration;
    i) Migration in Sustainable Development Goals.

IV. Adoption of the report of the meeting

11. The present report was adopted during the closing session.

12. A summary of the discussion in the substantive sessions of the meeting will be presented in an annex to this report, to be prepared by the secretariat after the meeting.