

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Approved

First Meeting of the 2010/2011 Bureau  
Geneva, 3-4 November 2010

Item 4(a) of the Provisional  
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK FORCE ON  
MEASUREMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF MIGRANTS**

**Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat**

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. The April 2010 Joint UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics proposed to create a Task Force on Measurement of the Socio-economic Conditions of Migrants (hereafter called "Task Force") to undertake methodological work in this field. The meeting agreed that research is needed on how to better measure the different dimensions of the socio-economic conditions of migrants, and to improve the availability, quality and comparability of data in this field, taking into account all available sources. The proposal of creating the Task Force was fully supported by the Steering Group on Migration Statistics.
2. As stated in the 'Malta Declaration' on the Mainstreaming of Migration in official statistics (adopted in October 2009 at the Malta Conference of Directors General of National Statistical Institutes of the European Union (DGINS)) in addition to reliable statistics on the scale and patterns of migration flows and migrant stocks, further information is needed on the social and economic situation of migrants with a focus on issues such as the drivers of migration and integration of migrant populations.
3. In response to the Malta Declaration, Eurostat has been working at EU level, together with a Strategic Task Force composed of the Directors of Social Statistics from selected EU countries and other relevant Directorates General of the European Commission, to develop a conceptual framework for mainstreaming migration statistics and a work programme for the development of statistics on migration. The draft work programme covers actions to be undertaken in the period late-2010 to 2016, including the improved use of censuses, surveys and administrative data sources, data linkage and integration, and better communication and cooperation at national and international levels. The work of the Strategic Task Force has now come to an end, and the conceptual framework and work programme are expected to be presented for adoption by the European Statistical System Committee at the end of 2010.
4. At the EU level, work is also being carried out on integration indicators, as a follow-up to the Zaragoza Declaration adopted in April 2010 by the EU Ministers responsible for immigration and integration issues.
5. At the level of the UNECE, work was undertaken in 2008-2010 by the CES Steering Group on Migration Statistics on the definitions and practices adopted by countries to measure different migrant groups, and in particular hard-to-count migrant groups. A questionnaire to collect information on this subject was submitted to UNECE countries and the results were

analysed and presented at the April 2010 Joint UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics.

6. The measurement of hard-to-count migrant groups is also the object of one of the studies undertaken by the CES Task Force on Improving Migration and Migrant Data Using Household Surveys and Other Sources (Suitland Working Group) that is currently being conducted.

7. The new Task Force is expected to build on these and other relevant initiatives, bringing together the experts from EU and non-EU countries. The work of the new Task Force will be coordinated so as to avoid overlap and to maximise synergies with the activities planned by Eurostat as part of the work programme for the development of European statistics on migration.

8. In carrying out its activities, the Task Force should use as far as possible the results of the initiatives mentioned above and other relevant material, and should take into account the existing demand for statistical information in this field at national and international levels. The participation in the Task Force of representatives from Eurostat and some of the countries participating in the EU initiatives will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and the communication among the different groups, and ensure that duplication of work will be avoided.

## **II. MANDATE AND REPORTING**

9. The work of the Task Force is conducted within the framework of the activities of the Conference of European Statisticians.

10. The Task Force reports to the CES Steering Group on Migration Statistics through a progress report submitted at least once a year. The progress report is also transmitted by the UNECE, for information and comments, to the informal network of Directors of Social Statistics of CES countries.

11. The progress reports on the work of the Task Force with the comments of the Steering Group, as well as the final report, are submitted by the Steering Group on Migration Statistics to the CES Bureau.

## **III. OBJECTIVES**

12. The main objective of the Task Force is to undertake methodological work on the measurement of the socio-economic conditions of migrants, including:

(a) Identifying the socio-economic dimensions that are most relevant to a better understanding of the situation of migrants (e.g. employment, education, residence, participation in civil society, language, etc.);

(b) Reviewing the definitions and practices adopted by countries for the measurement of the relevant migrant groups (follow-up to the work conducted by UNECE on the 2008 Questionnaire on migration statistics);

- (c) Identifying and developing indicators for the different dimensions and population groups, and discussing measurement issues;
- (d) Reviewing existing sources (including sources allowing longitudinal analysis of the socio-economic conditions of migrants) and their suitability to provide relevant data;
- (e) Providing guidelines to countries intending to produce statistics on socio-economic conditions of migrants using existing sources or ad hoc surveys.

13. In pursuing these objectives, the Task Force should take into account the results of the work conducted in the past in this field, and of the ongoing initiatives (see above).

#### **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

14. At a first stage, the Task Force will conduct a thorough review and analysis of the work that has been carried out in the past or is currently ongoing on measuring socio-economic conditions of migrants. Special attention will be paid to studies focusing on longitudinal aspects of the socio-economic conditions of migrants.

15. Second, the Task Force will carry out an in-depth study of the different socio-economic dimensions that are relevant for understanding the situation of the different migrant groups, including “second generation” migrants. Furthermore, the Task Force will discuss the most suitable indicators for measuring the different dimensions and the different migrant groups, taking into account the characteristics of the sources that could potentially provide data for these indicators. An evaluation of the availability of these sources may also be included.

16. The main output of the work of the Task Force will be a report presenting guidelines on the production of statistics on socio-economic conditions of migrants.

#### **V. TIMETABLE**

17. The work of the Task Force should be conducted during the period from December 2010 to October 2012, according to the following tentative timetable:

*December 2010 to January 2011:* Review of past and ongoing work

*January to September 2011:* First part of the study focussing on:

- Identifying the socio-economic dimensions that are most relevant for the better understanding of the situation of migrants (e.g. employment, education, residence, participation in civil society, language, etc.);
- Identifying and developing indicators for the different dimensions and population groups, and discussing measurement issues;
- Preparation of draft report covering initial activities of the Task Force to be reviewed by the Steering Group on Migration Statistics.

*October 2011 to March 2012:* Second part of the study focussing on:

- Reviewing the definitions and practices adopted by countries for the measurement of the relevant migrant groups (follow-up to the work conducted by UNECE on the 2008 Questionnaire on migration statistics);

- Reviewing existing sources (including sources allowing longitudinal analysis of the socio-economic conditions of migrants) and their suitability to provide relevant data;
- Providing guidelines to countries intending to produce statistics on socio-economic conditions of migrants using existing sources or ad hoc surveys;
- Preparation of the draft report covering the second part of the activities of the Task Force to be reviewed by the Steering Group on Migration Statistics.

*March 2012:* Preparation of a consolidated second draft to be discussed at April 2012 UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics.

*April 2012:* Discussion of the draft at the Work Session on Migration Statistics.

*May to August 2012:* Preparation of the final draft.

*September 2012:* Submission of the final draft by the Steering Group to the CES Bureau.

18. The timetable above could be modified depending on the availability of material produced by other groups that the Task Force may want to use for its work, in order to avoid duplication and use efficiently the available resources.

## **VI. METHODS OF WORK**

19. The Task Force is expected to work mainly via email and telephone conferences, organized in principle once a month.

20. For the preparation of the draft documents, the Task Force may take advantage of the wiki infrastructure available at the UNECE website.

21. No face-to-face meetings of the Task Force are expected. However, informal meetings of the Task Force could be organised on the occasion of events attended by a significant number of Task Force members (for instance, the Eurostat Working Group on Migration Statistics tentatively planned in June 2011).

## **VII. MEMBERSHIP**

22. The following countries and organizations expressed interest in participating in the activities of the task force: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands (Chair), Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Eurostat, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), OECD and UNECE.

23. The membership is open to additional countries or organizations that may desire joining the task force.

24. The secretariat support will be provided by the UNECE, in cooperation with Eurostat.

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