UNECE (STAT) (Statistics)

1. Demographic and social statistics (UNECE STAT)

1. Demographic and social statistics (UNECE STAT)

1.1 Population and migration (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

In migration statistics, UNECE aims at improving availability, quality and international comparability of migration data in the member countries, in response to the strong demand from policymakers and other users for more and better data on migration. In 2012, the task force on the implications of different definitions of migrants' length of stay on migration estimates will complete its work. Two other task forces will continue their activities on:

(a) Improving migration statistics by using household surveys, administrative data, population censuses and other sources; and
(b) Measuring the socio-economic conditions of migrants.

Together with Eurostat, UNECE will organise the joint biannual work session on migration in 2012. To enhance the use of immigration data of other countries in measuring emigration, UNECE will launch a Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics with data for countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 17-19 October.

1.2 Labour (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

UNECE is undertaking work on measuring quality of employment jointly with Eurostat and ILO to respond to the demands for data on the qualitative aspects of employment from the workers' perspective, beyond traditional labour force statistics. UNECE published in 2010 the report on *Potential indicators for measurement of quality of employment* which provided the underlying concepts and structure for the quality of employment indicators. A meeting in autumn 2011 discussed the results of testing the indicators in countries and the practical measurement issues. The work will continue to improve the indicators based on the outcome of the testing, and to develop operational guidelines for the calculation of indicators in practice.

1.4 Health (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

To achieve internationally comparable measurement of health status of population, common tools covering multiple dimensions of health were developed jointly with Eurostat and the World Health Organization (WHO) in a Task Force on Measuring Health Status. The Task Force reached a consensus on many conceptual and measurement issues, and as a result, a common survey instrument was endorsed by the CES Bureau in November 2011. In 2012, a Steering Group on Measuring Health Status will continue to promote the use of this new instrument.

1.8 Justice and crime (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Crime statistics is an area where international comparability is very difficult to achieve, because data are collected mainly for national purposes and depend largely on the legislation and the justice systems of the different countries. To overcome these difficulties, UNECE works in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Commission to improve comparability of international crime statistics. In particular, a Task Force is working on methodological issues related to the development of an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes. The report of this Task Force will be finalised in 2012.

1.11 Time use (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Time-use surveys provide indispensable data on quality of life and well-being and shed light on unpaid work, living conditions and gender equality. Time-use statistics have a particularly important role in current international efforts to enhance the measurement of social progress beyond the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The need for better harmonisation and timeliness of time-use statistics has led to the establishment of a Task Force on Time-use Surveys. In 2012, the Task Force will develop a set of guidelines with a view to harmonising time-use surveys and improving comparability of time-use statistics. It will collect good practices to support countries in implementing these demanding surveys. It will also investigate ways of further increasing the policy relevance of time-use surveys and ways of more cost-effective survey-taking.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Task Force on Time Use Surveys, Geneva, 19-20 January.

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2. Economic statistics (UNECE STAT)
1.1 Population and migration (UNECE STAT)
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3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (UNECE STAT)
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Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Task Force on Time Use Surveys, Geneva, 19-20 January.

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4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis (UNECE STAT)
1.1 Population and migration (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

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Meeting to be organized in 2012:

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5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics (UNECE STAT)
1.1 Population and migration (UNECE STAT)
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2. Economic statistics (UNECE STAT)

1. Demographic and social statistics (UNECE STAT)
2.1 Macroeconomic statistics (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

A regional capacity building project launched in 2010 addresses new challenges in economic statistics in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Three workshops organised in 2011 were followed by a specialized workshop on seasonal adjustment techniques in 2012. Seasonal adjustment is essential for data comparability as it corrects for the different number of working days within a period and for seasonal fluctuations. Moreover, it can reveal turning points in economic development faster and more easily than any other data. A full set of training materials and guidelines will be published on the web in English and Russian to support countries in implementing the seasonal adjustment methods.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Workshop on Seasonal Adjustment, Ankara, 20-23 February.

2.2 Economic accounts (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE promotes the implementation of the new global standard: 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) which provides a comprehensive framework for producing economic accounts adapted to the new policy needs and the fast changes in the global economy. This work is part of the Global Implementation Programme for the 2008 SNA, mandated by the UN Statistical Commission. It is undertaken in consultation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts which coordinates globally the implementation of the standard. The UNECE group of experts on national accounts (organized jointly with Eurostat and OECD) will meet in 2012 to discuss emerging issues of interest for countries such as measurement of services, households' wellbeing and internationalisation of economies.

In 2012, the UNECE will also focus on supporting the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-East Europe (SEE) in developing their implementation plans for the 2008 SNA. As a response to the country needs, expressed at a 2011 regional meeting on implementation of the 2008 SNA, workshops will be held to address the specific problems of the countries in this region.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Group of Experts on National Accounts, Geneva, 30 April - 4 May.

2.3 Business statistics (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE aims to ensure that the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-East European countries implement statistical business registers, which are indispensable tools for efficient data collection and for the production of business statistics. UNECE, in cooperation with Eurostat and OECD, will follow-up on the meeting of September 2011 to develop a set of international guidelines on statistical business registers. In 2012, UNECE and Eurostat will undertake a biennial survey for assessing the development of business registers in the EECCA countries. Efficient use of statistical business registers will allow to integrate economic data from a wide variety of sources and thus to improve the efficiency of production processes which is very important in the conditions of limited resources and growing user demand for statistical information.

2.7 Prices (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

UNECE, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other partners promotes the implementation of international standards and recommendations on Consumer Price Indices (CPI). A meeting to be organised in 2012 jointly with ILO will focus on residential property prices. The latest financial crisis revealed gaps and inconsistencies in this area making it difficult to design adequate policy measures. The meeting will discuss the new international *Manual on Residential Property Price Indices* developed under the auspices of the UN Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. The meeting will also consider how to improve the methods of data collection and production of price statistics, and issues of particular importance to the EECCA countries.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, Geneva, 30 May-1 June.

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3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (UNECE STAT)
2.1 Macroeconomic statistics (UNECE STAT)
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2.3 Business statistics (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE aims to ensure that the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-East European countries implement statistical

business registers, which are indispensable tools for efficient data collection and for the production of business statistics. UNECE, in cooperation with Eurostat and OECD, will follow-up on the meeting of September 2011 to develop a set of international guidelines on statistical business registers. In 2012, UNECE and Eurostat will undertake a biennial survey for assessing the development of business registers in the EECCA countries. Efficient use of statistical business registers will allow to integrate economic data from a wide variety of sources and thus to improve the efficiency of production processes which is very important in the conditions of limited resources and growing user demand for statistical information.

2.7 Prices (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

UNECE, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other partners promotes the implementation of international standards and recommendations on Consumer Price Indices (CPI). A meeting to be organised in 2012 jointly with ILO will focus on residential property prices. The latest financial crisis revealed gaps and inconsistencies in this area making it difficult to design adequate policy measures. The meeting will discuss the new international *Manual on Residential Property Price Indices* developed under the auspices of the UN Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. The meeting will also consider how to improve the methods of data collection and production of price statistics, and issues of particular importance to the EECCA countries.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, Geneva, 30 May-1 June.

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3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (UNECE STAT)
1. Demographic and social statistics (UNECE STAT)
3.1 Environment (UNECE STAT)
Environmental indicators
(Joint activity with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division)

Description and objectives

Close attention to environmental issues has increased the demand for high quality statistics to strengthen environmental monitoring. In response, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians launched in 2009 a Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. The main objective is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in EECA and SEE countries. In 2012, the joint Task Force will continue to review methodologies and produce time series of selected environmental indicators from the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The work is carried out in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency. In 2012, the Statistical Division will also explore possibilities for joint work with the Energy Division on environment related energy indicators.

Under a UN Development Account project, capacity building will be undertaken in the EECA countries in 2012-2013 to support the implementation of international recommendations and good practices in producing indicators on environmental sustainability. The project is closely linked with the UNECE work on measuring sustainable development and environmental indicators. The activities will be coordinated with the UNSD, European Environment Agency and Eurostat. In 2012, a desk study will be prepared on the state of statistics related to sustainable development and environment in EECCA countries to identify priority issues to be addressed in the planned workshops.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

- Workshop on Waste Statistics for EECCA countries, Geneva, 11-13 April;
- Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 4-6 a.m. July;
- Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 31 October - 1 November.

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (UNECE STAT)
Statistics related to climate change

Description and objectives

There is an increasing demand to strengthen the capability of countries to produce high quality statistics related to climate change. At the request of the CES Bureau and the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, UNECE conducted in 2011 a survey to explore the degree to which national statistical offices are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. A Task Force has been set up to address the issues identified by the countries in the survey.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Conference on Climate Change related Statistics, Geneva, 19-20 November 2012.

1.1 Population and migration (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

In migration statistics, UNECE aims at improving availability, quality and international comparability of migration data in the member countries, in response to the strong demand from policymakers and other users for more and better data on migration. In 2012, the task force on the implications of different definitions of migrants' length of stay on migration estimates will complete its work. Two other task forces will continue their activities on:

(a) Improving migration statistics by using household surveys, administrative data, population censuses and other sources; and
(b) Measuring the socio-economic conditions of migrants.

Together with Eurostat, UNECE will organise the joint biannual work session on migration in 2012. To enhance the use of immigration data of other countries in measuring emigration, UNECE will launch a Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics with data for countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 17-19 October.

1.2 Labour (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

UNECE is undertaking work on measuring quality of employment jointly with Eurostat and ILO to respond to the demands for data on the qualitative aspects of employment from the workers' perspective, beyond traditional labour force statistics. UNECE published in 2010 the report on *Potential indicators for measurement of quality of employment* which provided the underlying concepts and structure for the quality of employment indicators. A meeting in autumn 2011 discussed the results of testing the indicators in countries and the practical measurement issues. The work will continue to improve the indicators based on the outcome of the testing, and to develop operational guidelines for the calculation of indicators in practice.

1.4 Health (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

To achieve internationally comparable measurement of health status of population, common tools covering multiple dimensions of health were developed jointly with Eurostat and the World Health Organization (WHO) in a Task Force on Measuring Health Status. The Task Force reached a consensus on many conceptual and measurement issues, and as a result, a common survey instrument was endorsed by the CES Bureau in November 2011. In 2012, a Steering Group on Measuring Health Status will continue to promote the use of this new instrument.

1.8 Justice and crime (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Crime statistics is an area where international comparability is very difficult to achieve, because data are collected mainly for national purposes and depend largely on the legislation and the justice systems of the different countries. To overcome these difficulties, UNECE works in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Commission to improve comparability of international crime statistics. In particular, a Task Force is working on methodological issues related to the development of an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes. The report of this Task Force will be finalised in 2012.

1.11 Time use (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Time-use surveys provide indispensable data on quality of life and well-being and shed light on unpaid work, living conditions and gender equality. Time-use statistics have a particularly important role in current international efforts to enhance the measurement of social progress beyond the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The need for better harmonisation and timeliness of time-use statistics has led to the establishment of a Task Force on Time-use Surveys. In 2012, the Task Force will develop a set of guidelines with a view to harmonising time-use surveys and improving comparability of time-use statistics. It will collect good practices to support countries in implementing these demanding surveys. It will also investigate ways of further increasing the policy relevance of time-use surveys and ways of more cost-effective survey-taking.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Task Force on Time Use Surveys, Geneva, 19-20 January.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE provides a unique statistical database offering a wide range of information on member countries via free on-line English and Russian interfaces. This database provides the sources for the popular *UNECE Countries in Figures* publication, as well as regular short articles on the economic and social development of the UNECE region, published in the *UNECE Weekly* newsletter. Annual user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2012.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to the UN system, such as progress towards the MDG (under a mandate from the 2005 UNECE reform), and issues relating to gender equality. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights

into measurement issues, and helps identify priorities for methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics. The database will serve as a platform for a new Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics, helping Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to improve their emigration statistics by using the immigration data of other countries.

The UNECE statistical database is also used to disseminate the data of other UNECE work programmes. It currently includes transport and forestry statistics. In 2012, a set of globalization indicators was launched, building on existing data. Preparatory work to identify suitable data on energy and environment issues will also be undertaken in 2012.

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2. Economic statistics (UNECE STAT)
3.1 Environment (UNECE STAT)
Environmental indicators
(Joint activity with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division)

Description and objectives

Close attention to environmental issues has increased the demand for high quality statistics to strengthen environmental monitoring. In response, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians launched in 2009 a Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. The main objective is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in EECA and SEE countries. In 2012, the joint Task Force will continue to review methodologies and produce time series of selected environmental indicators from the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The work is carried out in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency. In 2012, the Statistical Division will also explore possibilities for joint work with the Energy Division on environment related energy indicators.

Under a UN Development Account project, capacity building will be undertaken in the EECA countries in 2012-2013 to support the implementation of international recommendations and good practices in producing indicators on environmental sustainability. The project is closely linked with the UNECE work on measuring sustainable development and environmental indicators. The activities will be coordinated with the UNSD, European Environment Agency and Eurostat. In 2012, a desk study will be prepared on the state of statistics related to sustainable development and environment in EECCA countries to identify priority issues to be addressed in the planned workshops.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Workshop on Waste Statistics for EECCA countries, Geneva, 11-13 April;
• Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 4-6 a.m. July;
• Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 31 October - 1 November.

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (UNECE STAT)
Statistics related to climate change

Description and objectives

There is an increasing demand to strengthen the capability of countries to produce high quality statistics related to climate change. At the request of the CES Bureau and the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, UNECE conducted in 2011 a survey to explore the degree to which national statistical offices are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. A Task Force has been set up to address the issues identified by the countries in the survey.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Conference on Climate Change related Statistics, Geneva, 19-20 November 2012.
2.1 Macroeconomic statistics (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

A regional capacity building project launched in 2010 addresses new challenges in economic statistics in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Three workshops organised in 2011 were followed by a specialized workshop on seasonal adjustment techniques in 2012. Seasonal adjustment is essential for data comparability as it corrects for the different number of working days within a period and for seasonal fluctuations. Moreover, it can reveal turning points in economic development faster and more easily than any other data. A full set of training materials and guidelines will be published on the web in English and Russian to support countries in implementing the seasonal adjustment methods.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Workshop on Seasonal Adjustment, Ankara, 20-23 February.**2.2 Economic accounts (UNECE STAT)**
Description and objectives

The UNECE promotes the implementation of the new global standard: 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) which provides a comprehensive framework for producing economic accounts adapted to the new policy needs and the fast changes in the global economy. This

work is part of the Global Implementation Programme for the 2008 SNA, mandated by the UN Statistical Commission. It is undertaken in consultation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts which coordinates globally the implementation of the standard. The UNECE group of experts on national accounts (organized jointly with Eurostat and OECD) will meet in 2012 to discuss emerging issues of interest for countries such as measurement of services, households' wellbeing and internationalisation of economies.

In 2012, the UNECE will also focus on supporting the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-East Europe (SEE) in developing their implementation plans for the 2008 SNA. As a response to the country needs, expressed at a 2011 regional meeting on implementation of the 2008 SNA, workshops will be held to address the specific problems of the countries in this region.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Group of Experts on National Accounts, Geneva, 30 April - 4 May.**2.3 Business statistics (UNECE STAT)**
Description and objectives

The UNECE aims to ensure that the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-East European countries implement statistical business registers, which are indispensable tools for efficient data collection and for the production of business statistics. UNECE, in cooperation with Eurostat and OECD, will follow-up on the meeting of September 2011 to develop a set of international guidelines on statistical business registers. In 2012, UNECE and Eurostat will undertake a biennial survey for assessing the development of business registers in the EECCA countries. Efficient use of statistical business registers will allow to integrate economic data from a wide variety of sources and thus to improve the efficiency of production processes which is very important in the conditions of limited resources and growing user demand for statistical information.

2.7 Prices (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

UNECE, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other partners promotes the implementation of international standards and recommendations on Consumer Price Indices (CPI). A meeting to be organised in 2012 jointly with ILO will focus on residential property prices. The latest financial crisis revealed gaps and inconsistencies in this area making it difficult to design adequate policy measures. The meeting will discuss the new international *Manual on Residential Property Price Indices* developed under the auspices of the UN Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. The meeting will also consider how to improve the methods of data collection and production of price statistics, and issues of particular importance to the EECCA countries.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, Geneva, 30 May-1 June.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE provides a unique statistical database offering a wide range of information on member countries via free on-line English and Russian interfaces. This database provides the sources for the popular *UNECE Countries in Figures* publication, as well as regular short articles on the economic and social development of the UNECE region, published in the *UNECE Weekly* newsletter. Annual user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2012.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to the UN system, such as progress towards the MDG (under a mandate from the 2005 UNECE reform), and issues relating to gender equality. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights into measurement issues, and helps identify priorities for methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics. The database will serve as a platform for a new Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics, helping Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to improve their emigration statistics by using the immigration data of other countries.

The UNECE statistical database is also used to disseminate the data of other UNECE work programmes. It currently includes transport and forestry statistics. In 2012, a set of globalization indicators was launched, building on existing data. Preparatory work to identify suitable data on energy and environment issues will also be undertaken in 2012.

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3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (UNECE STAT)
3.1 Environment (UNECE STAT)
Environmental indicators
(Joint activity with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division)

Description and objectives

Close attention to environmental issues has increased the demand for high quality statistics to strengthen environmental monitoring. In response, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians launched in 2009 a Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. The main objective is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in

EECA and SEE countries. In 2012, the joint Task Force will continue to review methodologies and produce time series of selected environmental indicators from the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The work is carried out in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency. In 2012, the Statistical Division will also explore possibilities for joint work with the Energy Division on environment related energy indicators.

Under a UN Development Account project, capacity building will be undertaken in the EECA countries in 2012-2013 to support the implementation of international recommendations and good practices in producing indicators on environmental sustainability. The project is closely linked with the UNECE work on measuring sustainable development and environmental indicators. The activities will be coordinated with the UNSD, European Environment Agency and Eurostat. In 2012, a desk study will be prepared on the state of statistics related to sustainable development and environment in EECCA countries to identify priority issues to be addressed in the planned workshops.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Workshop on Waste Statistics for EECCA countries, Geneva, 11-13 April;
• Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 4-6 a.m. July;
• Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 31 October - 1 November.

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (UNECE STAT)
Statistics related to climate change

Description and objectives

There is an increasing demand to strengthen the capability of countries to produce high quality statistics related to climate change. At the request of the CES Bureau and the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, UNECE conducted in 2011 a survey to explore the degree to which national statistical offices are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. A Task Force has been set up to address the issues identified by the countries in the survey.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Conference on Climate Change related Statistics, Geneva, 19-20 November 2012.

3.1 Environment (UNECE STAT)
Environmental indicators
(Joint activity with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division)

Description and objectives

Close attention to environmental issues has increased the demand for high quality statistics to strengthen environmental monitoring. In response, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians launched in 2009 a Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. The main objective is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in EECA and SEE countries. In 2012, the joint Task Force will continue to review methodologies and produce time series of selected environmental indicators from the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The work is carried out in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency. In 2012, the Statistical Division will also explore possibilities for joint work with the Energy Division on environment related energy indicators.

Under a UN Development Account project, capacity building will be undertaken in the EECA countries in 2012-2013 to support the implementation of international recommendations and good practices in producing indicators on environmental sustainability. The project is closely linked with the UNECE work on measuring sustainable development and environmental indicators. The activities will be coordinated with the UNSD, European Environment Agency and Eurostat. In 2012, a desk study will be prepared on the state of statistics related to sustainable development and environment in EECCA countries to identify priority issues to be addressed in the planned workshops.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Workshop on Waste Statistics for EECCA countries, Geneva, 11-13 April;
• Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 4-6 a.m. July;
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3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (UNECE STAT)
Statistics related to climate change

Description and objectives

There is an increasing demand to strengthen the capability of countries to produce high quality statistics related to climate change. At the request of the CES Bureau and the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, UNECE conducted in 2011 a survey to explore the degree to which national statistical offices are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. A Task Force has been set up to address the issues identified by the countries in the survey.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Conference on Climate Change related Statistics, Geneva, 19-20 November 2012.

3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues (UNECE STAT)

3.3.2 Gender and special population groups (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Many major policy documents, including the Beijing Platform of Action and the Millennium Declaration, emphasise the importance gender equality, which requires the measurement of progress towards this goal as well as the measurement of women's and men's different roles, different access and control of resources and different skills and interests. UNECE work on gender statistics includes sharing knowledge and experience at biannual work sessions, developing guidelines and indicators, and collecting and disseminating data and building capacity in member countries. In 2012, UNECE will organise a work session on gender statistics. The newly established UNECE Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality will work towards a comparable and regularly obtainable set of indicators to describe major gender inequalities for monitoring gender-relevant policies. UNECE will also continue promoting the use of its major recent outputs in gender statistics by member countries: the gender statistics manual, multimedia training tools and the survey module on violence against women. The UNECE Gender Statistics Database will be comprehensively updated in 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Work Session on Gender Statistics, Geneva, 12-14 March;
• Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing, Brussels, 22-23 March;
• Regional Ministerial Conference on Ageing, Vienna, 19-20 September;
• 5th meeting of the Working Group on Ageing, Geneva, 22-23 November.

3.3.4 Globalisation (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Globalization, in terms of growing cross-border movement of people, capital, goods and services, has a significant impact on the economy and poses challenges to the compilers of statistics in all countries. In 2011, a Group of Experts established under the auspices of the CES Bureau, finalized a Guide entitled *Impact of Globalisation on National Accounts.* Eurostat, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), IMF, World Trade Organization (WTO) and many leading statistical offices actively participated in the work. In 2011, the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the Guide, including the research agenda which identifies a number of areas for further consideration. The conceptual and measurement challenges posed by global production were considered as the main priority for future work. Work will be initiated in this area in 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Task Force on Global Production, Geneva, 19-20 January.
• Seminar on Impact of Globalisation on Economic Statistics, Astana, 24 May.

3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

UNECE will provide support to its member countries in measuring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The work will be conducted in close collaboration with the regional commissions and the UNSD. In 2012, UNECE will produce a report on good practices in the production and use of MDG indicators, highlighting good examples of national MDG reports. The UNECE database of MDG indicators will be further developed as a tool for resolving discrepancies of data from different sources. The results will feed into the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators. Specific attention will be given to the persistent data gaps, insufficient use of official national data and discrepancies among indicator values compiled by national, regional and international agencies.

3.3.6 Sustainable development (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

A Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Task Force is working towards harmonization of the approaches to measuring sustainable development. The work follows up from a conceptual framework based on the capital approach (published in 2009) which focuses on monitoring the economic, environmental, human and social capital left for future generations. The framework is extended to cover the issues of current well-being, quality of life and the international aspect of sustainable development. A thorough analysis of available data and indicators helps to identify indicators that have a sound conceptual basis and are relevant for monitoring the implementation of national sustainable development strategies. The resulting report is expected be submitted to the CES 2013 plenary session.

The CES seminar in 2011 explored the measurement of human capital as a major driver of economic growth, sustainability and productivity. Many conceptual and measurement problems need to be solved before countries can develop official statistics in this area. As a follow-up to the CES seminar, a study will be prepared to take stock of the leading initiatives and main issues in measuring human capital to identify the way forward in this area.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE provides a unique statistical database offering a wide range of information on member countries via free on-line English and Russian interfaces. This database provides the sources for the popular *UNECE Countries in Figures* publication, as well as regular short articles on the

economic and social development of the UNECE region, published in the *UNECE Weekly* newsletter. Annual user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2012.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to the UN system, such as progress towards the MDG (under a mandate from the 2005 UNECE reform), and issues relating to gender equality. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights into measurement issues, and helps identify priorities for methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics. The database will serve as a platform for a new Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics, helping Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to improve their emigration statistics by using the immigration data of other countries.

The UNECE statistical database is also used to disseminate the data of other UNECE work programmes. It currently includes transport and forestry statistics. In 2012, a set of globalization indicators was launched, building on existing data. Preparatory work to identify suitable data on energy and environment issues will also be undertaken in 2012.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE provides a unique statistical database offering a wide range of information on member countries via free on-line English and Russian interfaces. This database provides the sources for the popular *UNECE Countries in Figures* publication, as well as regular short articles on the economic and social development of the UNECE region, published in the *UNECE Weekly* newsletter. Annual user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2012.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to the UN system, such as progress towards the MDG (under a mandate from the 2005 UNECE reform), and issues relating to gender equality. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights into measurement issues, and helps identify priorities for methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics. The database will serve as a platform for a new Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics, helping Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to improve their emigration statistics by using the immigration data of other countries.

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4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis (UNECE STAT)
3.1 Environment (UNECE STAT)
Environmental indicators
(Joint activity with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division)

Description and objectives

Close attention to environmental issues has increased the demand for high quality statistics to strengthen environmental monitoring. In response, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians launched in 2009 a Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. The main objective is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in EECA and SEE countries. In 2012, the joint Task Force will continue to review methodologies and produce time series of selected environmental indicators from the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The work is carried out in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency. In 2012, the Statistical Division will also explore possibilities for joint work with the Energy Division on environment related energy indicators.

Under a UN Development Account project, capacity building will be undertaken in the EECA countries in 2012-2013 to support the implementation of international recommendations and good practices in producing indicators on environmental sustainability. The project is closely linked with the UNECE work on measuring sustainable development and environmental indicators. The activities will be coordinated with the UNSD, European Environment Agency and Eurostat. In 2012, a desk study will be prepared on the state of statistics related to sustainable development and environment in EECCA countries to identify priority issues to be addressed in the planned workshops.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

- Workshop on Waste Statistics for EECCA countries, Geneva, 11-13 April;
- Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 4-6 a.m. July;
- Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 31 October - 1 November.

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (UNECE STAT)
Statistics related to climate change

Description and objectives

There is an increasing demand to strengthen the capability of countries to produce high quality statistics related to climate change. At the request

of the CES Bureau and the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, UNECE conducted in 2011 a survey to explore the degree to which national statistical offices are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. A Task Force has been set up to address the issues identified by the countries in the survey.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Conference on Climate Change related Statistics, Geneva, 19-20 November 2012.

4.1 Metadata (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

A Steering Group on statistical metadata is developing a set of standards and good practices in the form of a Common Metadata Framework. The efficient management and use of statistical metadata - the information that describes and defines statistical data - is recognised as an important topic by the CES. The main tasks for 2012 will be to enhance the documentation of good practices, and to consider the impact of the "semantic web" on official statistics. The Common Metadata Framework is a living reference tool, mostly published only in electronic format, so that it can be rapidly updated to reflect new ideas and technologies. It includes the generic statistical business process model, an important tool for standardisation and benchmarking of statistical production that has rapidly become a global standard, and has been adopted by the major partners of the UNECE.

4.3 Data sources (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE secretariat has been asked by the Conference to prepare proposals for an expert group meeting on statistical data collection and the use of non-statistical data sources. Subject to the decision of the CES Bureau, this meeting is planned to be held in autumn 2012. For the first time, it will bring together data collection experts from across the UNECE region to share best practices, and identify needs for further work on this topic. Reorganization of data collection is taking place in many countries. This implies changes in organizational culture, technology and relationships with data suppliers. A key issue in this work will be how to utilise economies of scale by using common tools and methods in data collection.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Meeting of Data Collection Experts, Geneva, 31 October - 2 November.

3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues (UNECE STAT)

3.3.2 Gender and special population groups (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Many major policy documents, including the Beijing Platform of Action and the Millennium Declaration, emphasise the importance gender equality, which requires the measurement of progress towards this goal as well as the measurement of women's and men's different roles, different access and control of resources and different skills and interests. UNECE work on gender statistics includes sharing knowledge and experience at biannual work sessions, developing guidelines and indicators, and collecting and disseminating data and building capacity in member countries. In 2012, UNECE will organise a work session on gender statistics. The newly established UNECE Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality will work towards a comparable and regularly obtainable set of indicators to describe major gender inequalities for monitoring gender-relevant policies. UNECE will also continue promoting the use of its major recent outputs in gender statistics by member countries: the gender statistics manual, multimedia training tools and the survey module on violence against women. The UNECE Gender Statistics Database will be comprehensively updated in 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

- Work Session on Gender Statistics, Geneva, 12-14 March;
- Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing, Brussels, 22-23 March;
- Regional Ministerial Conference on Ageing, Vienna, 19-20 September;
- 5th meeting of the Working Group on Ageing, Geneva, 22-23 November.

3.3.4 Globalisation (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Globalization, in terms of growing cross-border movement of people, capital, goods and services, has a significant impact on the economy and poses challenges to the compilers of statistics in all countries. In 2011, a Group of Experts established under the auspices of the CES Bureau, finalized a Guide entitled *Impact of Globalisation on National Accounts.* Eurostat, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), IMF, World Trade Organization (WTO) and many leading statistical offices actively participated in the work. In 2011, the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the Guide, including the research agenda which identifies a number of areas for further consideration. The conceptual and measurement challenges posed by global production were considered as the main priority for future work. Work will be initiated in this area in 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

- Task Force on Global Production, Geneva, 19-20 January.
- Seminar on Impact of Globalisation on Economic Statistics, Astana, 24 May.

3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals

(UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

UNECE will provide support to its member countries in measuring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The work will be conducted in close collaboration with the regional commissions and the UNSD. In 2012, UNECE will produce a report on good practices in the production and use of MDG indicators, highlighting good examples of national MDG reports. The UNECE database of MDG indicators will be further developed as a tool for resolving discrepancies of data from different sources. The results will feed into the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators. Specific attention will be given to the persistent data gaps, insufficient use of official national data and discrepancies among indicator values compiled by national, regional and international agencies.

3.3.6 Sustainable development (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

A Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Task Force is working towards harmonization of the approaches to measuring sustainable development. The work follows up from a conceptual framework based on the capital approach (published in 2009) which focuses on monitoring the economic, environmental, human and social capital left for future generations. The framework is extended to cover the issues of current well-being, quality of life and the international aspect of sustainable development. A thorough analysis of available data and indicators helps to identify indicators that have a sound conceptual basis and are relevant for monitoring the implementation of national sustainable development strategies. The resulting report is expected be submitted to the CES 2013 plenary session.

The CES seminar in 2011 explored the measurement of human capital as a major driver of economic growth, sustainability and productivity. Many conceptual and measurement problems need to be solved before countries can develop official statistics in this area. As a follow-up to the CES seminar, a study will be prepared to take stock of the leading initiatives and main issues in measuring human capital to identify the way forward in this area.

4.4 Data editing and data linkage (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Statistical data editing is currently a very resource-intensive activity for national statistical organizations. It includes the validation and correction of incoming data, and methods to deal with missing data. In line with the vision for industrialising statistical production, a work session will be organised in autumn 2012 to share ideas and good practices in the automation of data editing. To maintain momentum between work sessions, an electronic knowledge-base has been created, which will be further expanded and updated during 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing, Oslo, 24-26 September.

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Following a recent in-depth review by the CES Bureau, and in response to country requests, the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication is developing a new guide to improving statistical literacy. This new guide will be finalised in 2012, and will complement the existing three volumes in the very popular *Making Data Meaningful* series. Other topics identified by countries as priority areas for the work of this group in 2012 include the use of social media, and communicating statistics via mobile devices such as smart-phones, iPods, etc.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Communication, Geneva, 27-29 June.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE provides a unique statistical database offering a wide range of information on member countries via free on-line English and Russian interfaces. This database provides the sources for the popular *UNECE Countries in Figures* publication, as well as regular short articles on the economic and social development of the UNECE region, published in the *UNECE Weekly* newsletter. Annual user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2012.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to the UN system, such as progress towards the MDG (under a mandate from the 2005 UNECE reform), and issues relating to gender equality. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights into measurement issues, and helps identify priorities for methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics. The database will serve as a platform for a new Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics, helping Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to improve their emigration statistics by using the immigration data of other countries.

The UNECE statistical database is also used to disseminate the data of other UNECE work programmes. It currently includes transport and forestry statistics. In 2012, a set of globalization indicators was launched, building on existing data. Preparatory work to identify suitable data on energy and environment issues will also be undertaken in 2012.

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5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics (UNECE STAT)

3.1 Environment (UNECE STAT)

Environmental indicators

(Joint activity with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division)

Description and objectives

Close attention to environmental issues has increased the demand for high quality statistics to strengthen environmental monitoring. In response, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians launched in 2009 a Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. The main objective is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in EECA and SEE countries. In 2012, the joint Task Force will continue to review methodologies and produce time series of selected environmental indicators from the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The work is carried out in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency. In 2012, the Statistical Division will also explore possibilities for joint work with the Energy Division on environment related energy indicators.

Under a UN Development Account project, capacity building will be undertaken in the EECA countries in 2012-2013 to support the implementation of international recommendations and good practices in producing indicators on environmental sustainability. The project is closely linked with the UNECE work on measuring sustainable development and environmental indicators. The activities will be coordinated with the UNSD, European Environment Agency and Eurostat. In 2012, a desk study will be prepared on the state of statistics related to sustainable development and environment in EECCA countries to identify priority issues to be addressed in the planned workshops.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Workshop on Waste Statistics for EECCA countries, Geneva, 11-13 April;
• Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 4-6 a.m. July;
• Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 31 October - 1 November.

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (UNECE STAT)

Statistics related to climate change

Description and objectives

There is an increasing demand to strengthen the capability of countries to produce high quality statistics related to climate change. At the request of the CES Bureau and the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, UNECE conducted in 2011 a survey to explore the degree to which national statistical offices are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. A Task Force has been set up to address the issues identified by the countries in the survey.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Conference on Climate Change related Statistics, Geneva, 19-20 November 2012.

5.4 Management and development of human resources (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE promotes sharing experience and good practices on human resources management and training in national statistical offices. In 2012, following a decision of the CES Bureau, UNECE will organize a meeting to discuss recommendations on training of staff, implementation of e-learning and the use of staff surveys. An interactive wiki has been established for distribution of experiences and training materials to draw more attention to initiatives for better human resources management.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Human Resources Management and Training, Budapest, 5-7 September.**5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UNECE STAT)**

Description and objectives

In response to demands from Heads of national and international statistical organisations, the UNECE recently established a High-level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics. This group oversees work in the rapidly changing areas of statistical production and dissemination to ensure the continued relevance and efficiency of official statistics. It coordinates the activities of relevant expert groups in the UNECE region to ensure that they are working towards common goals. This coordination is based on a vision for industrialising the future production and products of official statistics, which was endorsed by the CES in June 2011.

The technological part of this work is driven by expert groups on software sharing, and the management of statistical information systems. A wiki platform has been created, containing an inventory of statistical software available for sharing and a facility for benchmarking statistical information technology activities. In 2012, further materials will be developed to facilitate the sharing of software, ideas and experience between statistical organizations, and to encourage more efficient and sustainable national statistical production systems. One example, to be finalised in 2012, is a set of guidelines on developing multi-lingual statistical software.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), Washington D.C., 21-23 May;
• High-level Seminar on Modernization of Statistical Production (tbc), St. Petersburg, 3-5 October.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Promoting coordination of the international statistical work in the region is one of the key tasks of the Conference of European Statisticians. Efficient coordination is important to avoid duplication of work, find synergies, use resources efficiently and reduce burden on national statistical offices. Furthermore, international cooperation is enshrined in the Fundamental Principles of official statistics as an important factor contributing to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

The CES is a body composed of the Heads of the national statistical organizations in the UNECE region, with the participation of Australia, Brazil, China, Chile, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and South Africa. The major international organizations active in statistics in the UNECE region also participate in the work, such as the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS-STAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, UN Statistical Division (New York) and other UN agencies, etc.

The Conference and its Bureau provide a platform for coordination of international statistical work. There are several mechanisms to ensure the coordination in practice, of which the main ones are the regular meetings of the Conference and its Bureau, the CES seminars exploring the foundational issues of statistical systems and emerging topics, in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas, and the Database of International Statistical Activities. The UNECE Statistical Division provides the secretariat for the Conference, as well as undertakes substantive work mandated by the Conference and its Bureau.

The topics for the CES seminars are selected by the member countries and address issues of current interest to the Heads of national statistical organizations. In 2012, the first seminar will deal with implementing the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. With more diverse sources of official statistics and increasing requirements for evidence-based decision-making, the role of statistical offices has considerably evolved since the Principles were adopted 20 years ago. The seminar will explore how to respond to the new challenges. It will pay special attention to the coordination of national statistical systems which is one of the most difficult Principles to implement in practice. The seminar also responds to a call from the UNSC for regional assessments of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

The second seminar of the Conference in 2012 will deal with challenges in future population and housing censuses. The seminar will focus on issues related to planning the next round of censuses based on lessons learned from the 2010 census round. It will explore how the technological and methodological innovations can make the censuses more efficient and allow the production of high quality data while controlling costs. The seminar will feed into the UN Statistical Commission's analysis of the experiences with the recent censuses.

The CES Bureau will meet twice in 2012 to steer the programme of work of the Conference and ensure that it reflects the priorities of member countries. The international statistical work in two areas will be reviewed in-depth in 2012. The first topic, measuring poverty, is essential for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Achieving international comparability in statistics on poverty has proven challenging due to different definitions and methods of measuring poverty, and the different national poverty lines. The review is expected to result in proposals for follow-up activities to improve work in this area.

The second topic to be reviewed in-depth is banking, insurance and financial statistics. The topic was selected for a review in response to the economic crisis, which exposed data gaps that hinder analysis of stability of the financial sector.

In addition, the three in-depth reviews carried out at the end of 2011 on education statistics, global manufacturing, and household survey methods are expected to lead to follow-up work in 2012.

The UNECE Statistical Division maintains an annually updated Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) as a tool to support the Conference and its Bureau in their coordination function. The database is a compendium of statistical work of international organizations in 2012 within the UNECE region. It is available online to be used by countries and international organizations to foster cooperation and avoid duplication of effort.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE aims to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems of EECCA and South-East European countries to implement international standards and guidelines. A particular attention is paid to promoting the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that provide basis for a sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems.

The UNECE capacity building activities include:

(a) Training workshops;
(b) Global assessments of national statistical systems;
(c) Advisory services provided by the UNECE experts to address country specific needs.

The capacity building activities are carried out in coordination and in partnership with other international organizations, in particular with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UNSD, Eurostat, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), OECD, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), PARIS21, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the World Bank, IMF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

The UNECE, together with Eurostat and EFTA, conducts global assessments (GA) of national statistical systems of EECCA countries. The purpose is to provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country. This helps the national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and the international donors to focus their technical cooperation activities on the identified needs. The GAs conducted in 2010-2011 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine are expected to result in action plans to improve national statistics according to the recommendations. In 2012, GAs are planned to be carried out in Moldova, Belarus and Tajikistan. Some additional countries have indicated their interest in GAs in the coming years.

The UNECE capacity building activities are planned based on the findings of global assessments and the needs of the EECCA countries. In 2012, UNECE will organise sub-regional workshops and advisory services to address current challenges in economic, social and environment statistics, streamlining statistical production and improving the indicators for monitoring the achievement of MDGs. The capacity building will be supported by promoting the exchange of national good practices at sub-regional level, undertaking benchmark studies and stimulating the establishment of networks of experts.

The Programme Working Group on Statistics of the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)[1] meets annually to discuss needs for capacity building and coordinate donor activities. The UNECE will work in 2012 on the development and fund-raising of three new capacity building programmes: on economic statistics, including the implementation of the 2008 SNA; regional migration statistics; and streamlining statistical production of SPECA countries. These projects would complement the ongoing technical cooperation activities in the region.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

7th SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics, Bishkek,1-2 October.

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[1] Member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE provides a unique statistical database offering a wide range of information on member countries via free on-line English and Russian interfaces. This database provides the sources for the popular *UNECE Countries in Figures* publication, as well as regular short articles on the economic and social development of the UNECE region, published in the *UNECE Weekly* newsletter. Annual user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2012.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to the UN system, such as progress towards the MDG (under a mandate from the 2005 UNECE reform), and issues relating to gender equality. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights into measurement issues, and helps identify priorities for methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics. The database will serve as a platform for a new Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics, helping Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to improve their emigration statistics by using the immigration data of other countries.

The UNECE statistical database is also used to disseminate the data of other UNECE work programmes. It currently includes transport and forestry statistics. In 2012, a set of globalization indicators was launched, building on existing data. Preparatory work to identify suitable data on energy and environment issues will also be undertaken in 2012.

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4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis (UNECE STAT)

1. Demographic and social statistics (UNECE STAT)
4.1 Metadata (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

A Steering Group on statistical metadata is developing a set of standards and good practices in the form of a Common Metadata Framework. The efficient management and use of statistical metadata - the information that describes and defines statistical data - is recognised as an important topic by the CES. The main tasks for 2012 will be to enhance the documentation of good practices, and to consider the impact of the "semantic web" on official statistics. The Common Metadata Framework is a living reference tool, mostly published only in electronic format, so that it can be rapidly updated to reflect new ideas and technologies. It includes the generic statistical business process model, an important tool for standardisation and benchmarking of statistical production that has rapidly become a global standard, and has been adopted by the major partners of the UNECE.

4.3 Data sources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE secretariat has been asked by the Conference to prepare proposals for an expert group meeting on statistical data collection and the

use of non-statistical data sources. Subject to the decision of the CES Bureau, this meeting is planned to be held in autumn 2012. For the first time, it will bring together data collection experts from across the UNECE region to share best practices, and identify needs for further work on this topic. Reorganization of data collection is taking place in many countries. This implies changes in organizational culture, technology and relationships with data suppliers. A key issue in this work will be how to utilise economies of scale by using common tools and methods in data collection.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Meeting of Data Collection Experts, Geneva, 31 October - 2 November.

1.1 Population and migration (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

In migration statistics, UNECE aims at improving availability, quality and international comparability of migration data in the member countries, in response to the strong demand from policymakers and other users for more and better data on migration. In 2012, the task force on the implications of different definitions of migrants' length of stay on migration estimates will complete its work. Two other task forces will continue their activities on:

(a) Improving migration statistics by using household surveys, administrative data, population censuses and other sources; and
(b) Measuring the socio-economic conditions of migrants.

Together with Eurostat, UNECE will organise the joint biannual work session on migration in 2012. To enhance the use of immigration data of other countries in measuring emigration, UNECE will launch a Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics with data for countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 17-19 October.

1.2 Labour (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

UNECE is undertaking work on measuring quality of employment jointly with Eurostat and ILO to respond to the demands for data on the qualitative aspects of employment from the workers' perspective, beyond traditional labour force statistics. UNECE published in 2010 the report on *Potential indicators for measurement of quality of employment* which provided the underlying concepts and structure for the quality of employment indicators. A meeting in autumn 2011 discussed the results of testing the indicators in countries and the practical measurement issues. The work will continue to improve the indicators based on the outcome of the testing, and to develop operational guidelines for the calculation of indicators in practice.

1.4 Health (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

To achieve internationally comparable measurement of health status of population, common tools covering multiple dimensions of health were developed jointly with Eurostat and the World Health Organization (WHO) in a Task Force on Measuring Health Status. The Task Force reached a consensus on many conceptual and measurement issues, and as a result, a common survey instrument was endorsed by the CES Bureau in November 2011. In 2012, a Steering Group on Measuring Health Status will continue to promote the use of this new instrument.

1.8 Justice and crime (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Crime statistics is an area where international comparability is very difficult to achieve, because data are collected mainly for national purposes and depend largely on the legislation and the justice systems of the different countries. To overcome these difficulties, UNECE works in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Commission to improve comparability of international crime statistics. In particular, a Task Force is working on methodological issues related to the development of an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes. The report of this Task Force will be finalised in 2012.

1.11 Time use (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Time-use surveys provide indispensable data on quality of life and well-being and shed light on unpaid work, living conditions and gender equality. Time-use statistics have a particularly important role in current international efforts to enhance the measurement of social progress beyond the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The need for better harmonisation and timeliness of time-use statistics has led to the establishment of a Task Force on Time-use Surveys. In 2012, the Task Force will develop a set of guidelines with a view to harmonising time-use surveys and improving comparability of time-use statistics. It will collect good practices to support countries in implementing these demanding surveys. It will also investigate ways of further increasing the policy relevance of time-use surveys and ways of more cost-effective survey-taking.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Task Force on Time Use Surveys, Geneva, 19-20 January.

4.4 Data editing and data linkage (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Statistical data editing is currently a very resource-intensive activity for national statistical organizations. It includes the validation and correction of incoming data, and methods to deal with missing data. In line with the vision for industrialising statistical production, a work session will be organised in autumn 2012 to share ideas and good practices in the automation of data editing. To maintain momentum between work sessions, an electronic knowledge-base has been created, which will be further expanded and updated during 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing, Oslo, 24-26 September.

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

Following a recent in-depth review by the CES Bureau, and in response to country requests, the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication is developing a new guide to improving statistical literacy. This new guide will be finalised in 2012, and will complement the existing three volumes in the very popular *Making Data Meaningful* series. Other topics identified by countries as priority areas for the work of this group in 2012 include the use of social media, and communicating statistics via mobile devices such as smart-phones, iPods, etc.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Communication, Geneva, 27-29 June.

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2. Economic statistics (UNECE STAT)
4.1 Metadata (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

A Steering Group on statistical metadata is developing a set of standards and good practices in the form of a Common Metadata Framework. The efficient management and use of statistical metadata - the information that describes and defines statistical data - is recognised as an important topic by the CES. The main tasks for 2012 will be to enhance the documentation of good practices, and to consider the impact of the "semantic web" on official statistics. The Common Metadata Framework is a living reference tool, mostly published only in electronic format, so that it can be rapidly updated to reflect new ideas and technologies. It includes the generic statistical business process model, an important tool for standardisation and benchmarking of statistical production that has rapidly become a global standard, and has been adopted by the major partners of the UNECE.

4.3 Data sources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE secretariat has been asked by the Conference to prepare proposals for an expert group meeting on statistical data collection and the use of non-statistical data sources. Subject to the decision of the CES Bureau, this meeting is planned to be held in autumn 2012. For the first time, it will bring together data collection experts from across the UNECE region to share best practices, and identify needs for further work on this topic. Reorganization of data collection is taking place in many countries. This implies changes in organizational culture, technology and relationships with data suppliers. A key issue in this work will be how to utilise economies of scale by using common tools and methods in data collection.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Meeting of Data Collection Experts, Geneva, 31 October - 2 November.
2.1 Macroeconomic statistics (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

A regional capacity building project launched in 2010 addresses new challenges in economic statistics in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Three workshops organised in 2011 were followed by a specialized workshop on seasonal adjustment techniques in 2012. Seasonal adjustment is essential for data comparability as it corrects for the different number of working days within a period and for seasonal fluctuations. Moreover, it can reveal turning points in economic development faster and more easily than any other data. A full set of training materials and guidelines will be published on the web in English and Russian to support countries in implementing the seasonal adjustment methods.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Workshop on Seasonal Adjustment, Ankara, 20-23 February.**2.2 Economic accounts (UNECE STAT)**
Description and objectives

The UNECE promotes the implementation of the new global standard: 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) which provides a comprehensive framework for producing economic accounts adapted to the new policy needs and the fast changes in the global economy. This work is part of the Global Implementation Programme for the 2008 SNA, mandated by the UN Statistical Commission. It is undertaken in consultation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts which coordinates globally the implementation of the standard. The

UNECE group of experts on national accounts (organized jointly with Eurostat and OECD) will meet in 2012 to discuss emerging issues of interest for countries such as measurement of services, households' wellbeing and internationalisation of economies.

In 2012, the UNECE will also focus on supporting the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-East Europe (SEE) in developing their implementation plans for the 2008 SNA. As a response to the country needs, expressed at a 2011 regional meeting on implementation of the 2008 SNA, workshops will be held to address the specific problems of the countries in this region.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Group of Experts on National Accounts, Geneva, 30 April - 4 May.**2.3 Business statistics (UNECE STAT)**
Description and objectives

The UNECE aims to ensure that the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-East European countries implement statistical business registers, which are indispensable tools for efficient data collection and for the production of business statistics. UNECE, in cooperation with Eurostat and OECD, will follow-up on the meeting of September 2011 to develop a set of international guidelines on statistical business registers. In 2012, UNECE and Eurostat will undertake a biennial survey for assessing the development of business registers in the EECCA countries. Efficient use of statistical business registers will allow to integrate economic data from a wide variety of sources and thus to improve the efficiency of production processes which is very important in the conditions of limited resources and growing user demand for statistical information.

2.7 Prices (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

UNECE, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other partners promotes the implementation of international standards and recommendations on Consumer Price Indices (CPI). A meeting to be organised in 2012 jointly with ILO will focus on residential property prices. The latest financial crisis revealed gaps and inconsistencies in this area making it difficult to design adequate policy measures. The meeting will discuss the new international *Manual on Residential Property Price Indices* developed under the auspices of the UN Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. The meeting will also consider how to improve the methods of data collection and production of price statistics, and issues of particular importance to the EECCA countries.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, Geneva, 30 May-1 June.

4.4 Data editing and data linkage (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

Statistical data editing is currently a very resource-intensive activity for national statistical organizations. It includes the validation and correction of incoming data, and methods to deal with missing data. In line with the vision for industrialising statistical production, a work session will be organised in autumn 2012 to share ideas and good practices in the automation of data editing. To maintain momentum between work sessions, an electronic knowledge-base has been created, which will be further expanded and updated during 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing, Oslo, 24-26 September.

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

Following a recent in-depth review by the CES Bureau, and in response to country requests, the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication is developing a new guide to improving statistical literacy. This new guide will be finalised in 2012, and will complement the existing three volumes in the very popular *Making Data Meaningful* series. Other topics identified by countries as priority areas for the work of this group in 2012 include the use of social media, and communicating statistics via mobile devices such as smart-phones, iPods, etc.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Communication, Geneva, 27-29 June.

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3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (UNECE STAT)
4.1 Metadata (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

A Steering Group on statistical metadata is developing a set of standards and good practices in the form of a Common Metadata Framework. The efficient management and use of statistical metadata - the information that describes and defines statistical data - is recognised as an important topic by the CES. The main tasks for 2012 will be to enhance the documentation of good practices, and to consider the impact of the "semantic

web" on official statistics. The Common Metadata Framework is a living reference tool, mostly published only in electronic format, so that it can be rapidly updated to reflect new ideas and technologies. It includes the generic statistical business process model, an important tool for standardisation and benchmarking of statistical production that has rapidly become a global standard, and has been adopted by the major partners of the UNECE.

4.3 Data sources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE secretariat has been asked by the Conference to prepare proposals for an expert group meeting on statistical data collection and the use of non-statistical data sources. Subject to the decision of the CES Bureau, this meeting is planned to be held in autumn 2012. For the first time, it will bring together data collection experts from across the UNECE region to share best practices, and identify needs for further work on this topic. Reorganization of data collection is taking place in many countries. This implies changes in organizational culture, technology and relationships with data suppliers. A key issue in this work will be how to utilise economies of scale by using common tools and methods in data collection.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Meeting of Data Collection Experts, Geneva, 31 October - 2 November.

3.1 Environment (UNECE STAT)
Environmental indicators
(Joint activity with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division)

Description and objectives

Close attention to environmental issues has increased the demand for high quality statistics to strengthen environmental monitoring. In response, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians launched in 2009 a Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. The main objective is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in EECA and SEE countries. In 2012, the joint Task Force will continue to review methodologies and produce time series of selected environmental indicators from the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The work is carried out in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency. In 2012, the Statistical Division will also explore possibilities for joint work with the Energy Division on environment related energy indicators.

Under a UN Development Account project, capacity building will be undertaken in the EECA countries in 2012-2013 to support the implementation of international recommendations and good practices in producing indicators on environmental sustainability. The project is closely linked with the UNECE work on measuring sustainable development and environmental indicators. The activities will be coordinated with the UNSD, European Environment Agency and Eurostat. In 2012, a desk study will be prepared on the state of statistics related to sustainable development and environment in EECCA countries to identify priority issues to be addressed in the planned workshops.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Workshop on Waste Statistics for EECCA countries, Geneva, 11-13 April;
• Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 4-6 a.m. July;
• Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, Geneva, 31 October - 1 November.

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (UNECE STAT)
Statistics related to climate change

Description and objectives

There is an increasing demand to strengthen the capability of countries to produce high quality statistics related to climate change. At the request of the CES Bureau and the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, UNECE conducted in 2011 a survey to explore the degree to which national statistical offices are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. A Task Force has been set up to address the issues identified by the countries in the survey.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Conference on Climate Change related Statistics, Geneva, 19-20 November 2012.

4.3.1 Population and housing censuses and registers of population, dwellings and buildings (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

In the field of population and housing censuses, UNECE promotes the implementation of the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing. A population census, if carried out in the traditional way, is often the most complicated and expensive statistical operation that a country undertakes. The global cost of the 2010 round of censuses was estimated at USD 32 billion. All the same, population censuses represent the very foundation of statistical systems, providing baseline information for other statistics, and for planning public infrastructure and services.

The UNECE works with member countries to promote efficiency and innovation in census taking. Two expert meetings will be organised in 2012 to exchange experiences with the current census round and start revising the recommendations for the 2020 census round. Special attention will be paid to innovative methods for census-taking and, in particular, to the use of data from registers. UNECE will also organise a seminar on population censuses at the 2012 session of the Conference. The activities are carried out in close cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Eurostat. UNECE continues to participate in the international monitoring mission in preparation for the next population and housing census in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Expert Group Meeting on Register-based Censuses, Geneva, 22-23 May.
• Group of Experts on Population Censuses, Geneva, 24-25 May.**3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia (UNECE STAT)**
Description and objectives

The UNECE provides a unique statistical database offering a wide range of information on member countries via free on-line English and Russian interfaces. This database provides the sources for the popular *UNECE Countries in Figures* publication, as well as regular short articles on the economic and social development of the UNECE region, published in the *UNECE Weekly* newsletter. Annual user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2012.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to the UN system, such as progress towards the MDG (under a mandate from the 2005 UNECE reform), and issues relating to gender equality. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights into measurement issues, and helps identify priorities for methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics. The database will serve as a platform for a new Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics, helping Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to improve their emigration statistics by using the immigration data of other countries.

The UNECE statistical database is also used to disseminate the data of other UNECE work programmes. It currently includes transport and forestry statistics. In 2012, a set of globalization indicators was launched, building on existing data. Preparatory work to identify suitable data on energy and environment issues will also be undertaken in 2012.

4.4 Data editing and data linkage (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

Statistical data editing is currently a very resource-intensive activity for national statistical organizations. It includes the validation and correction of incoming data, and methods to deal with missing data. In line with the vision for industrialising statistical production, a work session will be organised in autumn 2012 to share ideas and good practices in the automation of data editing. To maintain momentum between work sessions, an electronic knowledge-base has been created, which will be further expanded and updated during 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing, Oslo, 24-26 September.

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

Following a recent in-depth review by the CES Bureau, and in response to country requests, the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication is developing a new guide to improving statistical literacy. This new guide will be finalised in 2012, and will complement the existing three volumes in the very popular *Making Data Meaningful* series. Other topics identified by countries as priority areas for the work of this group in 2012 include the use of social media, and communicating statistics via mobile devices such as smart-phones, iPods, etc.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Communication, Geneva, 27-29 June.

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4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis (UNECE STAT)
4.1 Metadata (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

A Steering Group on statistical metadata is developing a set of standards and good practices in the form of a Common Metadata Framework. The efficient management and use of statistical metadata - the information that describes and defines statistical data - is recognised as an important topic by the CES. The main tasks for 2012 will be to enhance the documentation of good practices, and to consider the impact of the "semantic web" on official statistics. The Common Metadata Framework is a living reference tool, mostly published only in electronic format, so that it can be rapidly updated to reflect new ideas and technologies. It includes the generic statistical business process model, an important tool for standardisation and benchmarking of statistical production that has rapidly become a global standard, and has been adopted by the major partners of the UNECE.

4.3 Data sources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE secretariat has been asked by the Conference to prepare proposals for an expert group meeting on statistical data collection and the use of non-statistical data sources. Subject to the decision of the CES Bureau, this meeting is planned to be held in autumn 2012. For the first time, it will bring together data collection experts from across the UNECE region to share best practices, and identify needs for further work on this topic. Reorganization of data collection is taking place in many countries. This implies changes in organizational culture, technology and relationships with data suppliers. A key issue in this work will be how to utilise economies of scale by using common tools and methods in data collection.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Meeting of Data Collection Experts, Geneva, 31 October - 2 November.

4.1 Metadata (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

A Steering Group on statistical metadata is developing a set of standards and good practices in the form of a Common Metadata Framework. The efficient management and use of statistical metadata - the information that describes and defines statistical data - is recognised as an important topic by the CES. The main tasks for 2012 will be to enhance the documentation of good practices, and to consider the impact of the "semantic web" on official statistics. The Common Metadata Framework is a living reference tool, mostly published only in electronic format, so that it can be rapidly updated to reflect new ideas and technologies. It includes the generic statistical business process model, an important tool for standardisation and benchmarking of statistical production that has rapidly become a global standard, and has been adopted by the major partners of the UNECE.

4.3 Data sources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

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Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Meeting of Data Collection Experts, Geneva, 31 October - 2 November.

4.3.1 Population and housing censuses and registers of population, dwellings and buildings (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

In the field of population and housing censuses, UNECE promotes the implementation of the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing. A population census, if carried out in the traditional way, is often the most complicated and expensive statistical operation that a country undertakes. The global cost of the 2010 round of censuses was estimated at USD 32 billion. All the same, population censuses represent the very foundation of statistical systems, providing baseline information for other statistics, and for planning public infrastructure and services.

The UNECE works with member countries to promote efficiency and innovation in census taking. Two expert meetings will be organised in 2012 to exchange experiences with the current census round and start revising the recommendations for the 2020 census round. Special attention will be paid to innovative methods for census-taking and, in particular, to the use of data from registers. UNECE will also organise a seminar on population censuses at the 2012 session of the Conference. The activities are carried out in close cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Eurostat. UNECE continues to participate in the international monitoring mission in preparation for the next population and housing census in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Expert Group Meeting on Register-based Censuses, Geneva, 22-23 May.
• Group of Experts on Population Censuses, Geneva, 24-25 May.**4.4 Data editing and data linkage (UNECE STAT)**
Description and objectives

Statistical data editing is currently a very resource-intensive activity for national statistical organizations. It includes the validation and correction of incoming data, and methods to deal with missing data. In line with the vision for industrialising statistical production, a work session will be organised in autumn 2012 to share ideas and good practices in the automation of data editing. To maintain momentum between work sessions, an electronic knowledge-base has been created, which will be further expanded and updated during 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing, Oslo, 24-26 September.**4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNECE STAT)**
Description and objectives

Following a recent in-depth review by the CES Bureau, and in response to country requests, the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication is developing a new guide to improving statistical literacy. This new guide will be finalised in 2012, and will complement the existing three volumes in the very popular *Making Data Meaningful* series. Other topics identified by countries as priority areas for the work of this group in 2012 include the use of social media, and communicating statistics via mobile devices such as smart-phones, iPods, etc.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Communication, Geneva, 27-29 June.

4.4 Data editing and data linkage (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

Statistical data editing is currently a very resource-intensive activity for national statistical organizations. It includes the validation and correction of incoming data, and methods to deal with missing data. In line with the vision for industrialising statistical production, a work session will be organised in autumn 2012 to share ideas and good practices in the automation of data editing. To maintain momentum between work sessions, an electronic knowledge-base has been created, which will be further expanded and updated during 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing, Oslo, 24-26 September.

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

Following a recent in-depth review by the CES Bureau, and in response to country requests, the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication is developing a new guide to improving statistical literacy. This new guide will be finalised in 2012, and will complement the existing three volumes in the very popular *Making Data Meaningful* series. Other topics identified by countries as priority areas for the work of this group in 2012 include the use of social media, and communicating statistics via mobile devices such as smart-phones, iPods, etc.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Communication, Geneva, 27-29 June.

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5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics (UNECE STAT)
4.1 Metadata (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

A Steering Group on statistical metadata is developing a set of standards and good practices in the form of a Common Metadata Framework. The efficient management and use of statistical metadata - the information that describes and defines statistical data - is recognised as an important topic by the CES. The main tasks for 2012 will be to enhance the documentation of good practices, and to consider the impact of the "semantic web" on official statistics. The Common Metadata Framework is a living reference tool, mostly published only in electronic format, so that it can be rapidly updated to reflect new ideas and technologies. It includes the generic statistical business process model, an important tool for standardisation and benchmarking of statistical production that has rapidly become a global standard, and has been adopted by the major partners of the UNECE.

4.3 Data sources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE secretariat has been asked by the Conference to prepare proposals for an expert group meeting on statistical data collection and the use of non-statistical data sources. Subject to the decision of the CES Bureau, this meeting is planned to be held in autumn 2012. For the first time, it will bring together data collection experts from across the UNECE region to share best practices, and identify needs for further work on this topic. Reorganization of data collection is taking place in many countries. This implies changes in organizational culture, technology and relationships with data suppliers. A key issue in this work will be how to utilise economies of scale by using common tools and methods in data collection.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Meeting of Data Collection Experts, Geneva, 31 October - 2 November.
5.4 Management and development of human resources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE promotes sharing experience and good practices on human resources management and training in national statistical offices. In

2012, following a decision of the CES Bureau, UNECE will organize a meeting to discuss recommendations on training of staff, implementation of e-learning and the use of staff surveys. An interactive wiki has been established for distribution of experiences and training materials to draw more attention to initiatives for better human resources management.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Human Resources Management and Training, Budapest, 5-7 September.**5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UNECE STAT)**
Description and objectives

In response to demands from Heads of national and international statistical organisations, the UNECE recently established a High-level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics. This group oversees work in the rapidly changing areas of statistical production and dissemination to ensure the continued relevance and efficiency of official statistics. It coordinates the activities of relevant expert groups in the UNECE region to ensure that they are working towards common goals. This coordination is based on a vision for industrialising the future production and products of official statistics, which was endorsed by the CES in June 2011.

The technological part of this work is driven by expert groups on software sharing, and the management of statistical information systems. A wiki platform has been created, containing an inventory of statistical software available for sharing and a facility for benchmarking statistical information technology activities. In 2012, further materials will be developed to facilitate the sharing of software, ideas and experience between statistical organizations, and to encourage more efficient and sustainable national statistical production systems. One example, to be finalised in 2012, is a set of guidelines on developing multi-lingual statistical software.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), Washington D.C., 21-23 May;
• High-level Seminar on Modernization of Statistical Production (tbc), St. Petersburg, 3-5 October.**5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (UNECE STAT)**
Description and objectives

Promoting coordination of the international statistical work in the region is one of the key tasks of the Conference of European Statisticians. Efficient coordination is important to avoid duplication of work, find synergies, use resources efficiently and reduce burden on national statistical offices. Furthermore, international cooperation is enshrined in the Fundamental Principles of official statistics as an important factor contributing to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

The CES is a body composed of the Heads of the national statistical organizations in the UNECE region, with the participation of Australia, Brazil, China, Chile, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and South Africa. The major international organizations active in statistics in the UNECE region also participate in the work, such as the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS-STAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, UN Statistical Division (New York) and other UN agencies, etc.

The Conference and its Bureau provide a platform for coordination of international statistical work. There are several mechanisms to ensure the coordination in practice, of which the main ones are the regular meetings of the Conference and its Bureau, the CES seminars exploring the foundational issues of statistical systems and emerging topics, in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas, and the Database of International Statistical Activities. The UNECE Statistical Division provides the secretariat for the Conference, as well as undertakes substantive work mandated by the Conference and its Bureau.

The topics for the CES seminars are selected by the member countries and address issues of current interest to the Heads of national statistical organizations. In 2012, the first seminar will deal with implementing the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. With more diverse sources of official statistics and increasing requirements for evidence-based decision-making, the role of statistical offices has considerably evolved since the Principles were adopted 20 years ago. The seminar will explore how to respond to the new challenges. It will pay special attention to the coordination of national statistical systems which is one of the most difficult Principles to implement in practice. The seminar also responds to a call from the UNSC for regional assessments of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

The second seminar of the Conference in 2012 will deal with challenges in future population and housing censuses. The seminar will focus on issues related to planning the next round of censuses based on lessons learned from the 2010 census round. It will explore how the technological and methodological innovations can make the censuses more efficient and allow the production of high quality data while controlling costs. The seminar will feed into the UN Statistical Commission's analysis of the experiences with the recent censuses.

The CES Bureau will meet twice in 2012 to steer the programme of work of the Conference and ensure that it reflects the priorities of member countries. The international statistical work in two areas will be reviewed in-depth in 2012. The first topic, measuring poverty, is essential for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Achieving international comparability in statistics on poverty has proven challenging due to different definitions and methods of measuring poverty, and the different national poverty lines. The review is expected to result in proposals for follow-up activities to improve work in this area.

The second topic to be reviewed in-depth is banking, insurance and financial statistics. The topic was selected for a review in response to the

economic crisis, which exposed data gaps that hinder analysis of stability of the financial sector.

In addition, the three in-depth reviews carried out at the end of 2011 on education statistics, global manufacturing, and household survey methods are expected to lead to follow-up work in 2012.

The UNECE Statistical Division maintains an annually updated Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) as a tool to support the Conference and its Bureau in their coordination function. The database is a compendium of statistical work of international organizations in 2012 within the UNECE region. It is available online to be used by countries and international organizations to foster cooperation and avoid duplication of effort.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE aims to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems of EECCA and South-East European countries to implement international standards and guidelines. A particular attention is paid to promoting the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that provide basis for a sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems.

The UNECE capacity building activities include:

(a) Training workshops;
(b) Global assessments of national statistical systems;
(c) Advisory services provided by the UNECE experts to address country specific needs.

The capacity building activities are carried out in coordination and in partnership with other international organizations, in particular with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UNSD, Eurostat, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), OECD, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), PARIS21, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the World Bank, IMF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

The UNECE, together with Eurostat and EFTA, conducts global assessments (GA) of national statistical systems of EECCA countries. The purpose is to provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country. This helps the national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and the international donors to focus their technical cooperation activities on the identified needs. The GAs conducted in 2010-2011 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine are expected to result in action plans to improve national statistics according to the recommendations. In 2012, GAs are planned to be carried out in Moldova, Belarus and Tajikistan. Some additional countries have indicated their interest in GAs in the coming years.

The UNECE capacity building activities are planned based on the findings of global assessments and the needs of the EECCA countries. In 2012, UNECE will organise sub-regional workshops and advisory services to address current challenges in economic, social and environment statistics, streamlining statistical production and improving the indicators for monitoring the achievement of MDGs. The capacity building will be supported by promoting the exchange of national good practices at sub-regional level, undertaking benchmark studies and stimulating the establishment of networks of experts.

The Programme Working Group on Statistics of the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)[1] meets annually to discuss needs for capacity building and coordinate donor activities. The UNECE will work in 2012 on the development and fund-raising of three new capacity building programmes: on economic statistics, including the implementation of the 2008 SNA; regional migration statistics; and streamlining statistical production of SPECA countries. These projects would complement the ongoing technical cooperation activities in the region.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

7th SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics, Bishkek,1-2 October.

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[1] Member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

4.4 Data editing and data linkage (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Statistical data editing is currently a very resource-intensive activity for national statistical organizations. It includes the validation and correction of incoming data, and methods to deal with missing data. In line with the vision for industrialising statistical production, a work session will be organised in autumn 2012 to share ideas and good practices in the automation of data editing. To maintain momentum between work sessions, an electronic knowledge-base has been created, which will be further expanded and updated during 2012.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing, Oslo, 24-26 September.

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Following a recent in-depth review by the CES Bureau, and in response to country requests, the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication is developing a new guide to improving statistical literacy. This new guide will be finalised in 2012, and will complement the existing three volumes in the very popular *Making Data Meaningful* series. Other topics identified by countries as priority areas for the work of this group in 2012 include the use of social media, and communicating statistics via mobile devices such as smart-phones, iPods, etc.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Statistical Communication, Geneva, 27-29 June.

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5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics (UNECE STAT)

1. Demographic and social statistics (UNECE STAT)

5.4 Management and development of human resources (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE promotes sharing experience and good practices on human resources management and training in national statistical offices. In 2012, following a decision of the CES Bureau, UNECE will organize a meeting to discuss recommendations on training of staff, implementation of e-learning and the use of staff surveys. An interactive wiki has been established for distribution of experiences and training materials to draw more attention to initiatives for better human resources management.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Human Resources Management and Training, Budapest, 5-7 September.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

In response to demands from Heads of national and international statistical organisations, the UNECE recently established a High-level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics. This group oversees work in the rapidly changing areas of statistical production and dissemination to ensure the continued relevance and efficiency of official statistics. It coordinates the activities of relevant expert groups in the UNECE region to ensure that they are working towards common goals. This coordination is based on a vision for industrialising the future production and products of official statistics, which was endorsed by the CES in June 2011.

The technological part of this work is driven by expert groups on software sharing, and the management of statistical information systems. A wiki platform has been created, containing an inventory of statistical software available for sharing and a facility for benchmarking statistical information technology activities. In 2012, further materials will be developed to facilitate the sharing of software, ideas and experience between statistical organizations, and to encourage more efficient and sustainable national statistical production systems. One example, to be finalised in 2012, is a set of guidelines on developing multi-lingual statistical software.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

- Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), Washington D.C., 21-23 May;
- High-level Seminar on Modernization of Statistical Production (tbc), St. Petersburg, 3-5 October.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Promoting coordination of the international statistical work in the region is one of the key tasks of the Conference of European Statisticians. Efficient coordination is important to avoid duplication of work, find synergies, use resources efficiently and reduce burden on national statistical offices. Furthermore, international cooperation is enshrined in the Fundamental Principles of official statistics as an important factor contributing to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

The CES is a body composed of the Heads of the national statistical organizations in the UNECE region, with the participation of Australia, Brazil, China, Chile, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and South Africa. The major international organizations active in statistics in the UNECE region also participate in the work, such as the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS-STAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, UN Statistical Division (New York) and other UN agencies, etc.

The Conference and its Bureau provide a platform for coordination of international statistical work. There are several mechanisms to ensure the coordination in practice, of which the main ones are the regular meetings of the Conference and its Bureau, the CES seminars exploring the foundational issues of statistical systems and emerging topics, in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas, and the Database of International Statistical Activities. The UNECE Statistical Division provides the secretariat for the Conference, as well as undertakes substantive work mandated by the Conference and its Bureau.

The topics for the CES seminars are selected by the member countries and address issues of current interest to the Heads of national statistical organizations. In 2012, the first seminar will deal with implementing the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. With more diverse sources of official statistics and increasing requirements for evidence-based decision-making, the role of statistical offices has considerably evolved since the Principles were adopted 20 years ago. The seminar will explore how to respond to the new challenges. It will pay special attention to the coordination of national statistical systems which is one of the most difficult Principles to implement in practice. The seminar also responds to a call from the UNSC for regional assessments of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

The second seminar of the Conference in 2012 will deal with challenges in future population and housing censuses. The seminar will focus on issues related to planning the next round of censuses based on lessons learned from the 2010 census round. It will explore how the technological and methodological innovations can make the censuses more efficient and allow the production of high quality data while controlling costs. The seminar will feed into the UN Statistical Commission's analysis of the experiences with the recent censuses.

The CES Bureau will meet twice in 2012 to steer the programme of work of the Conference and ensure that it reflects the priorities of member countries. The international statistical work in two areas will be reviewed in-depth in 2012. The first topic, measuring poverty, is essential for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Achieving international comparability in statistics on poverty has proven challenging due to different definitions and methods of measuring poverty, and the different national poverty lines. The review is expected to result in proposals for follow-up activities to improve work in this area.

The second topic to be reviewed in-depth is banking, insurance and financial statistics. The topic was selected for a review in response to the economic crisis, which exposed data gaps that hinder analysis of stability of the financial sector.

In addition, the three in-depth reviews carried out at the end of 2011 on education statistics, global manufacturing, and household survey methods are expected to lead to follow-up work in 2012.

The UNECE Statistical Division maintains an annually updated Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) as a tool to support the Conference and its Bureau in their coordination function. The database is a compendium of statistical work of international organizations in 2012 within the UNECE region. It is available online to be used by countries and international organizations to foster cooperation and avoid duplication of effort.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE aims to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems of EECCA and South-East European countries to implement international standards and guidelines. A particular attention is paid to promoting the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that provide basis for a sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems.

The UNECE capacity building activities include:

(a) Training workshops;
(b) Global assessments of national statistical systems;
(c) Advisory services provided by the UNECE experts to address country specific needs.

The capacity building activities are carried out in coordination and in partnership with other international organizations, in particular with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UNSD, Eurostat, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), OECD, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), PARIS21, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the World Bank, IMF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

The UNECE, together with Eurostat and EFTA, conducts global assessments (GA) of national statistical systems of EECCA countries. The purpose is to provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country. This helps the national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and the international donors to focus their technical cooperation activities on the identified needs. The GAs conducted in 2010-2011 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine are expected to result in action plans to improve national statistics according to the recommendations. In 2012, GAs are planned to be carried out in Moldova, Belarus and Tajikistan. Some additional countries have indicated their interest in GAs in the coming years.

The UNECE capacity building activities are planned based on the findings of global assessments and the needs of the EECCA countries. In 2012, UNECE will organise sub-regional workshops and advisory services to address current challenges in economic, social and environment statistics, streamlining statistical production and improving the indicators for monitoring the achievement of MDGs. The capacity building will be supported by promoting the exchange of national good practices at sub-regional level, undertaking benchmark studies and stimulating the establishment of networks of experts.

The Programme Working Group on Statistics of the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)[1] meets annually to discuss needs for capacity building and coordinate donor activities. The UNECE will work in 2012 on the development and fund-raising of three new capacity building programmes: on economic statistics, including the implementation of the 2008 SNA; regional migration statistics; and

streamlining statistical production of SPECA countries. These projects would complement the ongoing technical cooperation activities in the region.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

7th SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics, Bishkek,1-2 October.

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[1] Member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

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2. Economic statistics (UNECE STAT)
5.4 Management and development of human resources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE promotes sharing experience and good practices on human resources management and training in national statistical offices. In 2012, following a decision of the CES Bureau, UNECE will organize a meeting to discuss recommendations on training of staff, implementation of e-learning and the use of staff surveys. An interactive wiki has been established for distribution of experiences and training materials to draw more attention to initiatives for better human resources management.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Human Resources Management and Training, Budapest, 5-7 September.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

In response to demands from Heads of national and international statistical organisations, the UNECE recently established a High-level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics. This group oversees work in the rapidly changing areas of statistical production and dissemination to ensure the continued relevance and efficiency of official statistics. It coordinates the activities of relevant expert groups in the UNECE region to ensure that they are working towards common goals. This coordination is based on a vision for industrialising the future production and products of official statistics, which was endorsed by the CES in June 2011.

The technological part of this work is driven by expert groups on software sharing, and the management of statistical information systems. A wiki platform has been created, containing an inventory of statistical software available for sharing and a facility for benchmarking statistical information technology activities. In 2012, further materials will be developed to facilitate the sharing of software, ideas and experience between statistical organizations, and to encourage more efficient and sustainable national statistical production systems. One example, to be finalised in 2012, is a set of guidelines on developing multi-lingual statistical software.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

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5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

Promoting coordination of the international statistical work in the region is one of the key tasks of the Conference of European Statisticians. Efficient coordination is important to avoid duplication of work, find synergies, use resources efficiently and reduce burden on national statistical offices. Furthermore, international cooperation is enshrined in the Fundamental Principles of official statistics as an important factor contributing to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

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5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

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The UNECE capacity building activities include:

(a) Training workshops;
(b) Global assessments of national statistical systems;
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Meeting to be organized in 2012:

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[1] Member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

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3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (UNECE STAT)
5.4 Management and development of human resources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

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Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Human Resources Management and Training, Budapest, 5-7 September.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

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Meeting to be organized in 2012:

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• High-level Seminar on Modernization of Statistical Production (tbc), St. Petersburg, 3-5 October.

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Description and objectives

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5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

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4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis (UNECE STAT)
5.4 Management and development of human resources (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

The UNECE promotes sharing experience and good practices on human resources management and training in national statistical offices. In 2012, following a decision of the CES Bureau, UNECE will organize a meeting to discuss recommendations on training of staff, implementation of e-learning and the use of staff surveys. An interactive wiki has been established for distribution of experiences and training materials to draw more attention to initiatives for better human resources management.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Human Resources Management and Training, Budapest, 5-7 September.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UNECE STAT)
Description and objectives

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5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics (UNECE STAT)
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