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

4.1 Metadata (UNECE STAT)
Activity 8.5: Statistical metadata

Description and objectives

Facilitate harmonisation of data models and structures for statistical metadata. Provide a forum for discussing metadata issues relevant to statistical offices. Complement other international initiatives dealing with data collection needs of international statistical organizations.

Activities and output

• Advocate for statistical metadata issues and the role of metadata in the management of statistical processes.
• Further develop and improve the Common Metadata Framework (CMF) as a guide for statistical organisations to existing metadata standards, in cooperation with the METIS Steering Group.
• Add more case studies on the implementation of metadata systems in statistical organizations (Part D "Implementation").
• Provide secretariat support to the CES Steering Group on Statistical Metadata
• Organise a Workshop on Statistical Metadata in autumn 2011.
• Cooperate actively with other organizations on the standardisation of electronic data interchange, including the SDMX content oriented guidelines and other SDMX standards.
• Lead, together with UN Statistical Division, international work to develop a global inventory of statistical standards.

Organizations and groups involved

CES Steering Group on statistical metadata
Eurostat
OECD
SDMX Secretariat.

4.3 Data sources (UNECE STAT)
4.1 Metadata (UNECE STAT)
Activity 8.5: Statistical metadata

Description and objectives

Facilitate harmonisation of data models and structures for statistical metadata. Provide a forum for discussing metadata issues relevant to statistical offices. Complement other international initiatives dealing with data collection needs of international statistical organizations.

Activities and output

• Advocate for statistical metadata issues and the role of metadata in the management of statistical processes.
• Further develop and improve the Common Metadata Framework (CMF) as a guide for statistical organisations to existing metadata standards, in cooperation with the METIS Steering Group.
• Add more case studies on the implementation of metadata systems in statistical organizations (Part D "Implementation").
• Provide secretariat support to the CES Steering Group on Statistical Metadata
• Organise a Workshop on Statistical Metadata in autumn 2011.
• Cooperate actively with other organizations on the standardisation of electronic data interchange, including the SDMX content oriented guidelines and other SDMX standards.
• Lead, together with UN Statistical Division, international work to develop a global inventory of statistical standards.

Organizations and groups involved

CES Steering Group on statistical metadata
Eurostat
OECD
SDMX Secretariat.**4.3 Data sources (UNECE STAT)**
4.3.1 Population and housing censuses and registers of population, dwellings and buildings (UNECE STAT)
Activity 6.1: Population and housing censuses

Description and objectives

Promote the implementation of the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and support countries in all activities related to the population and housing census of the 2010 round, taking into account the different methodological approaches adopted,

including register-based censuses and other innovative approaches. Together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UNECE Secretariat leads assistance on population and housing census in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Activities and output

• Provide support to member countries for the planning and successful implementation of a population and housing census in the 2010 census round, based on the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. A large number of UNECE countries (including all EU countries) are expected to conduct the census in 2011.
• Provide training and technical assistance to countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in the field of population and housing censuses, based on their expressed needs and in compliance with the CES Census Recommendations (see also activity 9.1).
• Start preparations for two joint UNECE-Eurostat meetings tentatively planned in Spring 2012: Joint Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses, and the Expert Group Meeting on Register-Based Censuses.
• Contribute actively to the International Monitoring and Observation missions in the UN Administered Region of Kosovo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aimed at ensuring that the next population and housing censuses are planned and conducted in accordance with the internationally agreed standards (in particular the CES Census Recommendations and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics) and that the enumeration is fair and impartial.

Organizations and groups involved

CES Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses
United Nations Population Fund
UNSD
Eurostat

Activity 6.2: Migration statistics

Description and objectives

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

Activities and output

• Provide technical assistance to countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to develop further their migration data, by improving existing sources and increasing data exchange within and between countries.
• Provide secretariat support to the Steering Group on migration statistics and related task forces.
• Support the activities of the Task Force on improving migration and migrant data using household surveys and other sources (also called "Suitland Working Group"), including a Task Force meeting tentatively planned in spring 2011.
• Lead the research project on the measurement of "hard-to-count" migrant groups, carried out in the framework of the activities of the Suitland Working Group.
• Prepare a final report of the Task Force on the analysis of international migration estimates using different length of stay definitions.
• Support and contribute to the activities of the Task Force on the measurement of the socio-economic conditions of migrants (subject to approval by the CES Bureau in November 2010).
• Finalise the activities planned in the framework of the global UN Development Account project of the 6th Tranche (2009-2011) "Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration" (see activity 9.2).
• Start preparations for the Joint UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics tentatively planned in spring 2012.

Organizations and groups involved

CES Steering Group on migration statistics
CES Task Force on analysing migration using different length of stay definitions
CES Task Force on improving migration and migrant data using household surveys and other sources ("Suitland Working Group")
Eurostat
UNSD
United Nations Population Division

4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers (UNECE STAT)

Activity 5.4: Business registers

Description and objectives

Support development and implementation of internationally accepted standards and best practices in the area of statistical business registers through international cooperation, methodological work and technical assistance, particularly in the South-East European and EECCA countries. The aim is to improve the quality and international comparability of statistical business registers in the region and reduce existing gaps between western and eastern countries, in particular in respect of the use of administrative data and other secondary sources.

Activities and output

• Organise and conduct the meeting of the Group of Experts on Business Registers in September 2011 in cooperation with Eurostat and OECD.
• Finalise and publish an analytical report based on the results of the 2010 UNECE survey on business registers and supporting dataset.
• Comparison of existing practices and NSOs preparedness of South-East European and EECCA countries for including enterprise groups in the statistical business registers and for producing business demography statistics based on business registers.
• Survey on the needs for guidelines on business registers in terms of a manual or handbook targeted at the South-East European and EECCA countries.
• Follow-up on the implementation of the revisions of NACE and ISIC classifications into business registers in South-East European and EECCA countries.

Organizations and groups involved

Eurostat
OECD
Steering Group of the Wiesbaden City Group on Business registers
Friends of the Chair Group on Integrated Economic Statistics**4.4 Data editing and data linkage (UNECE STAT)**
Activity 8.3: Statistical data editing

Description and objectives

Enhance the harmonization of methods and concepts, and facilitate the exchange of experience and practices in issues related to statistical data editing.

Activities and output

• Contribute to the improvement of the quality of statistical data produced by official statistical organisations in the region.
• Strengthen the cooperation among experts on issues related to data editing and imputation, exchange of experience, harmonization of methods and concepts and development of new methods and techniques.
• Develop methodological guides on data quality control, data editing and imputation.
• Update and expand the Internet Knowledge Base (K-base) on statistical data editing.
• Develop proposals for future concrete outputs of the work sessions on statistical data editing.
• Organise a Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (May 2011).**4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNECE STAT)**
Activity 4.2: Dissemination of information, promotion of statistical activities and support to clients

Description and objectives

Provide statistical data and information about the activities of the UNECE Statistical Division. Improve awareness about UNECE statistics and the Conference of European Statisticians. Maintain a good perception of UNECE statistics among the external users.

Activities and output

• Prepare up-to-date, relevant and well-presented statistical information and analytical notes for the "Facts and Figures" of "UNECE Weekly", as well as short articles on an ad-hoc basis, reflecting important statistical events or news.
• Provide press releases for events and outputs that may attract the attention of the media, for distribution through the UNECE Information Office.
• Publish promotional materials (in hard-copy or through the website) for various purposes, for example "What UNECE does for you".
• Produce promotional announcements for exceptional events and new outputs via the UNECE Statistics website and targeted mailing lists.
• Provide up-to-date information on the UNECE Statistics website about statistical activities of the UNECE and the CES in accordance to the needs of various target groups of users, as identified through usability testing.
• Actively participate in the implementation of the UNECE Web Content Management System and other activities of the UNECE Web Working Group. Improve the web communication of the UNECE, and ensure that statistical needs are reflected.
• Support external users of the information disseminated by the UNECE Statistical Division via the Internet, including timely replies to user requests.
• Improve further the IT tools for external user support.
• Produce quarterly analysis of access to individual data cubes, and web site traffic measured using Google Analytics.
• Conduct an annual satisfaction survey of database users.
• Manage and coordinate the Statistical Division's publications programme.

Activity 8.6: Dissemination of statistical information

Description and objectives

Promote good practices in the dissemination and communication of statistical information.

Activities and output

• Publish Part 3 of the Making Data Meaningful series, "A guide to communicating with the media".
• Prepare Part 4 of the Making Data Meaningful series, concerning statistical literacy.
• Exchange information and experiences through regular meetings of the Work Session on Statistical Dissemination and Communication.
• Provide secretariat support to the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication.
• Organise a Work Session on statistical dissemination and communication in spring 2011.

Organizations and groups involved

CES Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication**4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection (UNECE STAT)**
Activity 8.4: Statistical confidentiality and access to microdata

Description and objectives

Enhance international cooperation, harmonization of methods and exchange of experience in the area of statistical confidentiality. The work covers managerial, statistical and organizational issues related to statistical confidentiality protection and disclosure control for both microdata and tabular data. Particular attention is paid to issues related to use of administrative registers and records for statistical purposes, for example linking and matching of records, legal and technical aspects, use of combined sources, etc.

Activities and output

• Identify leading practices in national and international statistical organizations in statistical confidentiality protection and disclosure control.
• Implement and further explain applicable standards and recommendations.
• As a follow-up to the decision of the 2009 plenary session of the CES, collect information on the implementation of the CES Principles and guidelines on confidentiality and data integration, in preparation for the review of these principles by the CES in June 2011.
• Organise a Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality in autumn 2011.

Organizations and groups involved

Eurostat

4.4 Data editing and data linkage (UNECE STAT)
Activity 8.3: Statistical data editing

Description and objectives

Enhance the harmonization of methods and concepts, and facilitate the exchange of experience and practices in issues related to statistical data editing.

Activities and output

• Contribute to the improvement of the quality of statistical data produced by official statistical organisations in the region.
• Strengthen the cooperation among experts on issues related to data editing and imputation, exchange of experience, harmonization of methods and concepts and development of new methods and techniques.
• Develop methodological guides on data quality control, data editing and imputation.
• Update and expand the Internet Knowledge Base (K-base) on statistical data editing.
• Develop proposals for future concrete outputs of the work sessions on statistical data editing.
• Organise a Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (May 2011).

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNECE STAT)
Activity 4.2: Dissemination of information, promotion of statistical activities and support to clients

Description and objectives

Provide statistical data and information about the activities of the UNECE Statistical Division. Improve awareness about UNECE statistics and the Conference of European Statisticians. Maintain a good perception of UNECE statistics among the external users.

Activities and output

• Prepare up-to-date, relevant and well-presented statistical information and analytical notes for the "Facts and Figures" of "UNECE Weekly", as well as short articles on an ad-hoc basis, reflecting important statistical events or news.
• Provide press releases for events and outputs that may attract the attention of the media, for distribution through the UNECE Information Office.
• Publish promotional materials (in hard-copy or through the website) for various purposes, for example "What UNECE does for you".
• Produce promotional announcements for exceptional events and new outputs via the UNECE Statistics website and targeted mailing lists.
• Provide up-to-date information on the UNECE Statistics website about statistical activities of the UNECE and the CES in accordance to the needs of various target groups of users, as identified through usability testing.

• Actively participate in the implementation of the UNECE Web Content Management System and other activities of the UNECE Web Working Group. Improve the web communication of the UNECE, and ensure that statistical needs are reflected.
• Support external users of the information disseminated by the UNECE Statistical Division via the Internet, including timely replies to user requests.
• Improve further the IT tools for external user support.
• Produce quarterly analysis of access to individual data cubes, and web site traffic measured using Google Analytics.
• Conduct an annual satisfaction survey of database users.
• Manage and coordinate the Statistical Division's publications programme.

Activity 8.6: Dissemination of statistical information

Description and objectives

Promote good practices in the dissemination and communication of statistical information.

Activities and output

• Publish Part 3 of the Making Data Meaningful series, "A guide to communicating with the media".
• Prepare Part 4 of the Making Data Meaningful series, concerning statistical literacy.
• Exchange information and experiences through regular meetings of the Work Session on Statistical Dissemination and Communication.
• Provide secretariat support to the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication.
• Organise a Work Session on statistical dissemination and communication in spring 2011.

Organizations and groups involved

CES Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication

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4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection (UNECE STAT)

Activity 8.4: Statistical confidentiality and access to microdata

Description and objectives

Enhance international cooperation, harmonization of methods and exchange of experience in the area of statistical confidentiality. The work covers managerial, statistical and organizational issues related to statistical confidentiality protection and disclosure control for both microdata and tabular data. Particular attention is paid to issues related to use of administrative registers and records for statistical purposes, for example linking and matching of records, legal and technical aspects, use of combined sources, etc.

Activities and output

• Identify leading practices in national and international statistical organizations in statistical confidentiality protection and disclosure control.
• Implement and further explain applicable standards and recommendations.
• As a follow-up to the decision of the 2009 plenary session of the CES, collect information on the implementation of the CES Principles and guidelines on confidentiality and data integration, in preparation for the review of these principles by the CES in June 2011.
• Organise a Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality in autumn 2011.

Organizations and groups involved

Eurostat