

**Management Response**

Evaluation Title:	<i>Project "Preparation for the 2020 round of population censuses and the production of better migration data in CIS countries" (2013 to 2015)</i>		
Period of Review:	November 2016 – January 2017		
Date of Evaluation Report:	24 February 2017		
Approved by:	Catherine Haswell Acting Director, PMU	Date 19 December 2017	Signature
Cleared by:	Lidia Bratanova Director, Statistical Division	19 December 2017	
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Recommendation 1: *UNECE to remain in close contact with national statistical offices and to follow up by organizing expert meetings and workshops on censuses and migration statistics where it will monitor the progress in census preparations according to the Recommendations and the implementation of guidance provided in the Handbook on migration statistics.*

Management Response:

UNECE fully accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The UNECE statistical programme includes annual workshops on censuses and migration statistics for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The workshops in 2016 and 2017 explicitly addressed the implementation of the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 censuses of population and housing and the recommendations of the Handbook on the use of administrative sources and sample surveys in measuring international migration.

The UNECE Statistical Division is mandated to organize annual capacity-building workshops on censuses and migration statistics. These workshops will address the implementation of the corresponding recommendations and provide assistance in resolving specific challenges, such as introducing technological innovations in the census operations and integrating data from different sources for comprehensive migration statistics. The beneficiary countries will be those of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. In 2018 and 2019, the UNECE Statistical Division will organize one workshop on censuses and one on migration statistics each year, back-to-back with region-wide expert meetings in these areas.

Andres Vikat, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section, will ensure the implementation of the actions.

Recommendation 2: *UNECE in cooperation with the Project partners and beneficiaries countries to make efforts for more involvement of national migration agencies and other related (to migration) government agencies in international meetings on migration statistics in order to increase their commitment for and involvement in activities for improving the migration statistics in their respective countries.*

Management Response:

UNECE fully accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Improving collaboration with national providers of administrative data on migration is one of the important recommendations to national statistical offices, reflected in the Handbook as well as in the conclusions of recent expert meetings and workshops on migration statistics. UNECE continues efforts in this direction by inviting representatives of national migration agencies to the migration statistics workshops and by organizing, upon request, national workshops on migration statistics.

These efforts include additional fundraising as in most cases, statistical capacity-building funding is earmarked for statistical office representatives. Representative of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Republic of Moldova participated in the 2016 and 2017 UNECE workshops on migration statistics (Geneva, 17-18 May 2016 and 1-2 November 2017). In 2016, UNECE organized a national workshop on migration statistics in Georgia involving all agencies that were involved with migration data. Agenda items on the use of administrative data and collaboration between statistical office and producers of administrative data will be included in the 2018 workshop for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Andres Vikat, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section, will ensure the implementation of the actions

Recommendation 3: *UNECE in cooperation with the Project partners and beneficiaries countries for purpose of follow up (mentioned in above two paragraphs and building on the results of the concluded Project), to consider the possibilities for planning and implementing a similar project within the UNECE statistical programme that includes further capacity-building on censuses and migration statistics.*

Management Response:

UNECE fully accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The UNECE statistical programme includes annual workshops on censuses and migration statistics for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. In 2016 and 2017, funding for these activities was ensured from the World Bank, the European Free Trade Association, UNFPA and the UN Development Account. Resources from these and other potential donors would be mobilised in the coming years to ensure further capacity-building on censuses and migration statistics.

The Social and Demographic Statistics Section of the UNECE Statistical Division is working closely with census and migration statistics experts in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to understand their needs and support their progress in implementing the internationally agreed recommendations. It will design and carry out capacity-building activities on this basis. As most donors in this area plan can commit funds on annual basis, frequent efforts are needed from the UNECE side to ensure a continuous flow of resources for this capacity-building. Funding for the 2017 and 2018 workshops in migration statistics was ensured from the World Bank through the project “*Enhancing coherence and integration of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of 2008 SNA.*” In the area of population censuses, UNECE has applied to UNFPA for funding a workshop in 2018.

Andres Vikat, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section, will ensure the implementation of the actions.

Recommendation 4: *In addition to the monitoring objective, the new UNECE project can include strengthening household surveys for measuring migration. Also, can be considered the possibility of including production of Handbook on labour migration for CIS countries which would include conditions needed to measure labour migration via sample surveys. Development of such Handbook was announced as a plan activity by CIS-stat in the migration workshop in Minsk 2015.*

Management Response:

UNECE fully accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

In 2017, UNECE started to implement a project “Enhancing coherence and integration of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of 2008 SNA” funded by the World Bank. This project includes activities towards harmonising the measurement of migration and remittances in household surveys in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Its objectives include developing a module for inclusion in regular household surveys, by 2019.

In 2015, the Conference of European Statisticians established a Task Force on Measuring Labour Mobility, which is addressing this need for guidance for the entire UNECE region. The Task Force is scheduled to present its report in 2018. UNECE was also contributing to the project “Development of labour statistics in the CIS region” of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat), by making presentations in their project meetings and contributing to the discussions.

The Social and Demographic Statistics Section of the UNECE Statistical Division is coordinating the work of the Task Force on Measuring Labour Mobility and is working at this time on finalizing the report, including concrete recommendations to national statistical offices.

Andres Vikat, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section, will ensure the implementation of the actions.

Recommendation 5: *In order to avoid significant restriction on the timing of events due to a long administrative procedure for grants at UNECE, it is preferable to organize meetings in countries with resident United Nations offices where simpler administrative procedures can be applied.*

Management Response:

UNECE partly accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

This recommendation goes beyond the scope of this project and is linked to the modalities of a new central administrative system (Umoja) and internal UNECE administrative and business processes. In 2016 and 2017, the Social and Demographic Statistics Section has organized five capacity-building workshops in Geneva and another five in countries with a resident UN office. In only one case, a workshop was organized in a country without a resident UN office (Lithuania) and in that case, the local non-UN partner covered the organization cost. Staff of the UNECE Statistical Division is working with the UNECE Executive Office to identify ways to simplify and streamline administrative procedures under existing rules and regulations.

Andres Vikat, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section, will ensure the implementation of the actions.

Recommendation 6: *To ensure donor funding that stretches over several years, which allows better planning, achieving stronger results and lower (per event) administrative burden in managing the funds, compared to projects based on just annual programmes.*

Management Response:

UNECE fully accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

In 2017, the UNECE Statistical Division started a multi-year programme with the World Bank, which allows planning capacity-building in migration statistics, among others, over a period of four years, from 2017 to 2020. Discussions towards a programme for 2018 and 2019 with UNFPA are under way.

Andres Vikat, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section, will ensure the implementation of the actions.

