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ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
Group of Experts on Migration Statistics
Geneva, Switzerland, 7-8 May 2024

CALL FOR PAPERS

- **Inform secretariat** of your intention to submit a paper by **26 February**
 - **Submit written paper** using [this template](#) by **29 March**

I. PURPOSE

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is organizing the [meeting of the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics](#) on 7 and 8 May 2024 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The meeting is organized in collaboration with the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
2. The meeting will be preceded on 6 May by the [Workshop on the International Recommendations on Statistics on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness](#), jointly organized by UNECE and EGRISS, in collaboration with IOM and UNHCR.
3. The call for papers for the expert meeting is addressed to statisticians, researchers and analysts from the national statistical offices, ministries and other government agencies, experts from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and experts from the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that produce or use migration statistics and who wish to present their papers.
4. Detailed information on registration to the meeting, venue and other logistical aspects is available in the logistical information note on [the meeting's web page](#).

II. INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

5. Participants are welcome to submit a paper and/or presentation in English or Russian languages on any topic described in section III. The papers and presentations will be translated within the limits of the translation capacity available and subject to compliance with deadlines for submission.
6. The papers will be made available on the [meeting web page](#).
7. The UNECE Steering Group on Migration Statistics will review all submissions and, if need be, select the papers to be presented at the meeting.
8. Instructions and deadlines for preparing presentation slides will be sent by email to the selected presenters in due course.
9. **Please take note of the following deadlines:**

26 February 2024	<p>Please send an e-mail to UNECE at paolo.valente@un.org:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to express your intention to contribute a paper (indicate tentative title and agenda item); and- to submit a short abstract (200 words) in English or Russian. <p>A message shall be sent to all submitting authors to confirm that their abstract has been received.</p>
26 February 2024	<p>Participants who would like to discuss possibilities for financial support should contact UNECE at social.stats@un.org indicating the name, position and role of the participant for whom funding is requested. Financial support will be available only for a limited number of participants.</p>
29 March 2024	<p>Submit the full final version of your paper in Word to UNECE at paolo.valente@un.org with a copy to social.stats@un.org</p> <p>Please use this template and follow the instructions in it.</p>
5 April 2024	<p>All participants attending the meeting of the Group of Experts must register online by 5 April 2024 by completing the online registration form</p>

III. TOPICS OF THE MEETING

Statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons, and statelessness

Measuring undocumented migration

Measuring emigration

Measuring new forms of international migration

Migration and climate change

Improvements in use of administrative data for migration statistics

Improving the timeliness of migration statistics and their communication

Results on migration from the 2020 population census round

IV. EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE TOPICS

Statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons, and statelessness

10. By mid-2023, 110 million people were estimated to be forcibly displaced globally, representing a surge in conflicts, violence and disasters around the world. Similarly, the number of stateless persons continues to rise, primarily due to improved registration and coverage. Several key international commitments made by UN member states emphasise the need for improved national data on refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and stateless persons to support the development of evidence-informed policies. Central to this need for evidence is availability of reliable and comparable nationally produced statistics. While important efforts have been made in recent years to improve the availability and quality of data related to asylum systems and processes in the region, comparable official statistics on the stocks, profiles and socio-economic situation of refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons is still lacking for several countries in the region.
11. This session will provide an opportunity to share experiences on the production of statistics on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons, complementing the discussions at the [Workshop on the International Recommendations on Statistics on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness](#). Countries are invited to share their experiences related to (i) measuring stocks of refugees, IDPs and/or stateless persons; (ii) measuring integration and socio-economic outcomes of these populations; and (iii) inclusion and/or disaggregation of displaced populations in international and internal migration statistics and data sources.

Measuring undocumented migration

12. The collection of data about undocumented migrants (also referred to as irregular migrants) remains a significant challenge in many countries. Although this population group is often at the centre of a public debate, its size and the characteristics of the members are difficult to accurately assess via regular data sources either because they fall outside regular data collection methods or their records are not formalized. Partly due to the reasons outlined above, this group often suffers from higher non-response to sample surveys and censuses, while also being less likely to appear in administrative data sources. In this session, countries will share their experiences on attempts to measure undocumented migration and find ways to overcome measurement challenges.

Measuring emigration

13. While in many countries the focus is often on immigration, for some countries emigration is also very important, particularly when emigration flows are significant and sustained over time, significantly affecting the population structure and labour market of the sending countries. The measurement of emigration faces significant challenges because emigrants do not, or are not required to de-register (in the case of countries with a population register) or otherwise notify the relevant authorities of their intention to emigrate. Participants in the meeting are invited to share experiences on how emigration is measured, using for instance administrative data, household surveys, data from destination countries, or other sources and methods. The session will also provide an opportunity to present the work planned by the UNECE Task Force on measuring emigration, launched in January 2014, and provide feedback and suggestions on its work.

Measuring new forms of international migration

14. Global mobility has increased in the last two decades, including the movement of transient populations who do not fit into the standard definitions of international migrants. These populations may include circular migrants, seasonal workers who often do not meet the long-term definition of migration, international students, and other types of movement that can be challenging to define and measure. International initiatives – namely those by the United Nations Statistics Division and the International Labour Organization – are developing new standards aimed at better measuring migration patterns.
15. In October 2023, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians agreed that the concepts and definitions developed under the existing international initiatives would need to be expanded with definitions of specific population groups and types of migration and mobility, proposing more detailed definitions and developing concepts for new forms of migration and mobility. The establishment of a new UNECE task force on this topic was agreed. In this session, countries will be invited to share experiences on the measurement of new forms of international migration, and provide suggestions on the work of the new task force.

Migration and climate change

16. Weather-related hazards like floods, storms, heat waves and wildfires are already a major driver of global human mobility, and climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of these hazards across the world. In addition to concerted climate mitigation, navigating these challenges requires effective, evidence-based policy measures that support people at risk. In the context of climate change, it is therefore particularly important for countries to produce statistics on the past and current impacts of weather-related hazards on human mobility and, as far as possible, look into projected future trends. In this session, countries will be invited to share experiences on the quantification of the impacts of climate change on human mobility patterns.

Improvements in use of administrative data for migration statistics

17. In some countries, administrative data have been at the core of the production of migration statistics for many years. In other countries, administrative data have not traditionally been used to produce migration statistics for various reasons, including for instance the absence of a population register or the limited availability or accessibility of administrative data. However, in recent years in most countries administrative data have been increasingly used to produce migration statistics, overcome limitations and difficulties, increase efficiency and respond to emerging issues with other sources (e.g. increasing costs and decreasing participation in household surveys). At this session, countries will be invited to share their experiences and innovative practices in the use of administrative data for migration statistics, including experiences related to using and linking different administrative data systems to produce official statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons, and statelessness.

Improving the timeliness of migration statistics and their communication

18. Over the last years, when discussing strategic developments in official statistics in the region, the need to improve the timeliness of official statistics was often identified as one of the big challenges, and as a requirement to maintain the relevance of official statistics and statistical offices. Timely data with sufficient granularity are needed to measure the economy, society and environment, for evidence-based decision making by citizens and policy makers. Data on population is one of the cornerstones of official statistics but the concepts, timeliness, coverage and granularity of these data are not meeting the needs.
19. At the 2022 UNECE expert meeting on migration statistics, the experts agreed that those considerations fully apply to the domain of migration statistics, and noted that communication is also a key aspect that has to be improved to maintain the relevance of official statistics. Communication with policymakers must explain what official statistics can offer for society, highlighting its usefulness and quality compared to what can be offered by data providers outside official statistics. Communication towards the public is important for the social acceptability and trust, getting community engagement and improving the response rates.

20. In this session, countries will be invited to share experiences on initiatives and innovations aimed at improving the timeliness of official statistics on migration and/or their communication to the users, either in response to emergency situations or in the regular statistical production.

Results on migration from the 2020 population census round

21. Most countries in the region have completed the operations of the population census of the 2020 round, and disseminated the census results. At this session, countries may present the results of their census on migration data (including experiences where refugees, internally displaced persons and/or stateless persons were identified in their censuses), including information on the impact of the Covid pandemic on the census results concerning migration.

V. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

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