
Working Party on Transport Statistics

Seventieth session

Geneva, 12-14 June 2019

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Summary of decisions

Draft

Summary of Decisions¹

1. The session of the Working Party was attended by the following countries and international organizations; Austria; Azerbaijan; Canada; Czechia; Denmark; Finland; Hungary; Ireland; Israel; Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovenia; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat, via Webex); World Health Organization (WHO); European Commission (EC) (DG MOVE and Eurostat); European Union Agency for Railways (ERA); International Transport Forum (ITF); International Union of Railways (UIC); and International Road Federation (IRF). From the private sector, Transports Publics Genevois (TPG) attended.

Agenda item 1

2. The Working Party adopted its agenda.

Agenda item 2

Workshop on urban public transport statistics

3. The Working Party welcomed the presentations delivered by Canada, Denmark, and the United Kingdom, UN-Habitat and TPG on the subject of urban public transport statistics.

4. The Working Party agreed to further explore collecting statistics on trams and metros, in cooperation with the ITF and Eurostat if they wish. Data availability will be assessed by means of a survey sent by the Secretariat, which member States are asked to fill in. Of particular interest would be city-specific information, if possible to collect. Passenger

¹ Following the session, the ECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair, will establish the report of the session for formal transmission to the Inland Transport Committee in February 2020.

numbers and passenger-km would be the collection focus. In addition, a shared space where country or city practices can be collated will be explored.

5. The Working Party considered topics for next year's workshop, and a suggestion was made of intermodal transport (including the measurement of transport chains). The Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the secretariat, will consider this suggestion and propose a theme.

Agenda item 3

UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

6. The Working Party took note of the results of the eighty-first session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) of interest to the Working Party, where the ITC strategy to 2030 was adopted.

Agenda item 4

Development of a Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs

7. The Working Party took note of the activities of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) to measure the SDGs, information on which was provided by the UNECE statistics division.

8. The Working Party took note of updates from UNCTAD, Eurostat and the Netherlands on various topics related to improved measurement of indicator 9.1.2, including modal split considerations, and which data items may be considered for inclusion in the measurement of this indicator.

9. Following these updates the Working Party agreed that more guidance on the compilation of indicator 9.1.2 was required for data production at the global level, in addition to national monitoring of the SDG indicators. At the global level, the Working Party encouraged the Secretariat to work with the ITF and the ICAO on the use of official statistics for monitoring the indicator for inland modes, and to provide better metadata. Member States are requested to provide their comments on metadata for indicator 9.1.2 by the first week of September. This would also address a current lack of modal split guidance at the international level.

10. The Working Party also agreed that better guidance on monitoring indicator 9.1.2 on the regional and national levels would be useful. The Working Party instructed the Secretariat to collate country practices, in order to work towards guidance or recommendations for national monitoring of indicator 9.1.2.

11. The Working Party took note of a presentation by the World Health Organisation on their Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018. Delegates raised concerns about the estimates made for countries in the ECE region, which differed from official statistics.

Agenda item 5 (a)

Glossary for Transport Statistics

12. The Working Party was informed about the finalisation of the Glossary for Transport Statistics, which is expected by the end of 2019. The ERA emphasised that it would be beneficial to at least publish the final PDF in English as soon as possible.

Agenda item 5 (b)
Classification system for transport statistics

13. The Working Party decided to keep this item on the agenda for its next session.

Agenda item 5 (c)
Common questionnaire

14. The Working Party took note of the availability of data collected through the Common Questionnaire for transport statistics, and welcomed the ongoing data validation exercises undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group.

15. The Working Party reaffirmed the importance of providing data for the Common Questionnaire, and encouraged non-reporting countries to at least provide top-level data.

16. The Working Party agreed that streamlining of the data collected is to be encouraged, and recommended that this be considered by the IWG in the future. Member States are invited to provide their own suggestions for streamlining of indicators that are either not published, too detailed, or of minimal analytical use.

Agenda item 5 (d)
Collection of statistics in trade in used vehicles

17. The secretary of the UNECE Working Party on Pollution and Energy (WP.29/GRPE) presented the need for better data on trade in used vehicles, where no reliable international statistics exist. Sweden also presented their practices in data production on this topic. The Working Party agreed that this was a topic worth exploring further and instructed the secretariat to consider options to take this forward, including collating pilot country practices. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

Agenda item 5 (e)
Road traffic accident statistics and rail traffic accidents

18. The Working Party took note of developments in the European Commission on the CARE road traffic accident database, and was informed about the implementation of the European Register of Infrastructure by ERA, including on ways that this data collection may be used in the future to ease the WebCoQ reporting burden.

19. The Working Party decided to continue the Level Crossing Safety Pilot Questionnaire.

Agenda item 5 (f)
Pilot questionnaire on road traffic performance

20. The Working Party decided to keep this item on the agenda for its next session.

Agenda item 5 (g)
Pilot questionnaire on bus and coach statistics

21. The Working Party was informed about the dissemination of the bus and coach statistics, and the importance of these data for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 11.

The Working Party emphasised that improved comparability across countries is needed, especially regarding the split between urban and interurban transport.

Agenda item 5 (h)

Intermodal transport statistics

22. The Working Party decided to keep this item on the agenda for its next session, with interest in expanding the topic and considering it as a theme for the workshop.

Agenda item 6

Traffic censuses in the ECE Region

23. The Working Party approved the minor changes to the recommendations for the E-Road traffic censuses as set out in ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2019/11.

24. The Working Party welcomed the dissemination of the interactive map of the E-Rail census results by the secretariat, noting at the same time that smaller segments (or ideally Shapefiles) would improve its usefulness.

25. The Working Party took note of the wish of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport to collect similar traffic data as collected in the E-Road and E-Rail censuses for the E-Inland Waterway network on inland waterways of international importance. It agreed to keep this on the agenda, and explore with Czechia data availability.

26. The Working Party took note of the potential innovative applications of both the E-Road and E-Rail censuses, such as monitoring Euro-Asian Transport Links. It emphasised that member States should consider data provision for the 2020 round, with higher quality Geospatial Information System data, a priority.

Agenda item 7

Dissemination of transport statistics by the secretariat

27. The Working Party took note of the work on the UNECE transport statistics database and the status of the publications: Statistics for Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS) and “UNECE Transport Statistics for Europe and North America,” and the timescales for their publication.

Agenda item 8

Statistical activities of member States of interest to the Working Party

28. The Working Party (during various other agenda items, and separately) received presentations from Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sweden and the United Kingdom. These all provided useful updates on country statistical practices and provoked further exchange of views.

Agenda item 9

Capacity-building activities

29. The Working Party took note of capacity building activities in the region.

Agenda item 10
Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG)

30. The Working Party took note of the IWG activities during the past year, principally concerning finalisation of the Glossary for Transport Statistics and improving WebCoQ data.

Agenda item 11
Statistical activities of international organizations of interest to the Working Party

31. The Working Party took note of information provided by DG MOVE, EUROSTAT, ERA, ITF, UIC and IRF.

Agenda Item 12
Other Business

a. Date of next session

32. The Working Party was informed that the next session is provisionally planned for 17–19 June 2020.

b. Topics for the next session.

33. The Working Party agreed to share new topics with the Secretariat for consideration for the next session.

Agenda item 13
Report and decisions

34. The report of the session will be prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Chair.