

Main achievements of the Conference of European Statisticians

HIGHLIGHTS 2011-2012

Coordinating international statistical work in the UNECE region is a key task of the Conference. Two seminars were organized in June 2011. The first one on **organization of data collection and sharing** has led to a follow-up seminar on New Frontiers for Statistical Data Collection in October 2012. The second seminar on **measuring human capital** launched a stock-taking report on what has been done so far in this complex and crucial area.

Important guidelines by UNECE Task Forces

The Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics was updated to reflect current international recommendations and best practice in household income measurement. The Task Force worked between 2009 and 2011, and was led by Australia. The Handbook is a consolidated reference for the production, dissemination and analysis of income distribution statistics, and important for the analysis of economic and social wellbeing.

Globalization has a significant impact on the economy and poses challenges to the compilers of statistics in all countries

In 2011, a Group of Experts finalized the Guide on *The Impact of Globalization on National Accounts* as a result of the cooperation of leading statisticians, Eurostat, OECD, IMF, ECB and

the World Trade Organization. The Netherlands chaired the Group as they worked between 2007 and 2011. This publication provides guidance on how to deal with the impact of globalization in compiling the national accounts.

To achieve internationally comparable measurement of the **health status of population**, a common survey instrument was developed by a Task Force, jointly with Eurostat and the World Health Organization.

Principles and framework for an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes was finalized in 2011 by a joint Task Force with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. These principles are important for improving the international comparability of crime statistics, which is a challenge due to differences in legislation and justice systems of countries.

Crime statistics is an area where international comparability is very difficult to achieve

A Task Force prepared a report on *International Migration Estimates Using Different Length of Stay Definitions*. The report assesses the possible consequences of the different approaches on migration estimates.

New publications

Two new publications were prepared in support of migration statistics: *A Practical Guide for Countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia on Migration Statistics*, jointly with the UN Population Fund, and a *Review of Sources and Quality of Statistics on International Migration*. This is in response to a High-level Dialogue on International Migration at the UN General Assembly which concluded that international migration could play an important role in national development, if supported by the right strategies.

The Conference endorsed **the vision** of the High-Level Group on Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics in June 2011. Modernization of statistical production was also the topic of two

specialized publications: general guidelines on *Using Administrative and Secondary Sources for Official Statistics* and *Principles and Guidelines on Building Multilingual Applications for Official Statistics* were developed to enable international exchange of software as a tool for global standardisation.



In order to improve the usefulness of economic statistics for economic policy making and analysis, a *Practical Guide to*

Seasonal Adjustment was published in a joint effort with the World Bank and Turkey, and is of particular interest for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Guidance on the *Measurement of Different Emerging Forms of Households and Families* was published in response to the major changes in family formation, dissolution and reconstitution during the last decade. These emerging forms of families pose challenges to the statisticians.

Part 3 - A Guide to Communicating with the Media was added to the series of *Making Data Meaningful* guides. It helps to find ways to get messages across effectively. The popular *UNECE Countries in Figures 2011* publication was released with the latest social and economic profiles of 56 UNECE countries.

The Conference launched new work

The CES Bureau carried out in-depth reviews of education statistics, global manufacturing and household survey methods to identify possible gaps and the need for international work in these areas. As a result, a **Task Force on Global Production** was established to develop practical guidance on issues that need further attention after publishing the Guide on the Impact of Globalization.

A **Task Force on Statistical Business Registers** (SBR) was launched to consider possibilities of streamlining statistical production using the SBR and to develop good practices guidelines.

A **Task Force on Climate Change Related Statistics** started its work to identify the scope of this area and practical steps for meeting statistical user needs related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The aim is also to explore the needs of the greenhouse gas emission inventory producers for source data from national statistical systems.

An **Expert Group on Measuring Quality of Employment** was set up to follow up on the issues identified in the report on *Potential Indicators for Measurement of Quality of Employment* and to develop operational definitions and guidelines.

Capacity building and data work

In 2011-2012, UNECE held 19 **Capacity Building Workshops** in a number of areas, such as the 2008 System of National Accounts, Consumer Price Indices, Seasonal Adjustment, MDG indicators, population and housing censuses, gender statistics, migration statistics, environment and waste statistics.

Two **Global Assessments** of national statistical systems were carried out jointly with Eurostat and EFTA in the Kyrgyz Republic and Ukraine. Global Assessments are also planned for Georgia, Belarus, Moldova and Tajikistan. The process supports development of national statistics and informs international donors of countries' challenges, while it promotes compliance with the Fundamental Principles and other international standards.

Together with Eurostat and EFTA, UNECE conducts global assessments of national statistical systems of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

The UNECE on-line **Statistical Database** offers a range of statistics on UNECE countries via English and Russian interfaces. It provides data with gender breakdown. It also offers a source for preparing brief articles on economic and social development in the UNECE region for the *UNECE Weekly*. In 2011, a **Regional Millennium Development Goals Database** covering all eight MDG goals was launched.