

**UNECE/ILO/EUROSTAT TASK FORCE ON THE MEASUREMENT
OF THE QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT**

Progress report

Note prepared by the Task Force on Measuring the Quality of Employment

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Task Force on the Measurement of the Quality of Employment (TF MQE) was established by the Bureau of the CES in June 2007. The TF was created following the recommendation of the April 2007 UNECE/ILO/Eurostat Seminar on the Quality of Work, with the goal of revising and streamlining the draft Conceptual Framework discussed at the Seminar of April 2007 and to test the feasibility (validity) of proposed indicators.
2. The following countries participate in the Task Force: Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy and Poland. The representatives from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living Conditions, WIEGO and EC-DG Employment are also participating. Mexico, Moldova and Ukraine expressed their interest in joining the TF in 2009, starting with the second TF meeting.
3. A Steering Committee (SC), composed of Canada (acting as Chair of the TF), UNECE/Statistics, ILO and EC/Eurostat, was constituted to lead and provide direction to the activities of the TF.

II. ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

4. The SC decided to proceed with the redraft of the Conceptual framework in two stages:
 - (a) Identification and description of the main dimensions of employment to assess;
 - (b) Identification of the appropriate indicators for measuring quality of employment.
5. In addition, and depending on the financial support from the EC/DG Employment, it was decided to subcontract outside experts – preferably from one of the national statistical offices - to undertake the validation study for the proposed indicators.

6. The work of the TF progressed well and to the extent possible according to the initial working plan:

(a) The dimensions part of the conceptual framework document has been redrafted and reviewed by the TF members (see ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/17/Add.1);

(b) The initial list of indicators populating dimensions was tested and analysed by the TF members at the national level (each dimension was assigned to one or two TF members), with the aim to accept, reject or add new indicators;

(c) The results of this exercise were discussed at the first TF meeting in Paris in June 2008. The amended list of indicators with all the comments and suggestions was reviewed once more by the TF members shortly after the meeting. On this basis, the SC prepared a short list of indicators for the validation study (see ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/17/Add.1);

(d) The draft conceptual framework on the Measurement of the Quality of Employment and the working list of indicators was explicitly referred to in the main discussion paper for the ILO's Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Measurement of Decent Work (held in September 2008). Several TF members took part in this meeting;

(e) In the second half of 2008, the SC was actively involved in securing the financial support from the EC/DG Employment. The project - under the broader agenda of the EC-ILO cooperation "Enhancing the understanding of decent work issues by developing decent work indicators" - was finally approved in October 2008 with resources (Euro 100 000) made available for the validation study from December 2008;

(f) The SC issued a call for tender to the national statistical offices participating in the TF in November 2008.

7. Taking the delays into account (the validation study postponed from September 2008 to start in January/February 2009), the SC had to amend the TF working plan by postponing the second TF meeting for discussion of the studies' preliminary findings to May 2009 and the Joint UNECE/ILO/Eurostat Seminar on Quality of Employment to September/October 2009.

8. The SC plans to submit a final report of the TF including the Conceptual Framework and the list of Indicators for the Measurement of the Quality of Employment to the Conference of European Statisticians in 2010.

Attention of the Bureau is drawn to:

9. The Bureau is invited to comment on the draft conceptual framework and the proposed dimensions and indicators for measuring quality of employment, as indicated in ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/17/Add.1 sections VII and VIII.

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