

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2021/2022 Bureau
Geneva (online), 13-14 October 2021

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will be held as an online meeting on 13 and 14 October starting at 14:00 Geneva time (UTC+2), and finishing around 17:00 – 18:00.

The meeting will be held in English only. The documents for the meeting will be uploaded on the following website: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/bureau/CES+Bureau> (username: ces; password: bureau8).

Due to the reduced length of the meeting, selected agenda items will be discussed during the meeting (indicated in green in the text below) while others will be considered through a written consultation before the meeting (indicated in blue). The Bureau will be informed about the outcome of the written consultations.

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I. OPENING BY PADRAIG DALTON

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews in depth selected statistical areas. The aim of the reviews is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues. The reviews often lead to new work in topical areas and tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations.

(a) Subjective poverty measures – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/2 by Poland)

2. The in-depth review of subjective poverty measures will be based on a paper by Poland. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(b) Measuring non-observed/informal economy – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/3 by Mexico)

3. The in-depth review of measuring non-observed/informal economy will be based on a paper by Mexico. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

III. UNECE Statistical Programme

4. Under this agenda item, the draft programme of work for the UNECE Statistical Division in 2022 will be presented to the Bureau for approval. The discussion will focus on new or substantially changed activities of the work programme. The Bureau will also be invited to review the work of some steering groups and task forces under CES.

(a) Organization of meetings – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/4 by UNECE)

5. The lockdowns due to Covid-19 have made it necessary to change the way meetings are organized under the UNECE Statistical Programme. Since March 2020, many meetings were converted into online format. Also hybrid meetings were held in some areas allowing both online and physical participation. With increasing levels of vaccination, some countries are lifting restrictions and more physical participation may become possible (although this trend may be reversed as the situation evolves).

6. Online, hybrid and physical meetings each have their advantages and disadvantages. This is influenced by the change in people's views and expectations towards modalities of international cooperation and participation in meetings due to the increased use of remote

working. The technical and resource implications of the support that can be offered by the UN Conference Management Section in Geneva also have to be taken into account. Therefore it will be timely to have a strategic discussion on how meetings under the Statistical Programme will be organised in future, including meetings of the CES Bureau.

7. The Bureau is invited to share their views on different modalities for holding meetings.

(b) Population and housing censuses: preparation of recommendations for the 2030 round (Terms of Reference) – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/5 by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses)

8. The Bureau discussed in February 2021 the work plan for developing recommendations for the 2030 round of censuses. A set of task forces is planned to be set up under the Steering Group for developing the new census recommendations (covering 13 thematic areas, with the final number dependent on group membership). The Bureau expressed strong support for the work and requested the Steering Group to proceed with the tasks outlined in the document.

9. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the Terms of Reference for the task forces to develop the new census recommendations.

(c) Gender statistics and the Covid-19 pandemic (report on the outcome of the work) – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/6 by the Steering Group on Gender Statistics)

10. In May 2020, the Steering Group on Gender Statistics started to explore the development of a minimum set of questions to add to household surveys to measure the differentiated impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men. The Bureau discussed and supported the proposal in October 2020. The Steering Group will present the report with the proposed minimum set of survey questions and proposals for further work.

11. The Bureau is invited to provide comments and approve the report, and consider further work.

(d) Measurement of gender identity (report on the outcome of the work) – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/7 by UNECE)

12. As a follow-up to the in-depth review of measurement of gender identity, the CES Bureau established in October 2019 a task team on measuring gender identity, to develop a networking platform for countries interested in this topic. The task team carried out a survey to gather information about activities related to gender identity undertaken in the CES member countries, summarized the results and established a repository of information and documents (accessible to interested countries under a password).

13. The Bureau will be invited to approve the results of the work.

(e) Statistics on children, adolescents and youth (progress report) – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/8 by the Task Force)

14. The Bureau set up a Task Force on statistics on children, adolescents and youth in February 2020 and reviewed its work plan in October 2020. The Task Force is providing an overview of existing definitions, standards and methods, and recommendations for statistical

offices and for future international work. The final report is scheduled for submission to the 2022 plenary session for endorsement (to be reviewed by the Bureau in February 2022).

15. The Bureau is invited to review the progress report and provide recommendations for the final part of the work.

(f) Data stewardship (interim report) – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/9 by the Task Force)

16. The Bureau set up the Task Force on data stewardship in February 2021 to clarify the terms related to data stewardship and public data governance, and the tasks of NSOs that this may include in different settings. According to its terms of reference, the group is planned to present an interim report to the CES Bureau in October 2021.

17. The Bureau is invited to review the interim report of the Task Force and provide advice on further work.

(g) Hazardous events and disasters (progress report and further work) – *for decision (written consultation)*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/10 by the Task Force)

18. The Bureau set up the Task Force on measuring hazardous events and disasters in February 2020 to support the implementation of the *Recommendations on the role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters* which CES endorsed in June 2019. The group was tasked with preparing practical guidance; statistical operationalization of terms, definitions and classifications used in disaster risk management; developing a recommended set of core statistics and indicators; and establishing a community of practice.

19. The work was strongly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic (a biological disaster). The Task Force focused its activities on providing immediate support to guide statistical offices in dealing with the pandemic (e.g. via a wiki platform and webinars). The Task Force organised a very successful online meeting in spring 2021 in cooperation with all five UN regional commissions, UNSD and UNDRR. These developments have made it necessary to adjust the work plan and timing of the planned activities, including extending the deadline for the work.

20. The Bureau will be invited to review a progress report of the Task Force and extend its mandate.

(h) Statistical programme for 2022 – *for decision (written consultation)*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/11 by UNECE)

21. Under this agenda item, the Bureau will be invited to review and approve the Statistical Programme for 2022.

IV. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2021 CES PLENARY SESSION

(a) Post-Covid: sustaining innovation in NSOs organisation and working arrangements – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/12 by New Zealand, Poland and UNECE)

22. The CES 2021 plenary session discussed how NSOs and international organizations innovated in their working arrangements to adapt to COVID-19 and how they can transition to

a ‘new normal’ coming out of the crisis. The Conference asked the Bureau to reflect on what further activities may be needed to reinforce and disseminate the lessons learned from the pandemic, identifying which changes can have positive impacts over the longer term, and what role the international community can play in consolidating these.

23. The Bureau is invited to discuss a proposal for further work in this area and decide on the next steps.

(b) Official statistics for climate action – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/13 by the Steering Group)

24. The CES 2021 plenary session discussed the role of NSOs in providing statistics for climate action and addressing the large information needs in a coherent and sustainable way. The Conference recognized the increasing need for climate change-related statistics and data, and the key role national statistical offices must play in meeting this need. The Conference noted that producing climate change-related statistics and data requires systemic approaches, linking various statistical fields, innovation, collaboration across the national statistical system, and effective communication with users.

25. The Bureau is invited to discuss a proposal for follow-up to the session, and decide on the next steps.

(c) How national statistical systems adhere to the core values of official statistics – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/14 by Ireland and UNECE)

26. The CES session ‘How national statistical systems adhere to the core values of official statistics’ concluded with a proposal to initiate a conversation within the official statistics community to elaborate a list of core values of official statistics. The Bureau was asked to oversee this work, including mapping the core values to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and defining behaviours that support the core values and implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

27. The Bureau is invited to discuss and decide on the next steps.

(d) Evaluation of the 69th plenary session – *for information (written consultation)*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/15 by UNECE)

28. The results of the evaluation of the 2021 CES plenary session will be distributed to Bureau members for information.

V. PREPARATION OF THE CES 2022 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Topics for the 2022 plenary session – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/16 by UNECE)

29. The CES 2022 plenary session is planned to take place on 20-22 a.m. June 2022 in Geneva, back-to-back with the OECD CSSP meeting (the dates and venue still to be confirmed but currently rooms have been allocated for these dates in the Palais des Nations, Geneva).

30. The agenda of the plenary session has to take into account that there will be (i) a joint session with the UN-GGIM: Europe (following a CES decision in 2020); (ii) proposal to hold

a joint session with OECD CSSP (the joint sessions in 2020 and 2021 were well appreciated by participants), and (iii) marking the 30th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

31. The Bureau is invited to discuss the preliminary agenda of the CES plenary session in 2022 based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

(b) CES guidelines and recommendations for endorsement in 2022: Measuring the value of official statistics – *for decision (written consultation)*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/17 by the Task Force)

32. In June 2019, the CES Bureau established a Task Force to test and further develop the framework for measuring the value of official statistics, as a follow-up to the *Recommendations for Promoting, Measuring and Communicating the Value of Official Statistics* that CES endorsed in 2017. In 2020, the Bureau discussed the work of the Task Force and extended the group's mandate to take into account the changes entailed by the Covid-19 crisis.

33. The CES Bureau is invited to review the draft report of the Task Force and decide if it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the 2022 CES plenary session for endorsement.

VI. DATES AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS – *for decision*

34. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venues of the next Bureau meetings and the next CES plenary sessions.

35. At its February 2021 meeting, the Bureau decided on its next meetings as follows:

- 16-17 February 2022 (venue tbc)
- 12-13 October 2022
- 15-16 February 2023

36. The 70th CES plenary session is planned to take place on 20-22 a.m. June 2022 in Geneva (tbc), back-to-back with the OECD CSSP and UN-GGIM: Europe meetings.

37. The 71st CES plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 26-30 June 2023 in Paris.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

38. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item.

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