

**INF. 1**

7 July 2022

ENGLISH ONLY

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS  
**Group of Experts on Migration Statistics**  
Geneva, Switzerland, 26–28 October 2022

## CALL FOR PAPERS

- **Inform secretariat** of your [intention to submit paper](#) by **25 July**
- **Submit written paper** using [this template](#) by **16 September**

### I. PURPOSE

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is organizing the meeting of the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics from 26 to 28 October 2022.
2. The call for papers 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.

### II. INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

3. Participants are welcome to submit a paper and/or presentation in English or Russian languages on any topic described in section IV. The papers and presentations will be translated within the limits of the translation capacity available and subject to compliance with deadlines for submission.
4. The papers will be made available on the [meeting webpage](#).
5. UNECE Steering Group on Migration Statistics will review all submissions and, if need be, select the papers to be presented at the meeting.

6. Instructions and deadlines for preparing presentation slides will be sent by email to the selected presenters in due course.
7. Please take note of the following deadlines:

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Please use this [online form](#):

- 25 July 2022
- to express your **intention** to contribute a paper (indicate tentative title and agenda item); and
  - to submit a short **abstract** (100–200 words) in English or Russian.

A message shall be sent to all submitting authors to confirm that their abstract has been received.

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- 16 September 2022
- Submit the full final version of your **paper** in Word to Mr.°Paolo Valente [paolo.valente@un.org](mailto:paolo.valente@un.org) with a copy to [social.stats@un.org](mailto:social.stats@un.org).

Please use [this template](#) and follow the instructions in it.

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- 30 September 2022
- All participants attending the meeting of the Group of Experts must **register** online by 30 September 2022 (participants funded by UNECE by 25 July 2022) by completing [the online registration form](#)

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8. Contributors are reminded that success of the meeting depends upon the ability to translate papers and presentations in advance, thus giving an opportunity to all participants to read the papers before the meeting. Therefore, these deadlines must be strictly adhered to.

### III. TOPICS OF THE MEETING

Improvements in use of administrative data for migration statistics

Use of new data sources for measuring migration statistics

Post pandemic migration flows

Measuring large flows of refugees

Measuring undocumented migration

Measuring emigration

Results on migration from the 2020 population census round

Measuring remittances

## **IV. EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE TOPICS**

### **Improvements in use of administrative data for migration statistics**

9. 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.

### **Use of new data sources for measuring migration statistics**

10. The final report of the UNECE Task force on the use of new data sources for measuring international migration was endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2022. The report and the online Database on Innovations in Migration Statistics (DIMiS) will be presented, and feedback will be collected on their promotion and the development of the database. Countries are invited to present their experiences on the use of new data sources (including social media and big data) and innovations to produce statistics on international migration.

### **Post pandemic migration flows**

11. For over two years the Covid-19 pandemic affected public health and social and economic life. From the point of view of migration, many international migration flows suddenly stopped or reduced. Different kinds of restrictions to travel were adopted by many countries and changed many times, making migration flows often irregular, unpredictable, and more difficult to measure. In the course of 2022, the effects of the pandemic weakened in most countries, and the situation returned almost normal, including with regard to international travel. Will international migration return to the same “pre-Covid” level and trends? Will specific migration flows become even more important than before 2020, to compensate for the absence of migration, or exceptional return migration observed during the pandemic? Countries will be invited to share information the short term and expected long term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on migration flows.

### **Measuring large flows of refugees**

12. The military conflict in Ukraine resulted in refugee flows of unprecedented size in the region in recent times. Information on these flows is required by receiving countries and humanitarian agencies in order to plan and provide assistance to refugees. International organizations could share information available about refugee flows in the region. Countries could discuss issues such as: ways to extend normal data collections to produce data on

refugees; whether information is collected on where they live and what are their social and economic conditions.

### **Measuring undocumented migration**

13. The collection of data about undocumented migrants (sometimes called irregular migrants) remains a significant challenge in many countries. Although this population group is often at the centre of the 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, their records are less formalized, or because their very presence entails a legal violation, as it is the case in some countries. 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**

14. While in many countries the focus is often on immigration, for some countries emigration is also very important, particularly when emigration flows are important 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 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.

### **Results on migration from the 2020 population census round**

15. While many countries in the region are still conducting the census operations, that in some cases were disrupted or postponed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, in some countries the first census results may be available. At this session, countries may present the first results of their census on migration data, including on the impact of the Covid pandemic on their census operations and results.

### **Measuring remittances**

16. In this session, countries will share experiences on the measurement of remittances. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, countries may have implemented changes in data sources and collection method used to produce statistics on remittances. These include the use of administrative data to replace household surveys and the transition to electronic data transmission instead of using paper. Countries could also present results on the flows and volumes of remittances, showing the impact of the decline in migration resulting from the pandemic. The use of the Harmonised Module on Migration and Remittances in countries in

Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia will also be reviewed, taking into account the update related to the Covid-19 pandemic proposed in 2021.

## **V. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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