



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses

Twenty-fifth Meeting

Geneva, 20–22 September 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Annotated provisional agenda

The Meeting of the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9:30 am on Wednesday 20 September 2023.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Lessons learned from censuses of the 2020 round.
3. Upcoming censuses in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
4. Revising the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 round
 - (a) Emergency preparedness and contingency planning;
 - (b) Quality assessment and quality management;
 - (c) Enumeration methods;
 - (d) Technology;
 - (e) Population concepts and related definitions;
 - (f) Economic characteristics;
 - (g) Migration and mobility (national and international);
 - (h) Household & family characteristics;
 - (i) Sex and gender;
 - (j) Housing topics;
 - (k) Geospatial information and small area statistics for censuses;
 - (l) Dissemination of disaggregated census data;
 - (m) Communication and outreach.
5. The future of population statistics.
6. Other business.



II. Annotations

The meeting is organized following the provisions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Draft programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2023¹, adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) as documented in its 2022 report².

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

UNECE, in cooperation with partners, regularly organizes meetings of the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses. The aims of these meetings are: to facilitate exchange of experience among countries; to increase knowledge of issues related to planning and conducting population and housing censuses; and to promote the development and implementation of the CES Recommendations for the Censuses of Population and Housing. This results in increased capacity by countries to plan and conduct their national population and housing censuses and to produce internationally comparable data. In particular, a major aim of the 2023 meeting is to engage the community of experts in developing the CES Recommendations for the 2030 round of censuses.

2. Lessons learned from censuses of the 2020 round

The large majority of countries in the UNECE region have now completed their censuses for the 2020 round. Every census gives rise to learning—what went well, what could have been done better, what might be done differently in the future. This session invites contributions on all kinds of lessons in any aspect of census planning, operations and engagement, and/or key findings from census data, insofar as they can offer valuable insights for the international community which may help shape censuses of the future. Priority will be given in this session to those countries whose censuses have taken place since the 2022 meeting.

3. Upcoming censuses in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

A very small number of countries will not yet have conducted their census by the time of the Meeting of the Group of Experts. These countries are invited to share information about their final planning and expectations, including how the results of pilot studies have impacted plans. In particular, countries are encouraged to share with the international community any innovative approaches that they plan to employ in their upcoming censuses.

4. Revising the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 round

The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) has established 13 thematic task forces to revise and update the CES Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, with the aim of producing a new edition in 2025 to guide censuses of the 2030 round. The task forces have been working since late 2022, focusing initially on designing a comprehensive questionnaire for all member countries to understand the experiences and the practices followed across the region in the 2020 round. More than 150 experts are involved in the groups. In this session, each task force will present their current thinking and ideas, and will use the session as an opportunity to invite further insights from among the community of experts.

¹ ECE/CES/2022/16/Add.1, available from: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ECE_CES_2022_16_Add.1-2238117E.pdf

² ECE/CES/103, *Report of the seventieth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians* para. 53, available from <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/G2246236.pdf>

The session will include a contribution from each of the following task forces. Contributions from countries or international organizations are also welcome on any of these topics, especially where the content of such contributions could provide valuable insights for the work of the task forces.

- (a) Emergency preparedness and contingency planning
- (b) Quality assessment and quality management
- (c) Enumeration methods
- (d) Technology
- (e) Population concepts and related definitions
- (f) Economic characteristics
- (g) Migration and mobility (national and international)
- (h) Household & family characteristics
- (i) Sex and gender
- (j) Housing topics
- (k) Geospatial information and small area statistics for censuses
- (l) Dissemination of disaggregated census data
- (m) Communication and outreach.

5. The future of population statistics

As the cyclical process of revising and updating the census Recommendations for the 2030 round continues, some commentators are looking towards the future with a very different perspective—asking what a census is for, what needs it answers, and whether, indeed, a census is the best model to answer these needs. With increasing moves away from direct enumeration in favour of registers and administrative sources, combined with a shifting balance in user priorities between the various quality dimensions such as timeliness, accuracy and relevance, some believe that statistics on population and migration will eventually be produced in permanent integrated systems without the need for a census or census-like information. This session will include a debate among thought leaders on the topic. Individual contributions, or expressions of interest to participate in the debate, are also welcomed.

6. Other business

In this session participants may discuss additional census-related items proposed by the Secretariat or by other participants.
