

UNECE work ON STATISTICS



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UNECE work on statistics is performed in close cooperation with more than 60 countries under the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), established in 1953. CES gathers the **heads of national statistical offices** of UNECE member States, **OECD** member countries and **international organizations** including OECD, Eurostat, IMF, World Bank, CIS-Stat, EFTA, the European Central Bank, and several UN agencies. **Other countries**, such as Brazil and Colombia, also contribute to CES work.

Cooperation under CES guides international statistical work in the region, helping countries to align their priorities, identify new and shared challenges, and work together to address them. It also maximizes resource use and avoids duplication.

Impact and global reach

CES work
shapes
the way statistics
are produced
across the world

The [Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics](#), developed and adopted by CES in 1991, were **endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly** in 2014. They now serve as the **core guiding principles for all producers of official statistics**, whether national or international, worldwide.

The guidelines on [measuring sustainable development](#), first published by CES in **2009** in cooperation with OECD and Eurostat, were among the earliest efforts to find ways to measure such a complex phenomenon. The CES [Roadmap on Statistics for Sustainable Development](#) now helps countries to produce information on progress towards the **SDGs**. **45 countries** have developed or are building [national reporting platforms](#) for SDG indicators and **a self-assessment tool developed by CES** helps countries assess their abilities to report on SDG indicators.

A suite of 5 models endorsed by CES serves as a toolkit to **modernize the way statistical offices operate**. One of these, the [Generic Statistical Business Process Model \(GSBPM\)](#) is in use in **nearly half of UNECE member States** as well as many other countries around the world.

Key **guides on statistical methodology** developed by CES have become **global references**, including guides on [dealing with the impact of globalization on national accounts](#), [developing gender statistics](#), [making data meaningful](#), and [harmonizing time-use surveys](#).

Since the 1950s, CES regional recommendations have guided UNECE countries in conducting [population and housing censuses](#). For the 2020 census round, two thirds of UNECE countries will use **innovative methods**, following CES guidelines. Guided by CES census recommendations and the 2019 global assessment of its statistical system, **Uzbekistan will conduct its first census since 1989**.

The UNECE [statistical database](#) provides data on economies, population, gender equality and migration. Working directly with countries and international organizations, UNECE ensures **international comparability** on policy-relevant topics. In 2018 for the first time UNECE and UN Women worked together to gather data on **women's representation in local government**.

Pushing the boundaries of official statistics

CES groups of experts develop statistical guidance in pioneering areas where measurement is crucial but notoriously difficult:

Climate change – in 2014 CES produced the first ever recommendations on climate change-related statistics. Experts are now developing a set of **key climate-change related indicators** on pressing issues—**economic and social costs** of climate change, **vulnerability**, and **adaptation to climate change**.

International migration: CES recommendations guide countries to measure **circular migration (2016)** and **labour mobility (2019)** and to **integrate data sources (2019)**.

Expanding the **measurement of well-being** beyond GDP per head, to include subjective, perception-based measures.

measuring **human capital**, valuing **unpaid household work**, measuring **global production** and assessing **quality of employment**.

new statistical needs resulting from social and political change: measuring **gender identity**, measuring **social exclusion**, rethinking **statistical communication** and coordinating the production of statistics on **hazardous events and disasters**.

CES also develops and shares new techniques, tools and approaches to data processing: **machine learning**, use of **Big Data**, modern methods for conducting **censuses**, and **data integration** and **data sharing** techniques that combine increased efficiency with better privacy protection.

Developing capacity

- UNECE has conducted **assessments of statistical systems** in 11 countries (**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan**). Jointly conducted with Eurostat and EFTA, these review countries' statistical systems in a holistic way and provide recommendations to improve national capacity to produce official statistics.
- **Chile, Malta, Norway, Rwanda, Slovakia and Switzerland** are applying **CES Guidance on Modernizing Statistical Legislation** to revise their statistical laws. The guidance, **endorsed by more than 65 countries**, provides a stronger legal basis for statistics in support of informed decisions to improve lives.
- **Moldova, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan** adopted **new statistical legislation** in 2018 based on the UNECE Generic Law on Official Statistics
- Guided by a **CES toolkit**, countries are improving how they **communicate gender statistics**. National workshops in the **Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan** as well as regional workshops for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and for the Asia-Pacific region have helped countries ensure that users can find, understand and interpret statistics on **gender equality**.