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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Statistical Division

# **Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration:**

**United Nations  
Economic Commission for Europe**

Tenth United Nations Coordination Meeting on Migration  
New York, 9-10 February 2012



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# UNECE objective



Strengthening the capacity of countries of  
Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central  
Asia to develop evidence-based policies on  
international migration

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# How?



1. Improving availability and quality of statistics
2. Establishing networks for exchange of data and information
3. Improving capacity to utilize statistical data for analysis and policymaking

# Activities and outputs

1. Three capacity building workshops
  - Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Feb 2010
  - Istanbul (Turkey), Dec 2010
  - Antalya (Turkey), Oct 2011
2. Review of data sources and quality
3. Practical guide
4. Data clearinghouse
5. Migratory: online inventory of sources

# 1. Workshops

- ❖ Participants: statistical offices, migration services, ministries
- ❖ Discussing the application of international recommendations in national migration statistics
- ❖ Identifying data gaps
- ❖ Proposing practical steps to improve international comparability and reduce gaps
- ❖ Developing tools
- ❖ Identifying capacity building needs

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## 2. Review of data sources and quality



- ❖ Overview of existing systems of migration data collection
- ❖ Potential for development
- ❖ Assessment of data quality
- ❖ Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan
- ❖ Published in English



### 3. Practical guide

- ❖ Explains key issues for producing and understanding migration statistics
- ❖ Focuses on Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- ❖ Combines theoretical and practical aspects
- ❖ Published in English and Russian

### 3. Practical guide

- ❖ Definitions
- ❖ Indicators
- ❖ Sources
- ❖ Special categories (labour, forced, irregular)
- ❖ Presenting and interpreting
- ❖ Providing access
- ❖ International sources

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## 4. UNECE Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics



- ❖ Requested by countries
- ❖ Online repository of basic migration statistics for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (10 countries participating)
- ❖ PC-Axis interface in English and Russian
- ❖ Should improve the availability and comparability of data

# UNECE Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics



Table 1.1: Population by place of birth

Table 1.2: Foreign born population by country of birth

Table 2.1: Population by citizenship status

Table 2.2: Foreigners by country of citizenship

Table 3: Long-term immigration by country of previous residence (flows)

Table 4: Long term emigration by country of next residence (flows)

Table 5.1: Long-term immigration by citizenship status (flows)

Table 5.2: Long-term immigration by country of citizenship (flows)

Table 6.1: Long-term emigration by citizenship status (flows)

Table 6.2: Long-term emigration by country of citizenship (flows)

Table 7.1: Acquisitions of citizenship by status of receiver

Table 7.2: Acquisitions of citizenship by country of previous citizenship

## 5. “migratory”

- ❖ Online inventory of institutions and other information sources on migration in the UNECE region; currently 1914 entries
  - location
  - website
  - contact details
  - short summary of activities
  - category (government, non-profit, academic, international, other)
- ❖ Purpose: to encourage cooperation and facilitate networking



# Partnerships

- ❖ UN regional commissions
- ❖ UN Population Division
- ❖ UNFPA
- ❖ IOM
- ❖ OSCE
- ❖ ILO
- ❖ World Bank

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# Conclusion



- ❖ Improved capacity to produce and disseminate migration statistics according to international recommendations
- ❖ Improved capacity to use migration statistics in policymaking
- ❖ Structural change in institutions that manage migration in four countries
- ❖ New regulations on data sharing in some countries
- ❖ Stronger networks

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# Future



- ❖ Training of policymakers on interpreting and using statistics
- ❖ Coordination and joint efforts of international organizations
- ❖ Improve dialogue between producers and users of statistics
- ❖ Statistical capacities require further improvement