

**UNECE**

# **Conference of European Statisticians** **Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses** **of Population and Housing**



**UNITED NATIONS**



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

# Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing



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## PREFACE

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The main objectives of the *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing* are:

- (a) to provide guidance and assistance to countries in the planning and execution of their population and housing censuses; and
- (b) to facilitate and improve the comparability of census at the UN regional level through the identification of a core set of census topics<sup>1</sup> and the harmonization of concepts, definitions and classifications.

The Recommendations are also expected to be used as the general framework for the European Union programme for the 2021 round of population and housing censuses from which data are to be provided to Eurostat by Member States under the provisions of Regulation (EC) 763/2008.

The present Recommendations were prepared between September 2012 and May 2015 under the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), and were adopted by the CES at its 63rd plenary session in June 2015. The Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) organized this work in close collaboration with Eurostat and in conjunction with the revision of the global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses: the 2020 Round*<sup>2</sup> by the UN Statistics Division in New York. Account was also taken of the *Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization* adopted by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians held in Geneva on 2-11 October 2013.

In order to coordinate such a diverse undertaking, a Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses consisting of representatives of UNECE, Eurostat and a number of Member States was established. The Steering Group coordinated the work of a number of topic-related Task Forces that were established to prepare drafts of the various chapters that would cover most of the recommendations. In addition, some of the recommendations, which did not fall within the scope of the main topic themes, were prepared by individual members of the Steering Group.

Each of the Task Forces had a designated lead representative. Their membership comprised expert officials from National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and international organisations across the UNECE region, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat). To ensure that each country had the opportunity to participate in the discussions on the structure and content of the draft recommendations from each Task Force, meetings were held in Geneva in 2013 and 2014 to which all UNECE Member States were invited. Most countries attended, and a number provided written submissions in addition to the drafts prepared by each of the Task Forces. The organisers were particularly grateful for the support of the Russian Federation, Eurostat and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) who funded the attendance of experts from a number of countries.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "topic" refers to the subject regarding which information is to be sought for each unit enumerated in the census (person, household, dwelling or building)

<sup>2</sup> *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses: the 2020 Round - Revision 3*; United Nations, New York 2015.

## Acknowledgements

The following members of the UNECE Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses contributed to the preparation of the Recommendations: Marc Hamel (Canada, Chair of the Steering Group), Giampaolo Lanzieri (Eurostat), David Thorogood (Eurostat), Eric Schulte Nordholt (Netherlands), Garnett Compton (United Kingdom), Ian White (United Kingdom), Arona Pistiner (United States), and Paolo Valente (UNECE).

The following experts led the work of the UNECE Task Forces:

- Eric Schulte Nordholt (Netherlands), Task Force on Methodology
- Janusz Dygaszewicz (Poland), Task Force on Technology
- Alistair Calder (United Kingdom), Task Force on Costs and Benefits
- Peter Benton (United Kingdom), Task Force on Quality and Coverage
- Harald Utne (Norway) and Giampaolo Lanzieri (Eurostat), Task Force on Population Bases and Geographic Characteristics
- Howard Hogan (United States), Task Force on Demographic, Household and Family Characteristics
- Kaija Ruotsalainen and Jari Nieminen (Finland), Task Force on Economic and Educational Characteristics
- Jane Badets (Canada), Task Force on Migration and Ethno-Cultural Characteristics
- Adelheid Bauer (Austria), Task Force on Housing Characteristics

Further specific contributions were provided by Jairo Castano (FAO), Elisa Benes (ILO), Friedrich Huebler (UNESCO), and Mitchell Loeb (United States).

Ian White edited the final text of the Recommendations and contributed much to the work of each of the Task Forces. The Russian version of the Recommendations was edited by the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Altogether, over 100 census experts from National Statistical Institutes and international organizations participated in the preparation of the Recommendations.

UNECE is grateful to all these experts for their contribution.

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