

# The UNECE work on migration statistics: working with countries to develop a demand-driven agenda

Paolo Valente  
UNECE Statistical Division

54th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Side event: Developing institutional capacities for better data on migration for evidence-based policymaking

17 February 2023





# Content of the presentation



**STATISTICS**

## UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

- What is the UNECE
- What UNECE does in statistics

### Methodological work, capacity development and support to countries on migration statistics

- Annual expert meetings and workshops
- Guidelines and practical recommendations
- Monitoring implementation of recommendations
- Technical support to countries

## How to develop a demand-driven agenda



**UNECE**

# Part 1

# UNECE





# What is the UNECE



## STATISTICS

- 1 of the 5 UN regional commissions
- Major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration and cooperation
- Intergovernmental agency (56 member countries, but open to all UN member states)



# UNECE geographical coverage



**STATISTICS**





# What UNECE does in statistics



## STATISTICS

- **Meetings and workshops**
  - Exchange statistical experiences/practices, promote cooperation
- **Methodological work**
  - Develop guidelines on statistical methodology with experts from national and international statistical organizations
- **Capacity Development**
  - Provide technical cooperation/training/support to member countries
- **Statistical databases**

## Part 2

# **Methodological work, capacity development and support to countries on migration statistics**





# Annual expert meetings



## STATISTICS

- **Organized annually in Geneva**
  - 2020, 2021: online meetings due to Covid pandemic
  - From 2022: In-presence meeting in Geneva, late October
- **Objectives**
  - Exchange experience and increase knowledge
  - Identify topics where methodological work at international level is required
- **Target**
  - Statisticians from NSOs and international organizations responsible for international migration statistics





# Workshops

- Since 2010, annual workshops for countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)
- Back-to-back to expert meetings in Geneva, late October



# Guidelines and practical recommendations



STATISTICS

- Produced by task forces composed by national experts – Country-driven process
- All publications available for free at <https://unece.org/statistics>

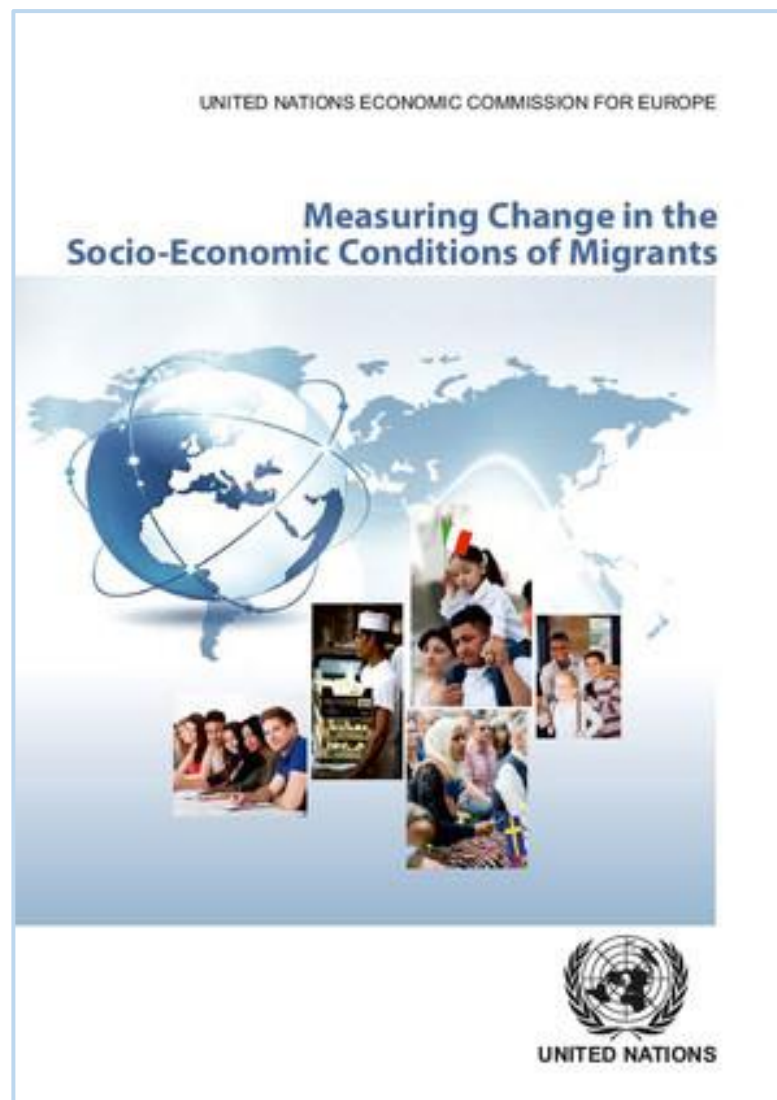


# Measuring change in the socio-economic conditions of migrants (2015)



STATISTICS

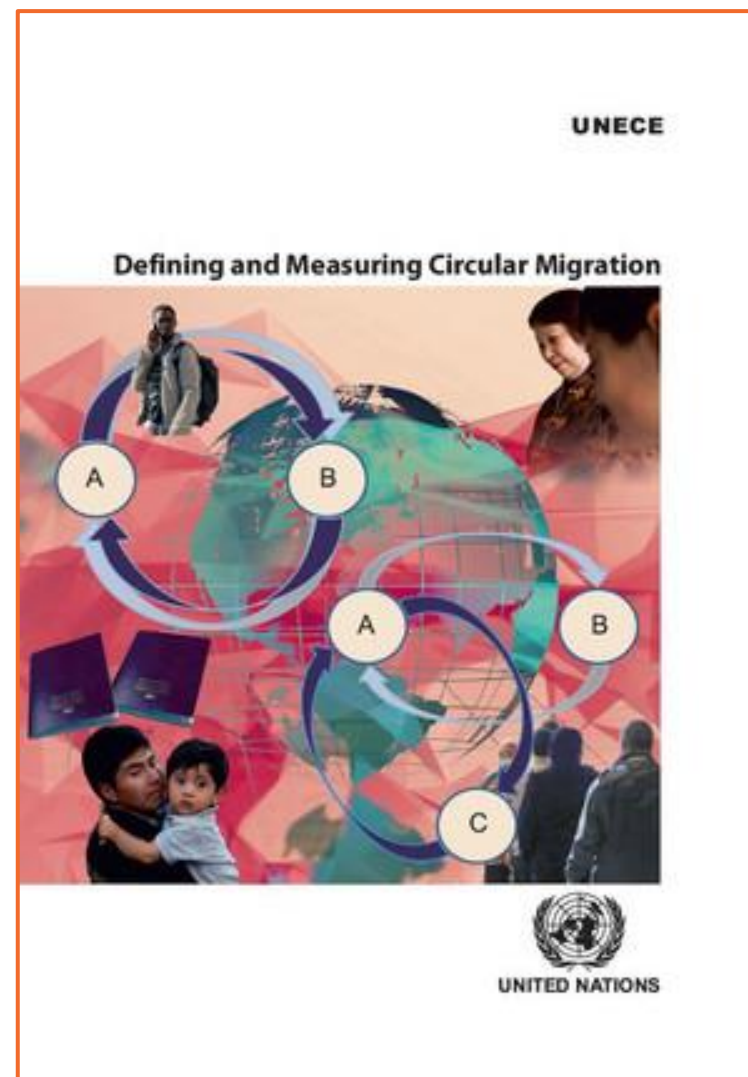
- Indicators for key dimensions:
  - ✓ demographic
  - ✓ education
  - ✓ economic
  - ✓ social and civic
- Recommendations for longitudinal measures





# Defining and measuring circular migration (2016)

A circular migrant is a person who has crossed the national borders of the reporting country **at least three times over a ten-year period**, each time with the duration of stay (abroad or in the country) of at least 12 months (general definition) or at least 90 days (extended definition)



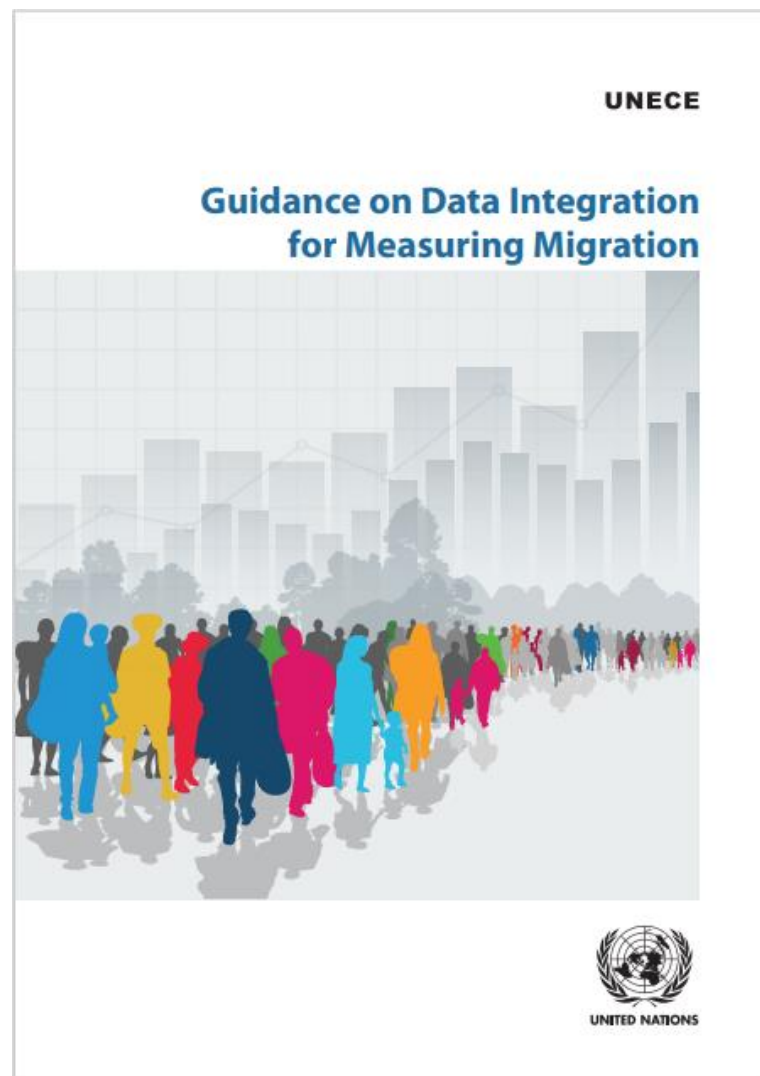


# Guidance on data integration for measuring migration (2018)



## STATISTICS

- Data integration between two or more datasets resulting in a single enlarged or higher quality dataset
- 13 case studies
- Key aspects:
  - Linking on micro level
  - “Presence signals” in administrative data sources
- Recommendations





# Measuring international labour mobility (2018)

- Content:
  - Introduction and background
  - Concepts
  - Overview of data availability
  - Practices of measuring labour mobility in Israel, Italy, Mexico, Norway
  - Conclusion and recommendations
  - Issues for future work



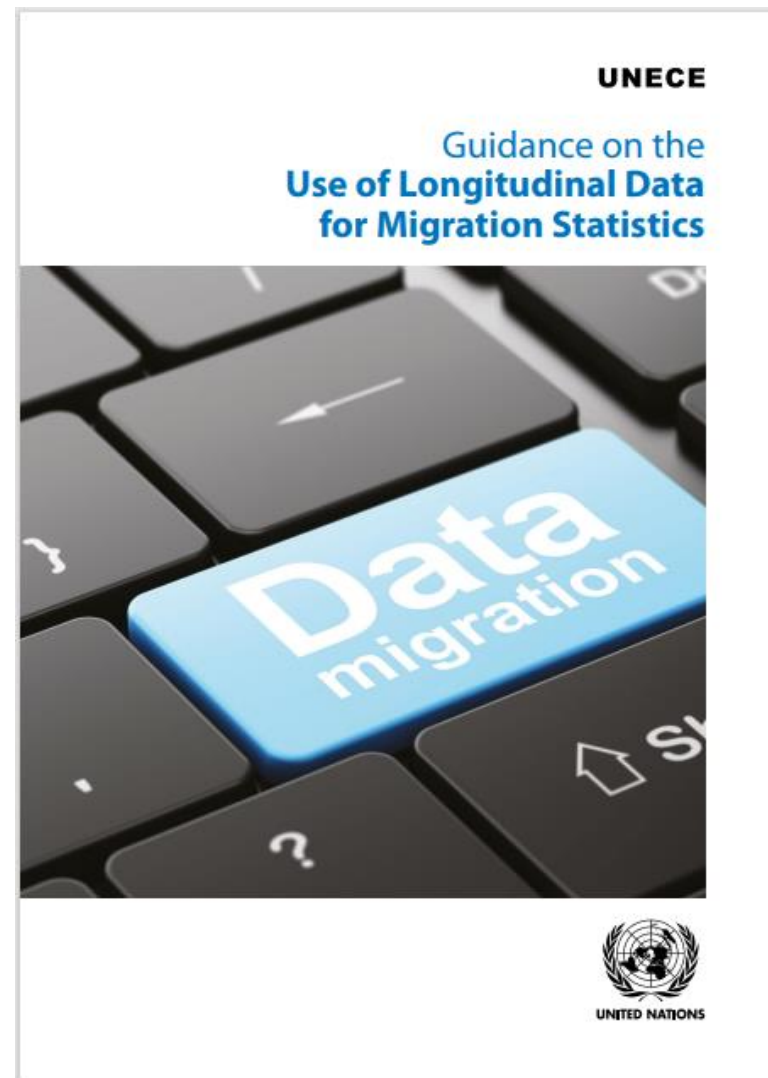


# Guidance on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics (2021)



STATISTICS

- Overview of longitudinal data sources for migration statistics
- How to develop a longitudinal data set for migration statistics using integrated data
- Disseminating regular migration statistics from longitudinal data sources
- Recommendations







# NEW: Use of new data sources for measuring international migration (2022)



## STATISTICS

- Possible uses of big data (including social media, mobile phone data, commercial data, etc.)
- Innovative uses of non-conventional data (e.g. air passenger information)
- Main results of consultation with countries:
  - Limited experiences in NSOs so far
  - Potential is promising
  - Important to share information on current/future initiatives







# Following up on implementation of recommendations – an example

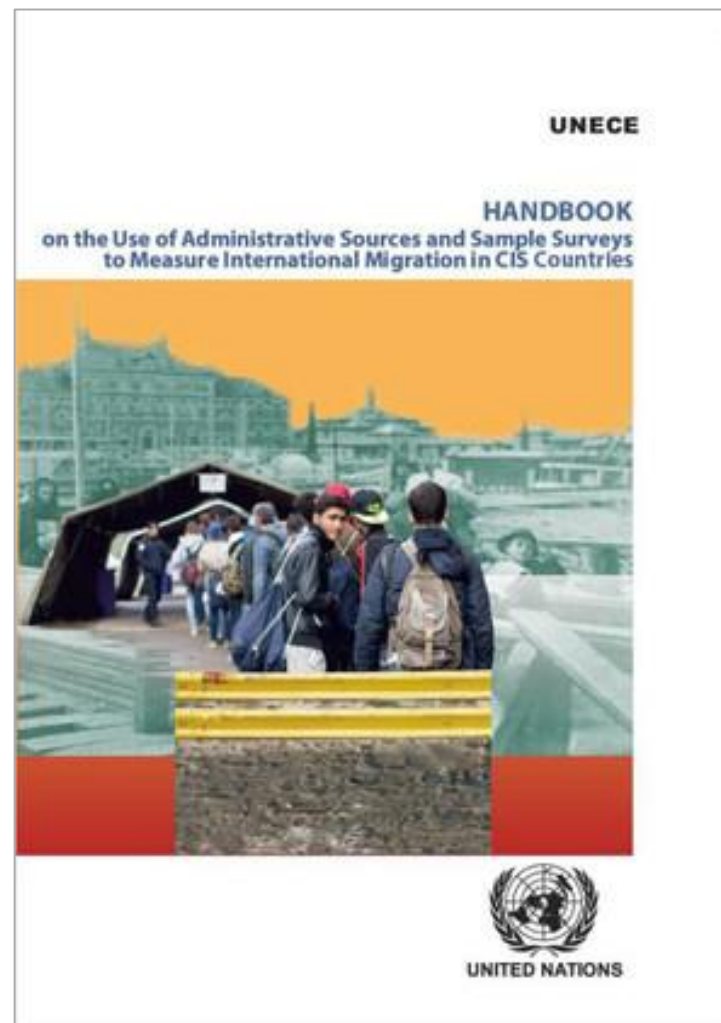


STATISTICS

## Handbook on the Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in CIS Countries (2016)

### Concluding recommendations:

1. General recommendations
2. Recommendations to Statistical Offices
3. Recommendations to other agencies responsible for admin data





# Following up on implementation of recommendations – an example



**STATISTICS**

**Regular surveys with EECCA countries to monitor progress of implementation of the 2016 recommendations**

- **Surveys conducted in: 2017, 2019, 2022**
- **Main results or monitoring exercises presented and discussed at UNECE workshops for EECCA countries**
  - **Review progress on implementation of recommendations**
  - **Discuss improvements compared to previous survey**
  - **Plans for further progress**



# Technical support to countries – an example

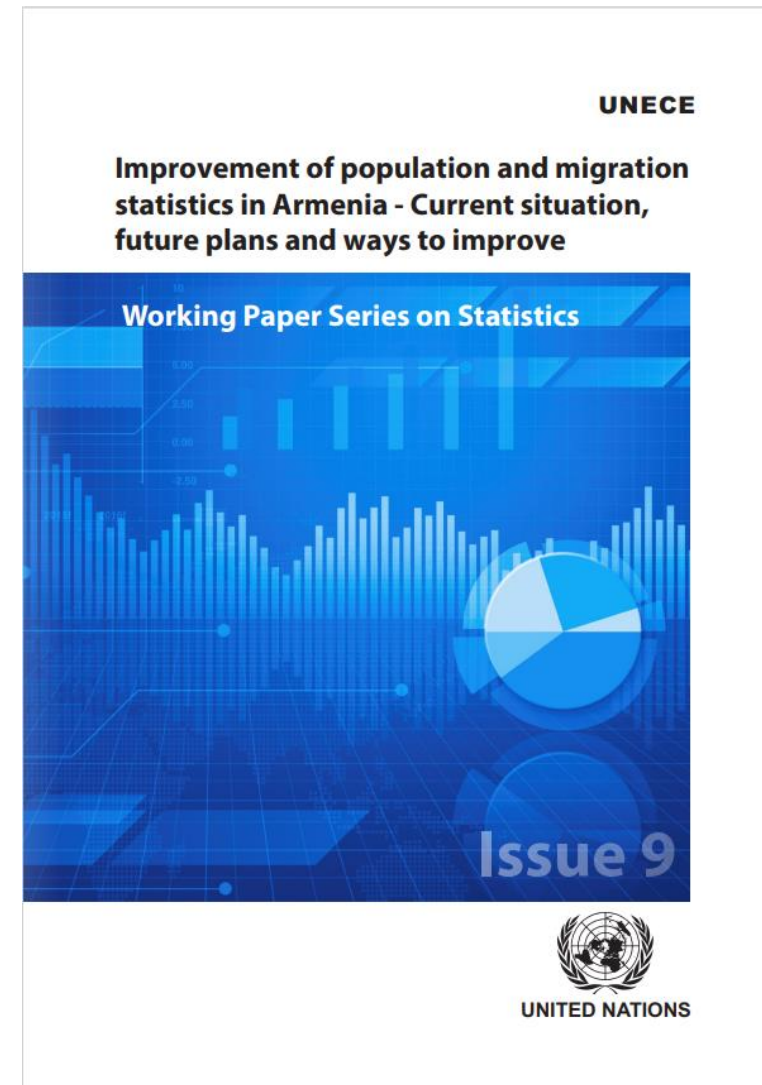


## STATISTICS

**Request from Armenian NSO for technical support to improve population and migration statistics through increased use of administrative data**

**Consultancy by international experts  
Final report (2023) covering:**

1. Review of current situation, data sources, methods used
2. Discussion of future plans by NSO
3. Suggestions for possible improvements, including new linkages with databases maintained by other national agencies



## Part 3

# How to develop a demand-driven agenda: The UNECE approach





# How to develop a demand-driven agenda

## The UNECE approach



STATISTICS

- New statistical activities at UNECE are always demand-driven
- Different mechanisms at various levels:
  - High level discussions at annual plenary sessions of **CES**
  - In-depth reviews of specific topics by the **Bureau of CES**, based on review papers (ex: circular economy, 2020)
  - Results of discussions or proposals by **national experts** at UNECE expert meetings
  - For technical support: request by countries (NSOs)



# How to develop a demand-driven agenda

## The UNECE approach



### STATISTICS

### Steps for reviewing proposals for new work/task force:

- 1) UNECE Secretariat prepares proposal, with draft ToR
- 2) **CES Bureau** reviews proposal, may accept/refuse/request changes
- 3) If accepted, new **task force** is created, by **national experts**
  - Time frame relatively short (1-2 years)
  - Clear objectives and outputs defined in advance in ToR
- 4) Review of final outputs by **CES Bureau**
- 5) Electronic consultation with **CES members** (countries + Intl. Org.)
- 6) Review of comments and endorsement by **CES plenary session**
- 7) Publication, dissemination, follow up of implementation

# Thank you for your attention!

UNECE Statistical Division

<https://unece.org/statistics>

[paolo.valente@un.org](mailto:paolo.valente@un.org)

