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informing public debate, to better unde

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7. The aim of the ECE methodological work in migration statistics is to develop and promote international guidelines and recommendations to improve the efficiency, the quality and the comparability of official migration statistics. The work is carried out by task forces of experts from national and international statistical organizations.

8. In 2012, the Task Force on the Analysis of International Migration Estimates Using Different Length of Stay Definitions concluded its work<sup>4</sup> showing the impact of different duration thresholds of defining usual residence on the estimates. It also assessed the availability and the accuracy of data on short-term migration, and considered alternative definitions of short-term migration. Its recommendations for follow-up work included the examination of innovative methodologies to capture circular migration and the development of an international statistical definition of circular migration. The Task Force on Circular Migration was established in February 2013 to pursue this work.

9. The Task Force on Improving Migration and Migrant Data Using Household Surveys and Other Sources has developed practical guidance on how to measure emigration<sup>5</sup> and other hard-to-count migrant groups.<sup>6</sup> The Task Force on the Measurement of the Socioeconomic Conditions of Migrants is currently studying the measurement of socioeconomic dimensions that are most relevant to better understanding the situation of different migrant groups.

10. ECE capacity-building activities in migration statistics aim at improved and durable training of national officers in global and regional standards for collection, processing and dissemination of migration statistics. From 2010 to 2012, ECE organized four capacity-building workshops for national statistical offices in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Population Division, the World Bank and the International Organization for Migration.

11. The workshops helped to establish or strengthen pre-existing networks and encouraged the exchange of data and information between countries. They also improved communication, not only between countries, but also within countries, facilitating dialogue between data producers and users, especially those working in the field of policymaking. The workshops helped to develop an overview of sources<sup>7</sup> and a practical guide<sup>8</sup> on international migration statistics for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as to provide impetus for data exchange that resulted in the

<sup>4</sup> Available from [www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2012/7-TF\\_migration\\_estimates.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2012/7-TF_migration_estimates.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Available from [www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.10/2012/WP\\_8\\_US.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.10/2012/WP_8_US.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Available from [www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.10/2012/WP\\_9\\_UNECE.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.10/2012/WP_9_UNECE.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Available from [www.unece.org/review\\_of\\_sources\\_international\\_migration.html](http://www.unece.org/review_of_sources_international_migration.html).

<sup>8</sup> Available from [www.unece.org/international\\_migration\\_statistics\\_guide.html](http://www.unece.org/international_migration_statistics_guide.html).

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establishment of the ECE clearing house on migration statistics.<sup>9</sup> These outcomes have helped to improve the development, the comparability, the dissemination and the exchange of international migration data in the region.

12. In autumn 2013, ECE will organize a capacity-building workshop, “Towards better evidence on migration and development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”, in cooperation with the European Free Trade Association. The workshop will bring together migration statistics experts from national statistical offices and representatives from national migration and other relevant agencies, as well as experts from international organizations. The objective is to raise the importance of the migration-development nexus in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and identify ways of improving measurement of the developmental impact of migration through the better use of existing data sources and the development of new sources. The workshop aims to identify various ways how migration impacts development and to look at data availability and data needs for measuring issues such as emigration, brain drain, labour migration, return and circular migration, remittances and diaspora populations. Particular emphasis is placed on improving the collection and the availability of migration statistics, with specific attention to data related to measuring the impact of migration on development.

13. As a result of the interest of Eastern European and Central Asian countries in data exchange, it was agreed to establish a central repository with online access to basic migration statistics for countries in the region. The ECE clearing house on migration statistics was established and designed in English and Russian, with a user-friendly interface, and is intended to improve the availability and the comparability of data by providing a flexible tool for the collection, the dissemination and the sharing of basic migration data between the countries. The establishment of a centralized location to store and disseminate migration data improves the accessibility of data to outside users. In the past, much of this data was not publicly accessible, nor was it presented in a standardized manner, using internationally agreed definitions of international migration.

14. The establishment of this data repository increases the potential of regionally comparable migration data, as well as potentially improving estimates of emigration for these countries by utilizing immigration data from other countries in the region. Data were collected according to a set of tables agreed with the participating countries and international organizations and are available on the ECE website.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Available from <http://w3.unece.org/pxweb>.