

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2025/2027 Bureau  
Washington, D.C., 25–26 February 2026

Item III(d) of the Provisional  
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK FORCE ON STATISTICS ON  
REFUGEES, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND STATELESSNESS**

**Prepared by the EGRISS Regional Task Team for Europe, UNHCR and UNECE**

*In 2016, the United Nations Statistical Commission established the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), which has developed three complementary sets of international statistical recommendations on refugee statistics, internally displaced persons statistics, and statelessness statistics. Since 2024, the EGRISS Regional Task Team for Europe has been supporting the implementation of these recommendations. Building on this work, the present terms of reference were developed for a task force to improve statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in the UNECE region.*

*The Bureau reviewed and approved the terms of reference.*

## I. BACKGROUND

1. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that by mid-2025, 117.3 million individuals worldwide remained forcibly displaced and at least 4.4 million people were stateless. Around 18.7 million forcibly displaced individuals were hosted in Europe, which is almost double the figure recorded one decade ago, in addition to 0.4 million stateless people recorded in the region.

2. In recent years, the international statistical community has invested significantly in strengthening official statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless people. The United Nations Statistical Commission established in 2016 [the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics \(EGRISS\)](#) to develop and promote a coherent international statistical framework for these populations, resulting in three complementary sets of international statistical recommendations – [the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics \(IRRS\)](#), [the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics \(IRIS\)](#) and [the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics \(IROSS\)](#) (jointly referred hereafter as “the International Recommendations”) – as well as guidance and capacity development tools to promote and support their implementation.

3. EGRISS currently comprises members from 62 national statistics authorities worldwide, including 21 countries within the UNECE region. In addition, 40 regional and international organisations also take part, including all five regional commissions of the

United Nations as well as Eurostat, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and several United Nations agencies and programs. The Expert Group has concluded its third consecutive mandate (2020-2025), and a request for an extension for its fourth mandate will be considered by the Statistical Commission at its upcoming 57th session. UNHCR hosts the Secretariat for EGRISS.

4. Regional engagement and capacity development are central priorities for EGRISS, as a key mechanism to promote and develop national capacity for implementing the International Recommendations. Different regional task teams have been established in recent years, involving the United Nations regional commissions and other regional bodies and international organizations alongside various countries from each region usually represented by their national statistical offices (NSOs). In Europe, the EGRISS Regional Task Team has been working since 2024, co-led by the national statistical offices of Armenia and Hungary, to raise awareness and support implementation of the International Recommendations in the region. A key activity was the [2024 Workshop on the International Recommendations on Statistics on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness](#), co-organized by UNECE, EGRISS, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

5. As highlighted in the workshop and related regional discussions, several UNECE countries have made concrete progress in including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and stateless persons in national statistical systems, in particular through their inclusion and identification in the population censuses of several countries and by enhanced use and integration of administrative data sources. The 2024 [Global Annual Inclusion \(GAIN\) Survey](#), the main monitoring instrument of EGRISS, shows a growing number of implementation examples worldwide and in Europe in particular. Of the 108 implementation examples using at least one of the International Recommendations, 21 country-led examples were from Europe.

6. Regional discussions have also underlined ongoing challenges, including incomplete and non-systematic inclusion or disaggregation of forcibly displaced and stateless people in official statistics; differences in concepts, definitions and classifications vis-à-vis the International Recommendations; lack of systematic inclusion in national household surveys; coordination gaps between NSOs and other data producers in some countries; limited integration across data sources; and limited data analysis and publications on forcibly displaced and stateless people.

7. Improved and comparable statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons are essential for producing more complete population and migration statistics in the UNECE region, ensuring that all relevant population groups are adequately reflected in demographic and socioeconomic statistics, in monitoring progress towards national and international policy commitments and in understanding specific socio-economic inclusion barriers to inform inclusive policies. In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its commitment to “leave no one behind”, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and other global frameworks, the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people in national statistical systems remains a critical need. Continued regional engagement and collaboration is critical to identify concrete actions and recommendations to improve the availability, quality and comparability of official statistics on forced displacement and statelessness in the region, which is crucial to advance effective access to rights and services, self-reliance and durable solutions.

8. Building on the work of the EGRISS Regional Task Team and the 2024 UNECE workshop, the present terms of reference set out the mandate, objectives and work plan of a dedicated task force under the Conference of European Statisticians.

## **II. MANDATE**

9. The Task Force on Statistics on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness (hereafter “the Task Force”) is established by the Conference of European Statisticians and operates within the framework of CES and its Bureau. The Steering Group on Statistics on Population and Migration will advise on and review the progress of the work of the Task Force.

10. The Task Force will be created for a period from March 2026 to June 2028.

## **III. OBJECTIVE**

11. The objective of the Task Force is to improve the coverage, quality and comparability of statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in the UNECE region. The Task Force will also contribute to regional and global knowledge-sharing and capacity development for the production and dissemination of official statistics on these populations.

## **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

12. The Task Force will carry out the following specific activities:

(a) Take stock and assess current official statistics practices around refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in the UNECE region, drawing on results from the GAIN surveys of EGRISS and other structured collection of information from NSOs and other national authorities. The stocktaking and assessment will address the following aspects:

- (i) National and regional statistical frameworks, regulations and institutional arrangements to produce statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, including main stakeholders involved in the production, dissemination and use of these statistics;
- (ii) Statistical definitions and classifications currently used at the national level, and their degree of alignment with the International Recommendations;
- (iii) The extent to which refugees, IDPs and stateless persons are systematically included and identified in key national statistical sources such as population censuses, household surveys and administrative sources, and the related methodological and operational challenges;
- (iv) The extent of data integration across different sources to produce statistics on these populations, including institutional and legal data sharing arrangements between NSOs and administrative data producers;
- (v) Availability of key socio-economic indicators specific to these

populations, particularly those required to monitor progress towards national, regional and international policy commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact on Refugees;

- (vi) The inclusion of these populations in the development of new and innovative statistical data sources and statistical methods to obtain data;
- (vii) Countries' plans and priorities for improving statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons.

(b) Consolidate and analyze the stocktaking findings, including an identification of main progress and challenges around the implementation of the International Recommendations, the statistical inclusion of these populations, the availability of disaggregated data needed to monitor national and international policy commitments and the remaining data gaps to adequately assess the socio-economic inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people in the region.

(c) Organize joint discussions and consultations (online and, where possible, in person) among task force members and other interested countries and organizations, to review stocktaking findings and identify practical recommendations to build upon good practices and address remaining challenges.

(d) Prepare a report summarizing the assessment findings, practical recommendations and good practice examples, for review by the UNECE Steering Group on Statistics on Population and Migration.

(e) Facilitate regional contributions to global-level initiatives of EGRISS related to the development of complementary guidance and future revision of the international recommendations.

13. The Task Force will produce the following outputs:

- (a) A progress report summarizing activities and main findings emerging from the stocktaking.
- (b) A final report that
  - (i) Summarizes the stocktaking findings;
  - (ii) Analyses gaps and challenges;
  - (iii) Contains practical and prioritized recommendations;
  - (iv) Presents a set of good practice examples.

## V. TIMETABLE

14. The activities of the Task Force are planned for the period from March 2026 to June 2028, according to the following tentative schedule:

March 2026	Establishment of the Task Force and first online meeting to identify and confirm all interested participants
March–April 2026	Drafting of a work plan with activities, timing and division of work
May–June 2026	Review of existing information and definition of the scope, methodology and tools to conduct the stocktaking, and identifying regional requirements for the EGRISS GAIN survey of implementation examples
July–November 2026	Collection and analysis of information around current statistical frameworks, sources and methods for forced displacement and statelessness statistics
September 2026	In-person meeting of the Task Force to review progress and next steps. Discussion of results at the meeting of the UNECE Group of Experts on Statistics on Population and Migration
January–May 2027	Full analysis of all data compiled / collected and preparation of initial stocktaking report
May–September 2027	Task Force discussions and consultations to identify practical recommendations
September 2027	In-person meeting of the Task Force to review progress and preparations for final report. Review and discussion of results at the meeting of the UNECE Group of Experts on Statistics on Population and Migration
October 2027 – January 2028	Preparation and edition of full report
January 2028	Submission of the draft final report to the CES Bureau for review
March–April 2028	Revision of the draft based on comments received
April–May 2028	Electronic consultation among all CES countries
June 2028	Expected endorsement of the final report by the CES plenary session

## VI. METHOD OF WORK

15. The Task Force will primarily work via e-mail, wiki workspace, and online meetings. Annual in-person meetings are envisaged in connection with the meetings of the Group of Experts on Statistics on Population and Migration.

## VII. MEMBERSHIP

16. The following statistical offices and organizations have already expressed interest in participating in the Task Force: Armenia, Belgium, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Eurostat, UNHCR and IOM.

17. All other statistical offices from the UNECE region who are members of EGRISS (21 countries in total) are expected to be interested to participate in the Task Force. Membership will be open to other countries and organizations as well.

18. UNECE and UNHCR will act as secretariat to the Task Force.

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