

SUITLAND WORKING GROUP: Task Force on Improving Migration and Migrant Data Using Household Surveys and Other Sources

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Presentation for the Eighth Coordination Meeting on
International Migration

United Nations Population Division

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Overview of Presentation

- What is the Suitland Working Group?
- Why SWG was formed
- Objectives
- Projects planned
- Additional information

CES Work Plan on Improving International Migration Statistics

- Launched in October 2005
- Cooperative effort on NSOs, IOs
- Ultimate goal: to improve the collection and use of statistics on international migration
 - e.g., missing, incomplete, inconsistent data
- Suitland Working Group (SWG) outgrowth, expansion of the earlier CES work plan

Related Meetings on Migration

Expert Group Meeting on the Contribution of Household Surveys to Measuring Remittances (January 2009)

- Participants concluded further work was needed on migration and remittances and proposed the creation of a task force

UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics (March 2008)

- U.S. Census Bureau presented results of expert group meeting
- Participants supported creation of task force, encouraged organizers to broaden scope to a wider range of migration-related topics

Objectives of the Suitland Working Group

- Primary objective: improve the use of household surveys to measure migration
- SWG will focus on:
 - Facilitating international collaboration and the consolidation of existing knowledge
 - Developing a research agenda focusing on methodological issues where no clear guidance exists
 - Creating products accessible to widest audience possible

First SWG Meeting

- Meeting in March 2009 in Suitland, MD (headquarters of U.S. Census Bureau)
- *Using Household Surveys to Measure Migration and the Size, Distribution, and Characteristics of Migrant Populations*
- Hosted by U.S. Census Bureau, UNECE, Eurostat, UN Population Division, and UK Office for National Statistics
- Participants from NSOs, universities, international organizations

Topics Covered

Using Household Surveys to...

1. Estimate Migration Flows and the Size and Demographic Characteristics of Migrant Populations
2. Estimate Social and Economic Characteristics of Migrant Populations and Migrant Integration and Inclusion
3. Measure the Impact of International Migration on Development with Special Emphasis on Countries of Origin
4. Measure Hard-to-Count Migrant Populations

Suitland Working Group: Projects

1. Literature Review of Methodologies Used to Estimate Emigration
2. Website Repository of Household Survey Questionnaires on Migration
3. Linking Registers and Other Sources of Administrative Data with Surveys
4. Questionnaire Module on Migration and Remittances
5. Categories, Definitions, and the Importance of Hard-to-Count Populations
6. Data Quality Issues for Migrant Estimates in Surveys
7. Sampling Frame and Sample Design Issues for Measuring Migrant Populations

Additional Information

Final conference report:

<http://unece.org/stats/documents/2009.03.migration.htm>

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