



# International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (*IRRS*)

**Regional workshop: *Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,  
5 – 8 Feb 2019, Bangkok, Thailand**

**Piotr Juchno**

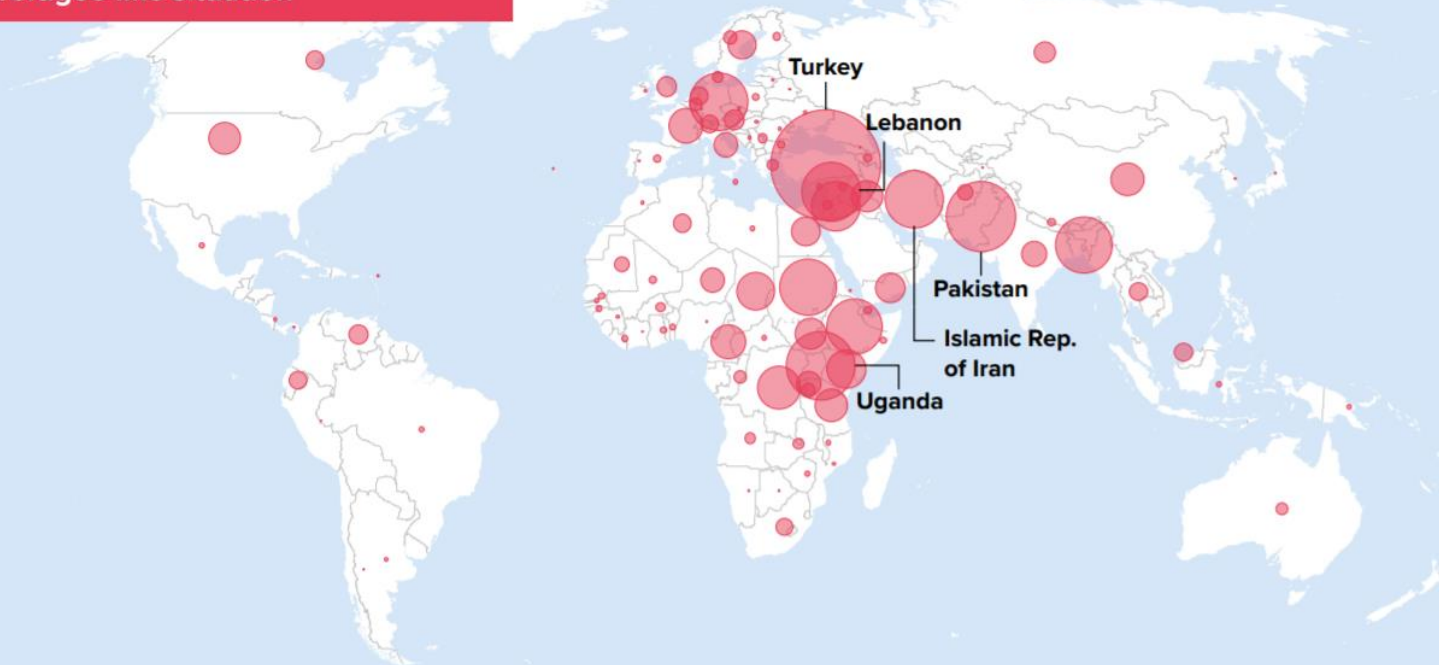
**Eurostat, Unit F2 – Population and migration**

# Refugee population worldwide

- 25.4 million refugees and 3.1 million asylum seekers
- 57% of world's refugees come from three countries: South Sudan, Afghanistan and Syria.

Map 1 | Populations of concern to UNHCR by category | end-2017

Refugees, including persons  
in a refugee-like situation



Source: UNHCR

# Statistical challenges in the background

1. Growing numbers / number of countries affected by increasing flows and stocks
2. Growing interest in statistics
3. Urgent need to robust statistics for informed policy making
4. Very limited guidance at international level

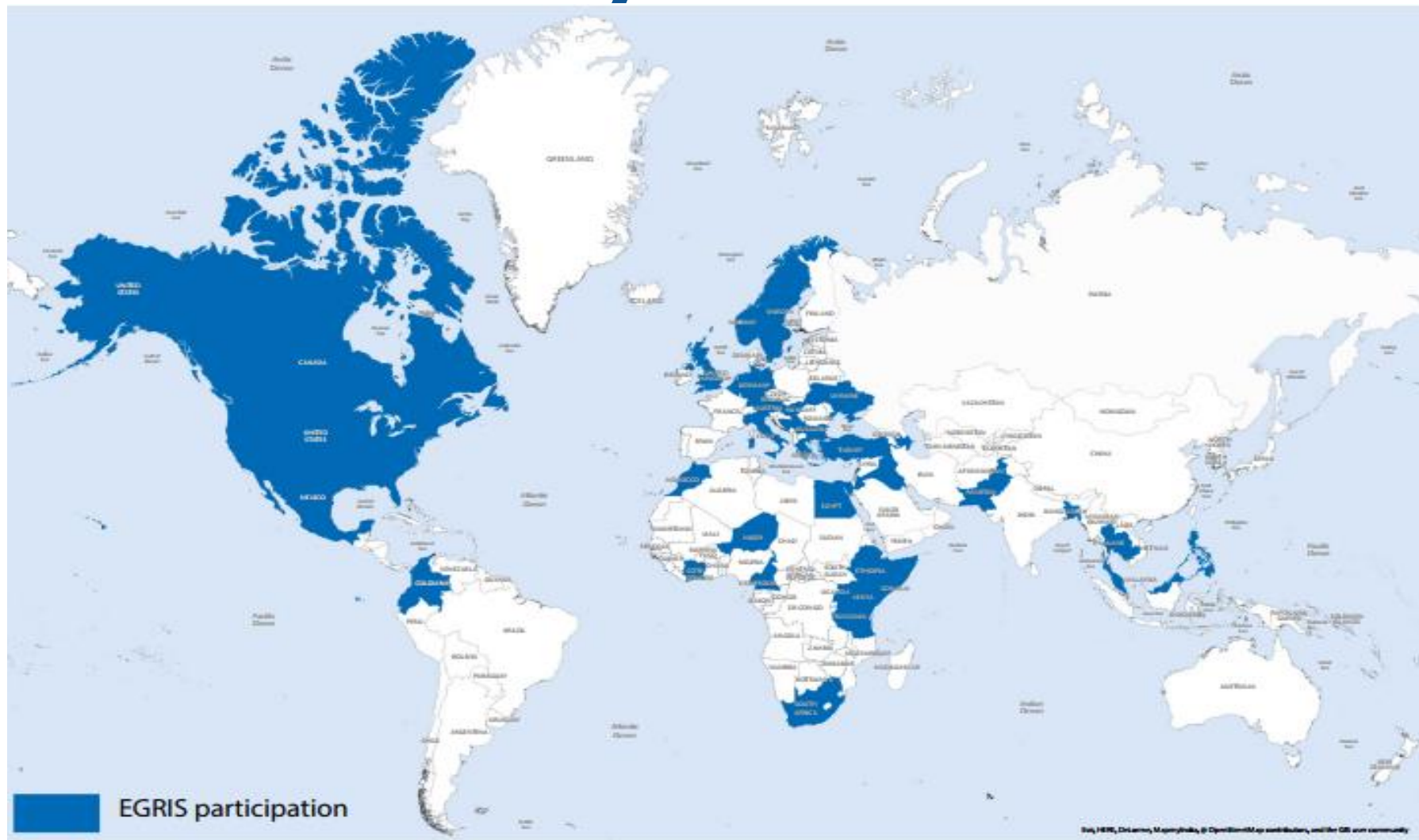
# State of play of statistics on refugees

- Lack of **comparability**
- No **consistency** in terminology
- No **guidance** for methods of data collection
- Poor understanding of **concepts** of flows and stocks
- **Gaps** in data
- Non optimal use of existing **sources**
- No or limited **coordination** at national level
- **Data access** problems due to sensitivity or lacking legal framework
- Large differences in **capacities** between countries/regions

# EGRIS – Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics

- **Report by UNHCR/Statistics Norway** for the 46th UNSC session in 2015 - How to better incorporate statistics on displacement into national statistical systems
- 2015 - **First time in the 70 year history** refugee statistics discussed at the UNSC
- Asked for UNSC mandate to hold a **conference on refugee statistics** to explore feasibility of developing international recommendations
- October 2015: **first conference** held in Antalya, Turkey
- 2016 - **Report** presented to UNSC; proposal from TurkStat, Statistics Norway, UNHCR and Eurostat, to establish an Expert Group on Refugee Statistics
- **March 2016 – UNSC mandates the work of Expert Group**

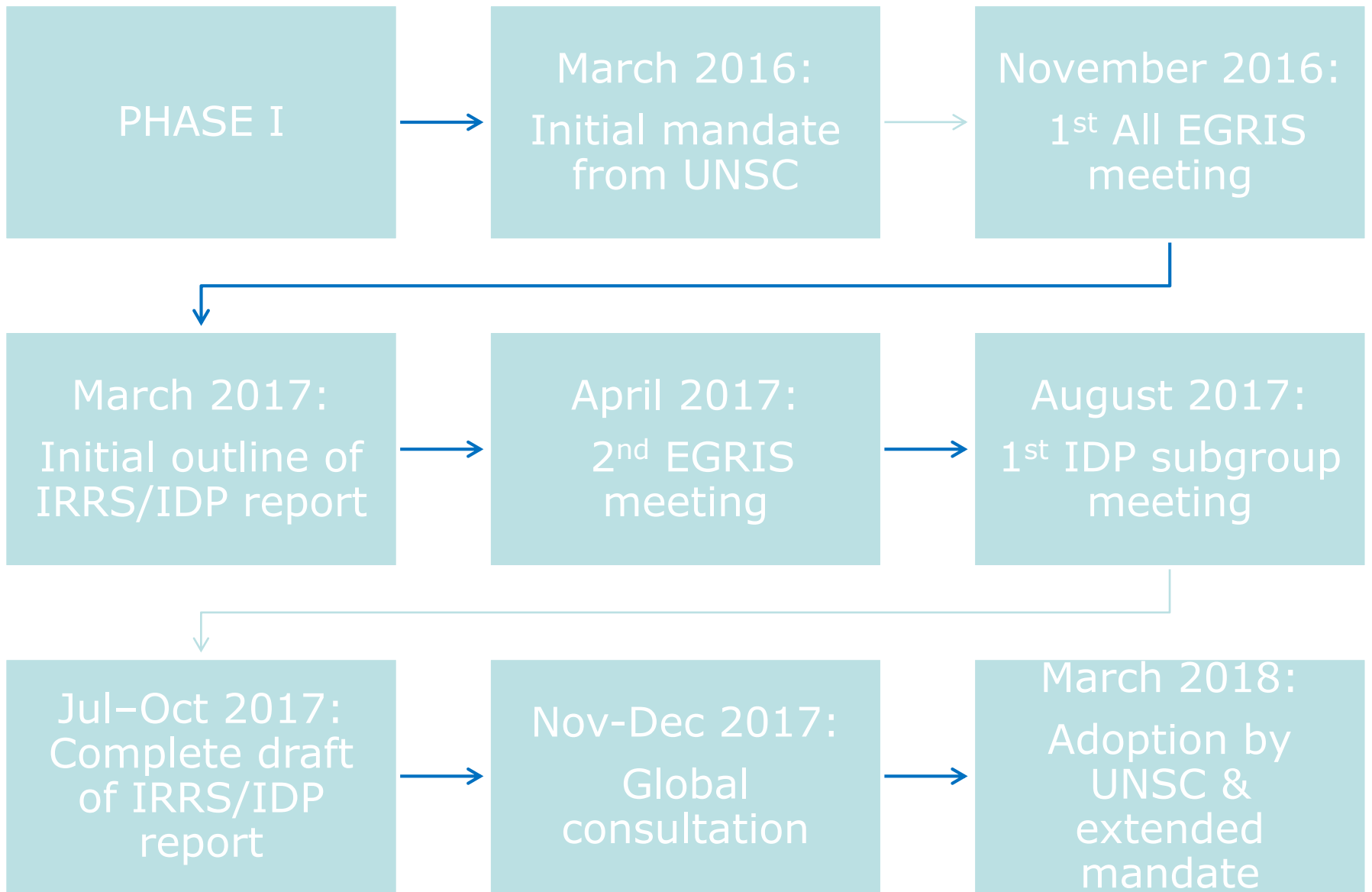
# EGRIS country members



**Country-led and experience-informed process to develop solid report with realistic and tangible recommendations**

# International and regional organisations

- AfDB
- European Commission (DG Home and DG Employment)
- EASO
- EFTA Statistical Office
- ESCWA
- **Eurostat**
- IDMC
- IOM
- JIPS
- MED-HIMS/Medstat
- OECD
- PARIS21
- UNECA ACS
- UNHCR
- UNFPA
- **UNHCR**
- UNICEF
- UNRWA
- UN Special Rapporteur on human rights of IDPs
- **UNSD**
- **WB**
- WFP



# EGRIS timeline (Phase I)



# EGRIS achievements (Phase 1)

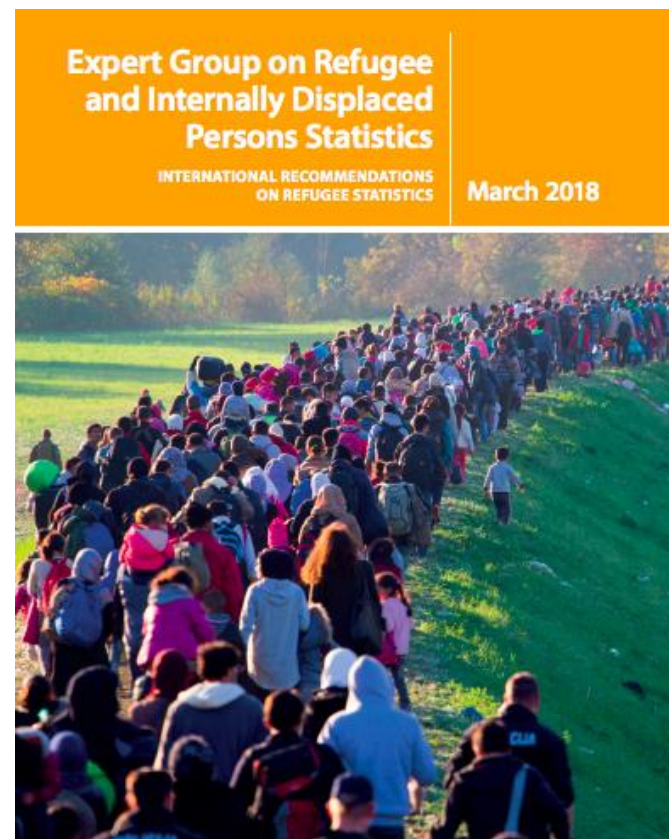
*UNSC adoption of International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons (March 2018)*



<http://webtv.un.org/search/5th-meeting-49th-statistical-commission/5748577280001/?term=49th%20Statistical%20Commission&sort=date&page=1>

# IRRS – main achievements

1. Creation of a **statistical framework** standardising relevant **terminology** and classifications
2. List of basic **data tabulations** and **indicators**
3. Assessment of **data sources** and **methods** and recommendations for their use/improvement
4. Identification of **socioeconomic indicators** for refugee integration
5. Recommendations to improve
  - **coordination at national, regional and international level**
  - **data quality, legal frameworks and capacity building**



United Nations

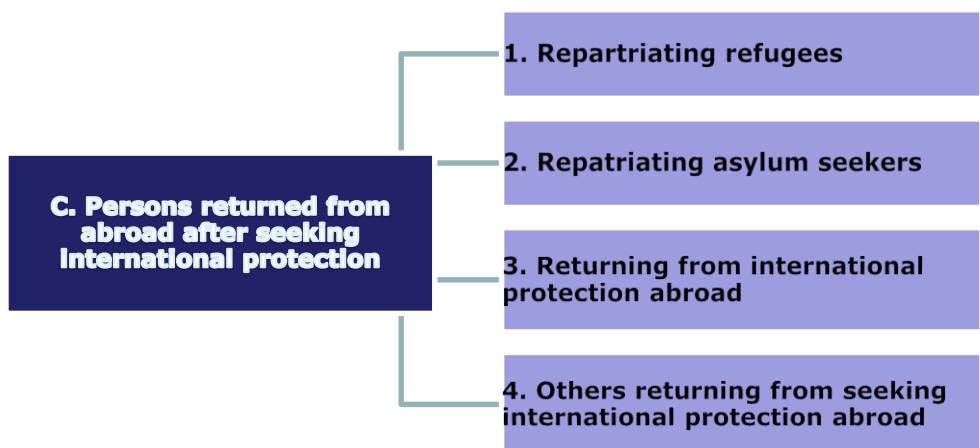
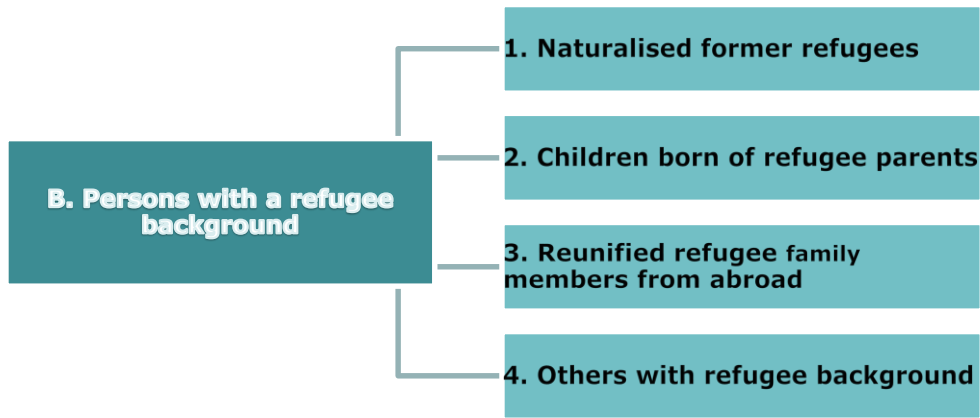
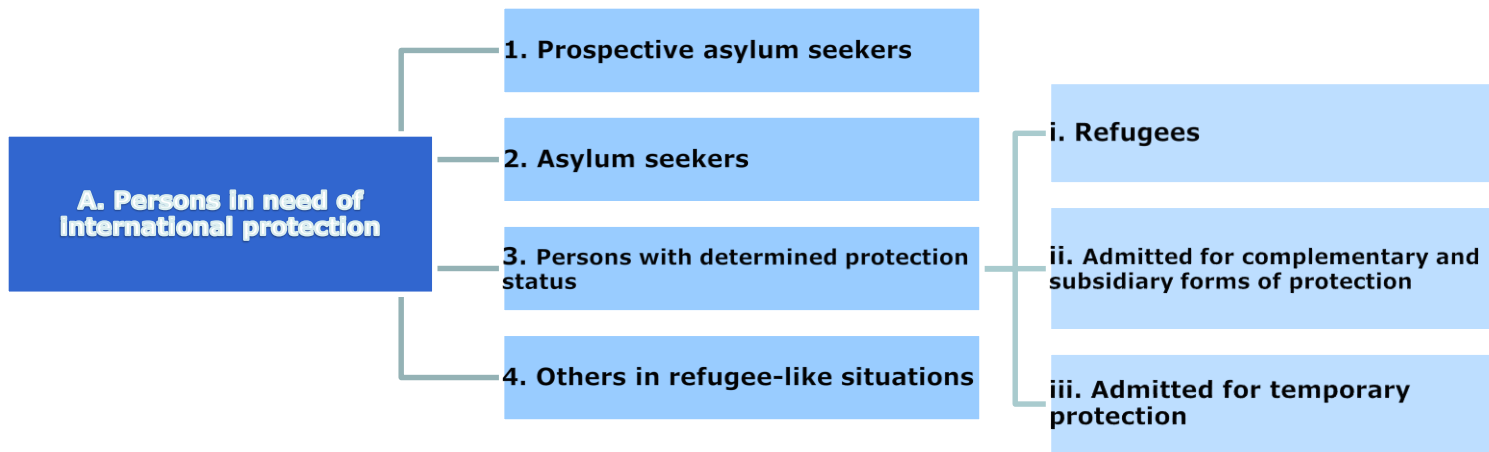
MANUALS  
AND GUIDELINES

eurostat 



European  
Commission

# Examples of concrete recommendations



# IRRS - statistical framework

# Basic classificatory variables for collecting and compiling refugee statistics

- a) Age or date of birth
- b) Sex
- c) Country of birth
- d) Country of citizenship (including stateless, undetermined status and multiple citizenship)
- e) Date of arrival in country
- f) Reason for migration
- g) Country of previous or last residence
- h) Date of first displacement/leaving previous country of habitual residence
- i) Parents' refugee statuses
- j) If an unaccompanied child
- k) Legal residential/international protection status as applicable to the national context

# Basic statistics (example for stock data)

- a) Total **number of persons in a country for international protection**, by sex and age
- b) Total **number of asylum seekers**, by sex and age
- c) Total **number of refugees**, by sex and age
- d) Total **number of persons admitted for subsidiary, complementary protection**, by sex and age
- e) Total **number of persons admitted for temporary protection**, by sex and age
- f) Total **number of persons with refugee-like status**, by sex and age
- g) Total **number of persons with refugee background**, by sex and age
- h) Total **number of persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection**, by sex and age

# Data sources and methods

## Censuses and household surveys

- Current core topics (in census recommendations):
  - a) Country of birth
  - b) Country of citizenship
  - c) Acquisition of citizenship
  - d) Year or period of arrival in the country
- **Additional topic proposed:**
  - a) Reason for migration, with response categories:**
    - i. Employment (including military service)
    - ii. Education and training
    - iii. Marriage, family reunification or family formation
    - iv. Forced displacement (refugees, asylum seekers, temporary protected status, others)
    - v. Other

# Socioeconomic indicators

*Dimensions of topics of indicators of the satisfaction of the immediate and ongoing needs and integration:*

- 1. Legal indicators**
- 2. Civil-political indicators**
- 3. Demographic and migration indicators**
- 4. Education indicators**
- 5. Economic indicators**
- 6. Social inclusion indicators**
- 7. Health indicators**

Dimension	Level of Indicator			SDG Equivalence for the category (indicator number)
	Priority	Second level	Third level	



# EGRIS moving into Phase II

Extended mandate from the UN Statistical Commission (March 2018) to work during 2018-2020 to develop:

1. Develop manual and associated tools for compilation of refugee and IDP statistics (tools to be continuously improved) – **COMPILERS MANUAL**
2. **International Recommendations on IDP Statistics:**  
Reference guide for national and international work concerning statistics on internally displaced persons
3. **Promotion** and **dissemination** of the Groups' work



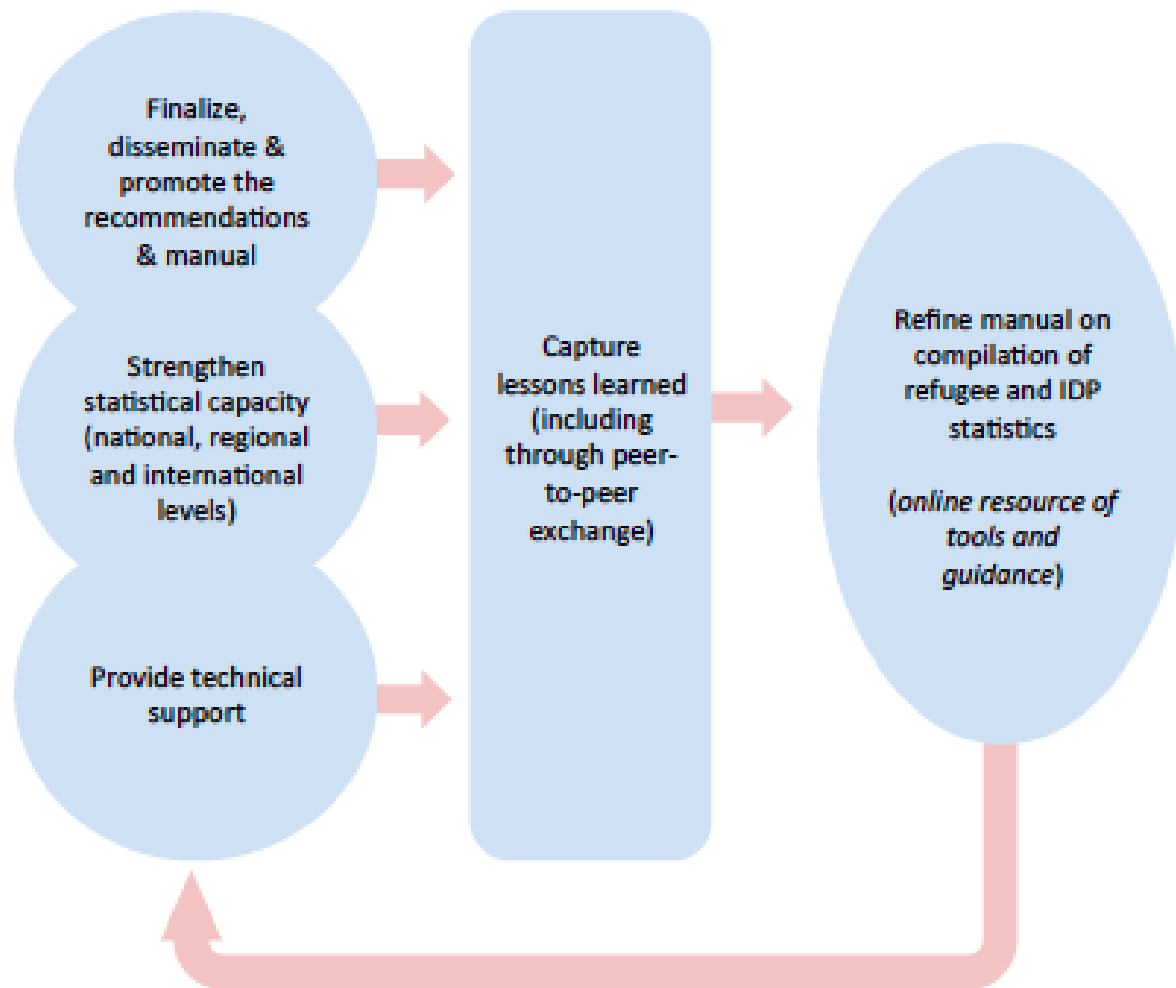


# EGRIS timeline (Phase II)

# EGRIS moving beyond Phase II

Aim to complement Phase II (and continue in Phase III) through:

- Promoting & disseminating IRRS, IRIS & Compiler's Manual
- Capacity strengthening
- Continuous learning & update manual



*Thank you for your  
attention!*

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[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/  
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Working together for  
improved statistics for  
refugees and internally  
displaced persons

EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED PERSONS STATISTICS (EGRIS)



COMPACT  
GUIDES

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