

**UNECE Workshop on Measuring the Non-Observed Economy
in SPECA member countries - StatCapCA Training Workshop Nr. 4**

(Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 25-27 April 2007)

INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1

The meeting will be held at the Hotel Ak-Keme, Prospekt Mira 93, 720044 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, from 25 to 27 April 2007, starting at 09.30 a.m.

The registration of participants will start at 09.00.

The Workshop is organized in cooperation with
the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

I. PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The aim of the workshop is to train the experts from the national statistical offices of SPECA countries in the implementation of common methodologies to achieve a better coverage of the non-observed economy in the National Accounts. The Workshop is organized for National Accounts specialists and experts dealing with the non-observed economy in the countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan. Participation of experts from subject-matter areas that provide the basic data for National Accounts compilation (like agriculture, industry, services, etc.) is encouraged. The participants need to be familiar with the basic concepts and methodologies in this field and be able to give short presentations on the methodologies used for measuring the non-observed economy in their respective countries.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

2. The final detailed Agenda of the Workshop will be specified by the beginning of April and sent out to all registered participants. The Provisional Agenda below gives an insight to the themes to be discussed. The following items are on the agenda:

- (1) Opening of the workshop
- (2) Tour-de-table – introduction of participants
- (3) UN current work on non-observed economy (NOE) and informal sector
 - UNECE region: UN Development Account project, UNECE surveys on NOE;
 - UNESCAP region: UN Development Account project on informal sector, outcomes of the ESCAP workshop in 2005, linking poverty and informal sector;

(4) Review of the System of National Accounts (SNA 93)

- specific topics in the SNA update: Research and Development, military expenditures, capital services (market and non-market);
- challenges in the implementation of the SNA.

(5) NOE and SNA 93 update

- new chapter on informal sector;
- treatment of illegal activities.

(6) Principles of measuring the NOE - definition of terms, different concepts (informal economy and NOE), use of output, expenditure and income approach, overview of different types of non-exhaustiveness; Eurostat tabular framework

(7) Sources and methods used for measuring NOE

- use of mixed survey;
- labour input approach;
- other methods.

(8) Results of the UNECE survey on national practices in measuring the NOE

(9) Country experiences and problems with measuring NOE (presentations by countries)

(10) Specific issues and problems in measuring NOE

- agricultural production;
- own-account construction;
- services;
- trade (shuttle trade, black market);
- misreporting;
- illegal activities.

(11) Summary of the workshop – wrap-up of the discussions, main problem areas, topics for the 2nd phase of the project (Workshop in April 2008)

(12) Closing

3. Mr. Remi Bardon from Eurostat, Ms. Carol Carson, the Project Manager of the SNA93 update, Ms. Tihomira Dimova and Ms. Tiina Luige from UNECE, a representative of the UNESCAP, and country representatives will give the presentations.

III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION

4. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of SPECA countries are welcome to nominate two or more delegates to participate in the Workshop. UNECE will, in the framework of the UN Development Account project StatCapCA, provide financial support for the participation of two delegates per country (excluding the host country).

5. The statistical offices of SPECA countries are welcome to send more experts to the Workshop if their participation funded by the NSO.

6. Participants should complete the registration form available at the web page of the Workshop and send it to the UNECE secretariat (fax: +41 22 917 0040, e-mail: benedicte.boudol@unece.org) **by 9 March 2007**. The registration form has been also sent to the announced participants separately.

IV. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

7. All participants attending the Workshop are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for possible visas should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the country in which the participants reside, with a reference to the UNECE Workshop on Measuring the Non-Observed Economy in SPECA member countries. If necessary, the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic can provide a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa. Contact person for this purpose is Mr. Omurbek IBRAEV, fax: +996 312 66 01 38, e-mail icd@stat.kg.

8. UNECE will cover airfare and per diem (Daily Subsistence Allowance - DSA) for the duration of the Workshop for two participants per country, excluding participants from the hosting country. Any other participant(s) can attend at their own costs. During the Workshop, the organizers of the Workshop will distribute to the participants the DSA at the United Nations prevailing rate in Bishkek to cover accommodation, meals and other incidental expenses. If, for any reason, the participant is unable to attend for the full duration of the Workshop, a proportionate reduction in the allowance will be made. Please note that UNECE will not assume responsibility for any other expenditures related to the travel, like visa, medical costs, etc.

9. In order to obtain the DSA, participants need to submit on the first day of the Workshop

- **A copy of the passport showing personal details, including photo and the immigration stamp in Bishkek;**
- **A copy of the air ticket;**
- **Boarding pass(es).**

10. Upon receipt of confirmation of attendance and due information on financing of participation, referred to in Para 4, UNECE will make arrangements, through the local UNDP offices, to issue most direct economy air tickets for participants to travel from the country of their residence to Bishkek and return. Arrangements will be made for participants to arrive in Bishkek on Tuesday, 24 April and depart for their respective countries on Saturday, 28 April 2007, depending on available flight connections. Participants should not purchase tickets by themselves. Please note that if tickets are not issued by the rules above, the UNECE will not be in a position to reimburse them.

11. Any questions regarding travel arrangements and collection of air tickets should be addressed to UNDP country offices. However, additional queries can be addressed to UNECE Secretariat, Ms. Tiina Luige (tiina.luige@unece.org , tel.:+41 22 917 1097).

12. Participants are advised to ensure that they have adequate travel and medical insurance for the duration of the Workshop.

13. **Participants are requested to make their hotel reservations at the Ak-Keme Hotel through the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic** (please contact Omurbek IBRAEV, e-mail address icd@stat.kg, Tel: +996 312 625 626, Fax: +996 312 660 138.). The Workshop organisers have arranged accommodation at the Ak-Keme hotel at special discount prices, USD 63 for a single, USD 84 for a double room. Please make your reservation before **4 April 2007** to obtain the special price. The Ak-Keme hotel will not provide reservation with discounts for the participants who make individual booking. For logistical

reasons and in order to encourage international interaction during the Workshop, participants are strongly encouraged to stay in this hotel. The same hotel is also the venue of the Workshop.

14. You can find out more about the hotel at the following website: <http://www.akkemehotel.com/>

15. For logistical reasons, participants are requested to complete and submit the “Flight and Hotel confirmation” form, to be sent out at a later stage of preparations and returned at least 7 days prior to the beginning of the Workshop.

V. DOCUMENTATION AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

16. The working languages of the meeting are English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

17. Documentation for the Workshop will be available at the following website:

<http://www-dev.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.04.noe.htm>

18. Participants of the Workshop are encouraged to **download the papers from the website and get acquainted with them already before the Workshop. They should also bring their own copies to the meeting.** Documents posted on the website before the meeting will not be distributed in the meeting room.

VI. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDANCE

19. All queries concerning the meeting should be addressed to:

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