

26 November 2014

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

**Workshop on International Collaboration for Standards-Based Modernisation**

(Geneva, Switzerland 5–7 May 2015)

**INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1**

**I. PURPOSE AND TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE WORKSHOP**

1. This workshop will be organized as part of the Conference of European Statisticians' work programme for 2015, within the context of the High Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Products and Services, and led by the Modernisation Committee on Standards. It will be hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and will take place in the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, Switzerland from 5 to 7 May 2015.

2. The objective of the workshop is to exchange experiences and best practices in the field of standards-based modernisation. It will do this through sharing lessons learned in the use of the statistical standards such as the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM); sharing ideas and plans for modernising statistical production processes; and identifying opportunities for international collaboration activities for the mutual benefit of participating organizations.

3. The target audience for this workshop includes experts in statistical standards and metadata, and people responsible for developing and implementing changes in statistical business processes. While the workshop is also a replacement of the previous METIS (statistical metadata) work sessions, the last of which was held in May 2013, the scope and target audience of this workshop are broader than those of its precursors, encompassing all those whose work involves using standards for modernisation of statistical production.

**II. AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP**

4. The programme of the workshop will consist of the following substantive topics:

- (i) Governing and maintaining statistical standards
- (ii) Increasing the efficiency of statistical business processes through the use of standards
- (iii) Standards to describe or exchange data or metadata
- (iv) The future of standards in statistics.

5. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of these topics are provided in Section V of this Information Notice.

### III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION

6. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the workshop. Participants representing non-governmental organizations in a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council may also attend. **All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organization.**

7. All participants attending the seminar are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas to Switzerland should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the UNECE Workshop of the Modernisation Committee on Standards. A letter to facilitate obtaining a visa can be requested from the UNECE secretariat.

8. Statistical offices and international organizations should inform the UNECE secretariat **by Friday 13 February 2015** if their organization intends to participate in the workshop.

9. Participants should register online at <http://bit.ly/1pYdAV7> **by Friday 20 March 2015**.

### IV. TRAVEL AND ACCOMODATION

10. Participants and/or their offices are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. The UNECE secretariat regrets not being able to offer any financial assistance regarding travel and accommodation arrangements.

### V. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

11. The official language of the workshop is English. Any contributions should, therefore, be submitted in English only. Contributions can include papers, presentations, demonstrations or posters. Other forms of contribution may be proposed. *Full guidelines for contributions will be given following the acceptance of abstracts.* At this stage, contributors should indicate the preferred format of their contributions but please note that due to the nature of the workshop, it may not be possible to allocate time to all proposed contributions.

12. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- A short abstract of the proposed contribution should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (by email to [steven.vale@unece.org](mailto:steven.vale@unece.org)) as soon as possible and **by 13 February 2015 at the latest**. Information about the selection of contributions for the workshop, guidelines on formatting, and a reminder of deadlines will be sent to authors by email.
- Any written papers must be received **by Friday 3 April 2015 at the latest**.
- Any presentation slides, videos or other electronic materials should be sent to the UNECE secretariat by **Friday 24 April 2015 at the latest**.

13. Papers will be made available on the UNECE website at the following location: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2015.05.standards.html>. Presentations will be added to this web site after the workshop. Presentations will not be made available to delegates before the workshop, unless requested by the presenters.

14. Participants are encouraged to download the papers from the website and, where feasible, to use electronic devices to read papers in order to minimise paper use. Documents posted on the website before the workshop will **not** be distributed in the conference room.

## V. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

### **Topic (i): Governing and maintaining statistical standards**

**Session Organizers:** Mr Adam Brown, Statistics New Zealand; Ms Nilgün Dorsan, TurkStat; Ms Marina Signore, ISTAT

15. This session focuses on the governance and maintenance of statistical standards needed to support the modernisation of statistical production in statistical organizations, particularly GSIM and GSBPM.

16. The aims of the session are to discuss i) the role of standards in the modernisation process, particularly for official statistics; ii) the coordination work needed to support implementation, maintenance, updating and improving statistical standards; iii) quality indicators relating to the quality management overarching process of the GSBPM, and iv) impacts of standards on processes, organizational structure and culture.

17. Contributions to this session could address the following topics:

- Coordination of work for implementation and maintenance of standards
- Governance of the maintenance and revision of GSIM and GSBPM
- Governance and maintenance of the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO)
- Quality indicators as part of the Quality Management layer of the GSBPM
- Results of the questionnaire on process-oriented approach to statistical production developed by TurkStat and the Modernisation Committee on Standards and circulated to UNECE and UNESCAP member States.
- How to build capability around statistical standards.

### **Topic (ii): Increasing the efficiency of statistical business processes through the use of standards**

**Session Organizers:** Mr Klas Blomqvist, Statistics Sweden; Mr August Götzfried, Eurostat; Ms Jenny Linnerud, Statistics Norway

18. This session will deal with concrete use cases of GSBPM and GSIM in statistical business processes, with the broad aim of modernising official statistics. Such use cases could include those in which standards are used to improve the efficiency of statistical processes within statistical organizations, and those in which standards promote better sharing of data and metadata with international organizations. All these use cases can also provide feedback to the standards themselves, stimulating their further development.

19. A particular focus of this session will be on GSIM implementation. Metadata case studies have previously been developed within the METIS framework as part D of the Common Metadata Framework, which consists of a series of case studies describing the metadata systems of national and international statistical organizations. The goal of this session is to continue this work and to promote and encourage sharing of GSIM implementations.

20. As a part of this, a GSIM and GSBPM case study template will be created and made available on the UNECE webpage in advance of the meeting. Organizations are invited to use this template to create and present their own case studies. An interactive session with a 'live helpdesk' of representatives from organizations that are working on GSIM implementation is planned where participants are encouraged to take active part in discussions on all levels and types of GSIM implementations. A demonstration of the case study template will also be given.

### **Topic (iii): Standards to describe or exchange data or metadata**

**Session Organizers:** Ms Alice Born, Statistics Canada; Mr Dan Gillman, United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

21. The Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) and the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA) have been developed as common reference models to represent information objects, business processes and service-oriented architectures at the

conceptual (or business) level. These standards are designed to be used by statistical offices to build interoperable systems. This includes the development of implementation layer standards for the description and exchange of data and metadata. The most visible examples are the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX). However a new generation of potential standards that are not primarily based on XML show increasing promise. For DDI, especially, work is underway to modernise and adapt to changing demands.

22. The aim of this session will be to explore the requirements of the above and other standards<sup>1</sup> to support systems for official statistics. Contributions to this session are welcome in the form of papers or posters describing experiences in creating and implementing standards for supporting further interoperable systems. Papers discussing the role of the semantic web are also welcome.

#### **Topic (iv): The future of standards in statistics**

**Session Organizers:** Mr John Dunne, Central Statistics Office, Ireland; Mr Juan Muñoz López, INEGI, Mexico

23. The modernisation of the production of official statistics has sparked a revolution in concepts, methodologies, data sources and technologies that lead us to question the place standards will take in the statistical production processes of the future and how standards should evolve to remain useful within the broad community of national institutions and international organizations.

24. This session will address topics including the evolving role of standards in the future of statistics; the identification of gaps and how these can be filled with existing standards; whether and how new standards should be created to fill these gaps and what characteristics such new standards will need to have.

25. The session will also consider the way forward for the Modernisation Committee on Standards, drawing on the discussions and conclusions of the preceding sessions to formulate a set of priorities and a work programme for the committee and the broader standards community. The session will take an interactive format involving invited presentations and guided discussion groups. While papers or posters are not sought for this session, your suggestions for topics to be covered are welcome.

## **VI. VENUE**

26. The workshop will be held at:

Palais des Nations  
Avenue de la Paix  
1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland.

A second information notice will be issued and made available on the workshop website in February 2015, giving details for locating and entering the workshop, along with additional logistical information.

## **VII. FURTHER INFORMATION**

27. For further information, please contact:

Mr Steven Vale  
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Tel: +41 22 917 1271, email: [steven.vale@unece.org](mailto:steven.vale@unece.org).

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA), metadata glossaries, validation languages, JSON, The Data Cube vocabulary based on SDMX, Extended SKOS (XKOS) for describing statistical classifications, The DDI Discovery Vocabulary (DISCO) and Physical Data Description (PHDD).