

Workshop on the Modernisation of Statistical Production
Geneva, 15-17 April 2015

INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1¹

I. Introduction

1. The workshop will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, at the premises of the United Nations, from 15 to 17 April 2015.
2. It is being organised in the context of the work of the High-Level Group on the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services², with a specific focus on the topics covered by the Modernisation Committee on Production and Methods (information technology, methodology and enterprise architecture). The aims of the workshop are to promote the use of the Common Statistical Production Architecture, to share ideas and plans for modernising statistical production processes, and to identify opportunities for international collaboration activities that would be of mutual benefit for all involved.
3. The workshop is primarily intended for mid to senior managers responsible for the transforming the work of statistical organisations through the coordination, planning and management of modernisation activities. This includes managers in the areas of information technology, methodology and enterprise architecture.

II. Agenda of the workshop

4. The workshop will cover the following substantive themes:
 - Business and IT changes that will impact statistical production
 - Enterprise architecture and its role in the modernisation of statistical production
 - Innovation in technology and methods driving opportunities for modernisation
5. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of the themes 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 organisations are welcome to participate in the workshop. Participants representing non-governmental organisations 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 organisation.** All participants attending the workshop 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 Swiss Embassy) in the country where the participant resides, with a reference to the UNECE Workshop on the Modernisation of Statistical Production.

¹ Information on the venue and local arrangements (hotel accommodation, transportation etc.) will be provided at a later date in Information Notice No. 2.

² See <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/hlgbas>

7. Statistical organisations are asked to confirm **before 12 December 2014** whether their organisation intends to participate at the workshop. Please inform the UNECE secretariat (Gerald.muriel@unece.org).
8. Participants are requested to fill in an electronic registration form, which will be available on the website indicated in paragraph 12, **by 13 February 2015**.

IV. Documentation, methods of work and official languages

9. The official language of the workshop is English. Any contributions should, therefore, be submitted in English only. Contributions can include papers, presentations, demonstrations and videos. Other forms of contribution can be proposed. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Any organisations wishing to submit a contribution to the workshop, are requested to send **a short abstract and indicate the topic** (see para. 3) to which the contribution will refer, as well as author name(s) and contact details, to the UNECE secretariat (Gerald.muriel@unece.org) as soon as possible and **by 12 December 2014 at the latest**.
- Contributions should be sent to the UNECE secretariat (Gerald.muriel@unece.org) **by 13 February 2015**. Any papers should be submitted in electronic format in **MS Word**, and should not exceed 10 pages in length.

10. The Organising Committee preparing the workshop has appointed Session Organisers to lead the discussion on the individual themes. The Session Organisers are indicated in Section V below. On the basis of the contributions received, the Organising Committee will decide which of them will be allotted time for presentation. Please note that due to the nature of the workshop, **only a limited number of contributions will be presented**, others will be used as background information for the discussions.

11. All contributions as well as the provisional agenda and timetable will be made available on the workshop website at:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2015.04.msp.html>

Participants are encouraged to bring their own copies of contributions to the workshop, as printed copies will **not** be provided.

V. Explanatory notes to the substantive themes

12. Participants are invited to contribute to the discussion and outcome of each topic below by papers, demonstrations of solutions or proof-of-concepts, presentations or by other practical means to advance the message of success or raise questions on topics that catch their interest. The desired outcome of the discussions and work within each theme, is to identify potential new international collaboration activities, and to provide input to the 2015 Work Programme of the Modernisation Committee on Production and Methods.

Topic (i): Business and IT changes that will impact statistical production

Session Organisers: Rune Gløersen, Norway (Rune.Gloersen@ssb.no) and Jörgen Modig, Sweden (Jorgen.Modig@scb.se)

13. Statistical organisations are facing new digital challenges, while being tied up by legacy in systems and processes. This challenge, which is common to most businesses, will partly be met by efforts specific to official statistics. However, to what extent can we draw upon common IT developments and new opportunities to provide for digital services? What is needed to ensure that the business and the IT function share a common responsibility to shift into the digital future? Which opportunities can for instance be

explored using common available cloud services? Which of our competencies must be strengthened and elaborated to be able to change as fast as required? We are looking for examples of business developments that show new ways of cooperation between the business and IT in our offices, and uptake of new approaches to utilise common developments, technologies and services which are not specifically designed for official statistics. This topic aims at highlighting the challenges of managing change, notwithstanding all aspects of constraints that we are facing in the budgets, competence and the culture of our businesses.

Topic (ii): Enterprise Architecture and its role in the Modernisation of Statistical Production

Session Organisers: Rosemary McGrath, New Zealand (rosemary.mcgrath@stats.govt.nz) and Joe Treacy, Ireland (Joe.Treacy@cso.ie)

14. Many statistical organisations are modernizing and transforming using enterprise architecture to underpin their vision and change strategy. An enterprise architecture aims to create an environment which can change and support business goals. It shows what the business needs are, where the organisation wants to be, and ensures that the IT strategy aligns with this. Enterprise architecture helps to remove silos, improves collaboration across an organization and ensures that the technology is aligned to the business needs. Within our business, statistical methodology is a prominent part of our Business Architecture. The need to design the Information Architecture by the semantics of our data to control information flows and provide for reuse of data and statistics is another important aspect of our Enterprise Architecture.

15. The development and uptake of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model and the Generic Statistical Information Model have contributed to the growth of architecture design as a discipline within official statistics. The potential for the integration of architecture and methodology to improve statistical production systems was described by Eltinge, Biemer and Holmberg in 2013 (Journal of Official Statistics, March 2013). International collaboration has led to the development of the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA), which aims at reducing duplicate efforts to develop modules by enabling plug-and-play functionality within our statistical production systems.

16. This part of the workshop will discuss the successes and challenges when developing an Enterprise Architecture, focusing on the Business, Information and Solution Architectures within our industry. Examples of CSPA implementations, development of common methodology architecture and information modelling underpinning new IT developments are welcomed.

Topic (iii): Innovation in technology and methods driving opportunities for modernisation

Session Organisers: Marton Vuksan, Netherlands (mhj.vuksan@cbs.nl) and Carlo Vaccari, Italy (vaccari@istat.it)

17. This topic will discuss rapidly changing technology and the opportunities that arise from it. Looking at the future business opportunities like big data, mobile, 3D presentations, it is clear that there is a strong technical component which can enable our work. Furthermore, the work on the Generic Statistical Information Model can be seen as an enabler for more model based developments. These could include opportunities to exploit the growth of semantic technologies, new ways of organising and reusing micro data, and providing our outputs as open, and even linked data. It is our role in the organisation to point at these technologies and develop showcases for the business to use to develop their business solutions with. Examples of concrete projects, plans or ideas on how to harness the new technology and methods that are being developed to create better or new statistics possibly at lower cost, are highly welcomed.

VI. Local arrangements

A. Workshop venue

18. The workshop will be held at:

Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211, Geneva, Switzerland

B. Accommodation

19. Participants are reminded that they are responsible for making their own hotel reservations and are encouraged to do so as early as possible.

20. The UNECE regrets not being able to assist participants in their travel arrangements (air tickets, trains, local transportation, etc.), and can not take any responsibility for financial arrangements with respect to travel or accommodation.

VII. Further information

21. For further information, please contact the following organisers:

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