

**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**Work Session on Statistical Data Editing**  
(Madrid, Spain, 20-22 October 2003)

**INFORMATION NOTICE No.1**

At the invitation of the Government of Spain,  
the Work Session will be held  
from 20 to 22 October 2003 in Madrid.

**I. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

1. At its 2002 plenary session, the Conference of European Statisticians included the Work Session on Statistical Data Editing in its 2003-2004 meeting programme. At the kind invitation of the National Statistical Institute (INE) of Spain, the meeting will be held from 20 to 22 October 2003 in Madrid (Spain). The study programme of the meeting focuses on methods and evaluation, with a particular emphasis on quality related issues. The preparation of methodological material on good practices in the evaluation of efficiency of data editing will be also discussed at the meeting.

2. The target audience of the meeting includes statisticians dealing with editing and imputation of statistical data derived from surveys, censuses, and administrative sources and spanning various subject-matter areas, both social and economic.

**II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

3. The programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive topics:

- (i) Development and use of data editing quality indicators;
- (ii) Developments related to new methods and techniques;
- (iii) Data editing processes within survey processing;
- (iv) Data editing by respondents and data suppliers.

4. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of topics (i) – (vi) are provided in Section V of this Information Notice.

**III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION**

5. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the meeting. 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. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Spain in the country in which the participants reside, with a reference to the UNECE Work Session on statistical data editing.

6. Representatives from national statistical offices and international organizations who wish to participate should complete the registration form, which can be found on the last page, and return it to both the UNECE Secretariat and INE, Spain **by 30 May 2003**.

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

7. The only working language of the work session is English. The documents may be submitted in any of the official languages of the UNECE (English, French, Russian), but no translation and interpretation facilities will be available. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- The intention to submit a paper should be communicated to the UNECE Secretariat by **30 May 2003**
- The papers, not exceeding 10 pages, should be sent electronically to the UNECE Secretariat by **1 August 2003 at the latest**
- The UNECE Secretariat is able to process documents submitted in MS Word.

8. For each substantive item on the agenda the discussants will invite 2-3 speakers to write an **invited paper** and to present them at the Meeting. All other participants are welcome to submit a **supporting paper** on any topic of the agenda. The supporting papers will be distributed to the delegates. They will be summarized by the discussants and the issues raised in them will also be discussed.

9. Invited and supporting papers will be made available on the website of the UNECE Secretariat at the following location:

**<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2003.10.sde.htm>**

Delegates are encouraged to download the papers from the website and bring their own copies to the meeting. Documents posted on the website before the meeting will not be distributed in the conference room.

#### V. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

##### (i) Development and use of data editing quality indicators

Discussants: Leopold Granquist, Sweden ([leopold.granquist@scb.se](mailto:leopold.granquist@scb.se)); Svein Nordbotten, Sweden ([svein@nordbotten.com](mailto:svein@nordbotten.com)); and Thomas Burg, Austria ([thomas.burg@statistik.gv.at](mailto:thomas.burg@statistik.gv.at))

10. Subjects to be considered under this topic should focus on:

- Development and use of data editing quality indicators for different users
  - which indicators for which users and how often?
  - development of a conceptual framework for description of editing processes.
  - routines and processes for obtaining better knowledge of the quality of inputs.
- Monitoring and recording performance of a given editing and imputation methodology.
  - collection of empirical processing information from the design and execution phases of editing processes.
- Evaluating recorded performance data
  - routines, comparison and evaluation of process data.
  - consolidating performance evaluation as metadata for presentation of both processes and results.
  - systematic publication and exchange of process knowledge gained.

##### (ii) Developments related to new methods and techniques

Discussants: Bill Winkler, United States ([bwinkler@census.gov](mailto:bwinkler@census.gov)) and Jean-Marc Museux, Eurostat ([jean-marc.museux@cec.eu.int](mailto:jean-marc.museux@cec.eu.int))

11. This topic covers new methods and techniques for the editing and imputing of data. Contributions might consider new methods and software, implementations in different data situations, or the impact of IT developments on organization efficiency. Presentations could be accompanied by an evaluation of the operational feasibility of applying the ideas in a variety of data or organizational situations. Of particular interest are those situations for which the new methods work well or might not work well. Empirical comparisons and evaluations are particularly welcome. Topics of interest include temporal data editing, (meta) data handling, selective editing versus increased demand for microdata and user-specific analyses, outlier detection, and machine learning methods

**(iii) Data editing processes within survey processing**

Discussants: Claude Poirier, Canada (poircla@statcan.ca) and Ton de Waal, Netherlands (twal@cbs.nl)

12. The implementation of data editing processes within the entire survey process poses particular challenges due to its strong interaction with the other activities. The topic will cover aspects related to the editing infrastructure and to the achievement of an improvement of the statistical survey program as a whole. To this end, the work session welcomes contributions that outline issues related to the management of editing; the interfaces of typical editing processes to the other processes; the feedback of the edit process to preceding steps such as sample design, questionnaire design, data collection or data capture; the editing outcomes that the subsequent processes must consider; the optimization of survey operations; and, the interaction between the editing experts and other specialists. Contributions, which present specific applications dealing with the above issues, are encouraged.

**(iv) Data editing by respondents and data suppliers**

Discussants: Orietta Luzi, Italy (luzi@istat.it) and Natalie Shlomo, Israel (natalies@cbs.gov.il)

13. In order to reduce drawbacks due to ineffective editing (increase of time, costs, respondent burden, and so on), statistical agencies try both to rationalize editing processes by addressing available resources where the maximum gain can be made in terms of data quality (e.g. at the data capturing stage), and use alternative sources of information for reducing costs and respondent burden.

14. Moving editing closer to respondents can significantly contribute to improving editing effectiveness. Under this issue, papers should focus on how to find the optimum balance among the expected data quality, time and available resources by integrating, optimizing and harmonizing editing activities in the data capturing and data editing stages, taking into account overall respondent burden. Papers dealing with best practice procedures and experiences in this field are welcome.

15. The session also covers aspects related to editing when administrative or external sources of data are used in statistical processes. Under this topic, contributions suggesting strategies/best practices to convince data suppliers to perform editing, improve their own editing processes, provide information on their own editing activities, are of particular interest. Papers describing experiences in demographic as well as in business areas are welcome. An effort should be made to draw attention to general issues beyond the specific applications.

**VI. FURTHER INFORMATION**

16. For further information, please contact the following organizers:

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

This form should be completed in duplicate by each participant  
and returned **by 30 May 2003**

1 copy to: Mr. Juraj Riecan  
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Fax: +34-91 583-9499  
E-mail: e-mail: previlla@ine.es

1. Surname (Family name): Mr. ? Ms. ?	2. First name:
3. Representing (country or organization):	
4. Official function (in home country):	
5. Mailing address:	
6. Tel. No.:	7. Fax No.:
8. E-mail address:	
9. Please provide a topic ((i)-(iv)) and title, if you intend to present a paper:	
10. Date and time of arrival in Madrid:	11. Date and time of departure from Madrid:
12. Special requirements:	

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_