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## Economic Commission for Europe

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**Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations**

**Economic Commission for Europe**

**Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau  
and Teams of Specialists**

## Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2020

### Addendum

### Report of the ModernStats World Workshop 2019

### Note by the secretariat

#### *Summary*

The document presents the key outcomes of the ModernStats World Workshop which took place from 26-28 June 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. This report is provided to inform the Conference of European Statisticians of the organization and outcomes of the meeting.

The ModernStats World Workshop was organised following a decision of the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2019 (ECE/CES/2019/13).



## I. Introduction

1. The ModernStats World Workshop 2019 was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 26 to 28 June 2019. It was attended by 69 participants representing the statistical offices of Argentina, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as Eurostat, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI).
2. The workshop was jointly organised by the Sharing Tools Group and the Supporting Standards Group of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS).
3. The main goal of the workshop was to create a better understanding of the ModernStats models and share experiences and lessons learned on implementing the models. By creating a platform where users can discuss issues in using the models, the workshop also aimed to foster collaboration among the users for developing a common solution.
4. The programme of the workshop was organized with the following themes:
  - Session 1: Introduction;
  - Session 2: New developments;
  - Session 3: Implementing the models;
  - Session 4: Market place.
5. The Session 1 provided introduction to the ModernStats models through both presentation and group activities to better understand how the models work individually and collectively. New developments under two Groups to support the implementation of the models were presented in Session 2 along with other on-going works under the HLG-MOS. In Session 3, 15 presentations were given by various national, regional and international statistical offices to share their experiences of using the models and lessons learned. The Session 4 provided a market place where users showcased statistical services in their organizations and discussed with other users. In total, 6 posters and 5 soapbox presentations were made during the session. Discussion points made during the presentation and small group discussions can be found in the annex.
6. The workshop concluded with group discussion on the challenges and future works. The discussions identified a number of ideas for further work as below:
  - Support the implementation of the models: encourage countries to share use cases and make these examples available on wikis for countries that are starting to use the models; provide more learning materials and implementation tool.
  - Improve harmonization within the models as well as with other new models and international statistical standards.
  - Communicate the benefits of the models and their status better.
  - Improve Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) further and promote the model: introduce short (soft) review cycle so that countries would not develop their own solution in an isolated manner which will lead to inconsistencies.
  - Collect examples from countries that are using lower-level Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) activities to identify common elements.
  - Structure the GSBPM overarching processes better and represent content of each in a more standard way to help operationalization.
  - Make Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA) Catalogue more user-friendly.

- Ensure the use of the Modernization Maturity Model: review the model with respect to updates of the ModernStats models and consider linking use cases to maturity level to help countries at different stages of implementation to find appropriate references more easily.

7. All abstracts, papers and presentations from the workshop are available at the UNECE webpage at: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50367>

## Annex

### Summary of proceeding and discussion

1. Session 1 “Introduction to ModernStats Models” was chaired by Ms. Anna Dlugosz and Mr. Janusz Dygaszewicz (Statistics Poland). The session consisted of introductory presentations and group activities on the ModernStats models. Feedback made during discussion raised the following points:

- More and more organizations start to use Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM). Experiences from organizations that already implemented the model would be very helpful if they can be made available on UNECE Statistics wikis.
- Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO) is relatively new but has several uses cases. The model was used for defining a scope of application for generic services and setting priority in case of disasters in Statistics Netherlands. The model was also used as reference point for revision of the UN Handbook of Statistical Organizations.
- Tools to map existing business to Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) processes such as the one used during GSBPM group activity can be very helpful for organizations starting to use the model. It can be used to analyse the as-is situation and to understand the potential improvement to reach the to-be situation.

2. Session 2 “New Developments” was chaired by Mr. Jakob Engdahl (Statistics Sweden) and Mr. Ronald Ossendrijver (Statistics Netherlands). The session presented the works of the task teams under the two HLG-MOS groups as well as several collaborative works under the HLG-MOS. Discussions during this session raised the following points:

- The gaps and inconsistencies identified by task teams working on alignment and linking of ModernStats models should be documented and taken care during the next revision of the models, if not this year by the task teams.
- There are many on-going works to develop new models and documents under the HLG-MOS. These new works should be consistent with existing models.
- It is not easy to balance between being in line with the existing models (e.g. incorporating GSIM terminology in a new model) and being useful for practitioners who are the target audience of the new model but not necessarily familiar with the ModernStats models.

3. Session 3 “Implementing the Models” was chaired by Mr. Franck Cotton (France) and Ms. Marina Signore (Italy). A total of 15 national and international statistical organizations gave presentation on how the models are used in their organizations. Discussion during this session raised the following points:

- The ModernStats models are useful in particular for developing countries that have limited statistical capabilities. How should we extend the models to developing countries?
- During previous GSBPM review, proposal to add low-level activities (i.e. level below GSBPM sub-process) was examined but not accepted in the end as it would make the model less generic. However, many countries using GSBPM define and use low-level activities nonetheless. These examples could be collected to identify common elements.
- The 2020 Round of Census would be a good opportunity to check how GSBPM works with census.
- Dashboard-type applications where statisticians can manage their survey without intervention of IT people is being developed in multiple countries. These countries could benefit from each other’s experience.

- GSIM provides common language in statistical organizations. Many experts around the world put in much effort to capture the core information objects that are needed in statistical organizations and establish their relationships (e.g. Hungary found 80% of GSIM objects in their metadata system).
  - Countries starting to use GSIM are experiencing similar problems. Countries that have been using GSIM also find some common issues (e.g. several GSIM information objects are not clear). If these problems are not handled at international level together, individual country will need to develop their own interpretation which will result in inconsistencies.
  - Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA) Catalogue is useful but require some prior knowledge of other models to use it.
  - Demand to produce statistics fast (e.g. real time statistics) is increasing. Can the ModernStats models handle the new ways of producing statistics?
4. Session 4 “Market Place” was chaired by Mr. Juan Muñoz (Mexico) and Ms. Márta Nagy-Rotengass (Eurostat). In total, 6 posters and 5 soapbox presentations were made during the session.
5. The workshop concluded with a group discussion to reflect on the challenges and future works. The groups proposed following as future works:
- Support the implementation of the models: encourage countries to share use cases and make these examples available on wikis for countries that are starting to use the models; provide more learning materials such as handbook, video, recommendation, and implementation tool (e.g. mapping tool used in GSBPM exercise).
  - Improve harmonization within the models (e.g. aligning terminologies) as well as with other new models (e.g. Common Statistical Data Architecture (CSDA), Generic Statistical Data Editing Model (GSDEM)) and international statistical standards (e.g. Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX), Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)).
  - Communicate the benefits of the models and their status (e.g. review, update).
  - Improve GSIM further and promote the model: introduce short (soft) review cycle so that countries would not develop their own solution in an isolated manner which will lead to inconsistencies.
  - Collect examples from countries that are using lower-level GSBPM activities to identify common elements.
  - Structure the GSBPM overarching processes better and represent content of each in a more standard way to help operationalization.
  - Make CSPA Catalogue more user-friendly.
  - Ensure the use of the Modernization Maturity Model: review the model with respect to updates of the ModernStats models and consider linking use cases to maturity level to help countries at different stages of implementation to find appropriate references more easily.