

Meeting of the 2015/2016 Bureau
Luxembourg, 9-10 February 2016

Item IV (c) of the Provisional
Agenda

**REVISED DRAFT OUTLINE FOR THE CES 2016 SEMINAR SESSION ON
“GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SERVICES BASED ON OFFICIAL STATISTICS”**

Prepared by Austria

*This paper presents a revised draft outline for the seminar session on “Geospatial information services based on official statistics” to be organized during the CES 2016 plenary session. The revision is mainly based on the results of the discussions and decision taken by the Bureau in its meeting in October 2015. **The Bureau discussed the seminar and provided recommendations for the final structure and on the organization of the seminar.***

I. BACKGROUND

1. A first draft outline of the seminar on “Geospatial information services based on official statistics” to be held at the 2016 Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was presented and discussed at the CES Bureau meeting on 21-22 October 2015 (see ECE/CES/BUR/2015/18).
2. The Bureau raised the following issues with respect to the proposed outline and requested the organizing country, Austria to take into account the recommendations by the Bureau (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/ 21):
 - (a) Geography and statistics are one of the key partnerships. The seminar should allow to synthesize information about the different activities on geospatial data that are relevant for statistics, and identify way forward, including how to develop the strategic partnerships between the geo-spatial and statistical partnerships;
 - (b) The seminar preparation should be coordinated and aligned with the in-depth review on this topic in February (paper being prepared by UK and Eurostat);
 - (c) The seminar should inform about the UN Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and discuss ways how to link with this work;
 - (d) The seminar will include two sessions. The chair will summarize the papers according to themes/issues raised, focusing on 2-3 main issues. The length of the papers should be restricted;
 - (e) OECD offered a paper on defining boundaries of functional urban areas.

3. Based on these recommendations by the Bureau the organizing country proceeded in the preparation work: in addition to the 10 abstracts that had already been submitted before the October 2015 Bureau meeting (Australia, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden (in collaboration with Eurostat) and United States), two further contribution have been arranged:

- a) on UN-GGIM: Europe
- b) on satellite-based observations linked to geo-referenced data by OECD.

4. The organizer was recently provided with the paper on the “In-depth review of developing geospatial information services based on official statistics” which is also on the agenda of the current Bureau meeting. This document provided some helpful considerations about the issues to be dealt with in the seminar.

II. GOALS OF THE SEMINAR

5. The original tentative outline of the seminar can be found in Doc ECE/CES/2015/17/Add.1 on proposals of topics for the CES 2016 Plenary Session, which was circulated during the CES 2015. This outline has been reworked as follows:

“Numerous policy initiatives, e.g. on climate change and disaster preparedness, stress the benefits of linking environmental and socioeconomic data to location attributes. However, the response by official statisticians has been slow in many countries. In addition to improving the quality of the unit level spatial referencing, statistical offices would need to significantly improve access to spatial statistical information and develop ways of sharing data to more effectively to serve policy needs. Development may have been held back by data confidentiality and privacy concerns, but also due to lack of common tools and approaches.

The seminar will comprise the following issues:

- What is the role of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) for the development of geospatial information services?
- What are the benefits and value added of an integration of statistics and geospatial information?
- Concepts of a statistical geospatial framework and its integration into the statistical production process.
- What are the methodological requirements for geospatial information services based on official statistics?
- What are the challenges and obstacles in improving the availability of geospatially referenced statistical information?
- What are the good practices to be shared among statistical offices in developing services using geospatial data and making spatial information more accessible to users?
- What are examples of effective partnerships for advancing the development of geospatial information services between the statistical offices and the national mapping and cadastre agencies?

- What would be a possible course of action for developing of geospatial information services at statistical offices in the ECE region, especially with a view to the 2020 census round and the Sustainable Development Goals?”

III. STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATIONAL SETTING OF THE SEMINAR

6. It is proposed to structure the seminar into two main sessions:

- a) Global and international dimensions
- b) National experience and practices

The contributions on methodological issues and developments are allocated in a separate room document session.

7. The first session on the global and international dimensions will include two contributions:

- a) **UN-GGIM Europe:** UN-GGIM Europe - All about connections
- b) **Sweden in collaboration with Eurostat:** Building an infrastructure for European geospatial statistics

8. The second session on national experiences and practices will include five contributions:

- a) **Australia:** Statistical and geospatial information – an Australian perspective on challenges and opportunities;
- b) **Mexico:** Geospatial information services at statistical offices;
- c) **New Zealand:** New Zealand’s progress towards linking data “to” and “by” location, to unleash the power of data to change lives;
- d) **Norway:** A possible formula for establishing spatial statistical services;
- e) **USA:** A common international conceptual framework for geospatial and statistical data acquisition, data management and data use: goals and barriers.

9. Room documents of five examples of methodological developments:

- a) **Germany:** Grid-based results from the 2011 census in Germany: products and use-cases of a new era
- b) **Italy:** From a visualisation environment toward a toolbox for georeferenced statistics and geospatial analyses
- c) **Netherlands:** Online linking of statistics to geographical information
- d) **OECD:** Breathing the same air? Measuring pollution in regions and cities
- e) **Slovenia:** STAGE – integrated system for dissemination of geospatial statistical data

10. The contributions of session 1 and 2 will be summarized by the session chair focusing on a few major issues. In order to encourage lively discussions, it is not foreseen to include a question-answer part to each paper. Instead authors will be invited to participate in the main discussion.

11. The room documents on methodological issues will neither be summarized nor discussed.

12. It is the intention of the organizer to devote more of the seminar time for general discussions. The seminar chair will propose tentative issues for the general discussion. Inputs from countries should clearly focus on the issues raised and be short. Another intention of the seminar organizer is to elaborate clear recommendations on the way forward.

13. Based on these propositions a tentative time table could be as follows:

Introduction:

14.30 – 14.40 General introduction to the seminar by the seminar chair

Session 1: Global and international dimensions

14.40 – 15.00 Summary of the two papers by the session chair

15.00 – 15.30 General discussion

15.30 – 15.50 Coffee/tea break

Session 2: National experience and practices

15.50 – 16.30 Summary of the five papers by the session chair

16.30 – 17.20 General discussion

Conclusions/Recommendations

17.20 – 17.30 Conclusions and recommendations for the way forward by the seminar chair

IV. NEXT STEPS

14. Based on the recommendations of the Bureau, the seminar organizer will finalize the outline of the seminar and communicate it to the contributors. Regarding certain aspects of the seminar organisation the organizer remain in contact with the contributors.

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