

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

Workshop on measuring poverty and vulnerability
(Geneva, 4 May 2015)

CONCEPT NOTE

I. TIME AND VENUE

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is organizing the Workshop on poverty measurement and vulnerability under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund. The Workshop will be held in room VIII at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on Monday, 4 May from 10 am to 6 pm, with a lunch break from 1 to 3 pm.

II. BACKGROUND

2. The ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda have further strengthened the importance of measuring poverty, inequality and vulnerability. The United Nations General Assembly's Open Working Group proposed 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere' as the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). As the other goals, it needs to be monitored with indicators that matter nationally and are comparable internationally. It is expected that regional reporting mechanisms will also play a significant role in facilitating the reporting at regional level, taking into account regional priorities and ensuring a link between the national and the global level.

3. In addition to the income and consumption, a household may suffer from a range of other deprivations, and the **multidimensional** character of poverty is now broadly recognised. Health, education and living standards are the dimensions used in Multidimensional Poverty Index. Social inclusion, nutrition, employment, empowerment and personal security, and pension contributions are other relevant aspects.

4. While it is important to focus on poverty, there is a growing recognition that reducing just the level of poverty may not result in satisfactory development policies. Vulnerability concerns another layer of the population at risk, which takes into account the situations of households whose income or consumption level is just above the poverty line. Moreover, certain **population sub-groups**, such as ethnic and religious minorities or specific age-groups of men and women, could be particularly vulnerable to poverty. They can be specifically affected by ill health or other external risk factors, such as natural hazards and macroeconomic volatility.

5. Countries have used different methodologies for measuring multidimensional poverty and vulnerability. Exchange of experience and guidance on good practices are needed.

III. PURPOSE

6. The main purpose of this Workshop is to exchange experience and build statistical capacity for the measurement of multidimensional poverty and vulnerability to poverty, with focus on the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.
7. The target audience of the Workshop consists of statisticians and analysts from national statistical offices.

IV. WORKSHOP OUTLINE

A. Multidimensional poverty

8. The session will start with a conceptual presentation on methodology on multidimensional poverty, emphasizing the aspects relevant to countries of Eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia and providing some practical guidance on what the countries could undertake in order to apply it. The presentation will be provided by research centre Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The session will continue with specific examples from countries.

B. Vulnerability to poverty

9. The session will start with a conceptual presentation on how to measure vulnerability and vulnerable groups provided by UNDP and the World Bank. It will continue with specific country examples on vulnerability to poverty and vulnerable sub-groups.

V. REQUIRED PREPARATION FOR THE WORKSHOP

10. The participants are invited to complete a short survey on the measurement of vulnerability to poverty. The replies should be submitted to the Secretariat (social.stats@unece.org) by **10 April 2015**.
11. Countries who have not yet responded to the UNECE Questionnaire on Methods of Poverty Measurement in Official Statistics are invited to submit their replies to the Secretariat (social.stats@unece.org), as soon as possible and no later than **10 April 2015**.

VI. DOCUMENTATION AND LANGUAGES

12. Participants are encouraged to download the background materials from the website www.unece.org/stats/documents/2015.05.poverty2.html and bring their own

copies to the Workshop. Documents posted on the website before the Workshop will not be distributed in the conference room.

13. The working languages of the Seminar are English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

VII. IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- **10 April 2015:** registration through <http://bit.ly/1xosjuN> (funded participants will be contacted individually)
- **10 April 2015:** submission of the Survey on Vulnerability to Poverty
- **10 April 2015:** submission of the UNECE Questionnaire on Methods of Poverty Measurement in Official Statistics

VIII. REGISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

14. For information on registration and logistics, including accommodation in Geneva, free public transport and local currency, please refer to the information note of the Seminar on Poverty Measurement, available at www.unece.org/stats/documents/2015.05.poverty.htm.

IX. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

15. All queries concerning the Workshop should be addressed to the Secretariat:

Secretariat
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