

**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing

(Bonn, Germany, 25-27 September 2006)

INFORMATION NOTICE No.1

At the invitation of the Government of Germany,
the Work Session will be held in Bonn from 25 to 27 September 2006.

I. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

1. At its 2004 plenary session, the Conference of European Statisticians included the Work Session on Statistical Data Editing in its 2005-2006 meeting programme. At the kind invitation of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, the meeting will be held from 25 to 27 September 2006 in Bonn (Germany). The study programme of the meeting focuses on methods and evaluation, with a particular emphasis on quality related issues.

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) Editing nearer the source;
- (ii) Editing data from multiple sources;
- (iii) Editing microdata for release;
- (iv) Macro-editing;
- (v) New and emerging methods.

4. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of topics (i) – (v) 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 Germany in the country in which the participants reside, with a reference to the UNECE Work Session on Statistical Data Editing. The statistical offices and international organizations should inform the UNECE secretariat **before 25 April 2006** if their organization intends to participate at the meeting and/or submit a contribution on the topics mentioned above. Please send a short abstract and indicate the topic to which the paper will refer as well as participant(s) name(s) and their contact data.

6. Participants should complete the registration form, which can be found on the last page, and return it to both the UNECE Secretariat and the Federal Statistical Office **by 14 August 2006**.

IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

7. The 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 accompanied by a short abstract **by 25 April 2006**.
- The papers, not exceeding 10 pages, should be sent electronically to the UNECE Secretariat by **30 June 2006 at the latest**.
- Documents should be submitted in MS Word and/or PDF formats. Templates in Word containing the header, document number and format will be sent to authors or may be requested by e-mail (diane.serikoff@unece.org). Alternatively, templates in LaTeX can also be provided.

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. Authors of invited papers will have about 20 minutes per paper for the presentation. Authors of supporting papers may be given (time permitting) about 5 minutes to highlight the main issues raised in their papers. Presenters may use PowerPoint presentations, Adobe Acrobat full screen presentations or A4/letter transparencies. UNECE secretariat cannot provide translation of the presentations.

- Presentations in PowerPoint or Adobe Acrobat should be sent to the UNECE secretariat by **4 September 2006 at the latest**, so that these can be installed on the conference room computer prior to the meeting.

10. 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/2006.09.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) **Editing nearer the source** - Discussants: Pedro Revilla, Spain (previlla@ine.es); and Heather Wagstaff, United Kingdom (Heather.Wagstaff@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

11. Moving editing closer to respondents can improve editing effectiveness and quality. This topic covers all issues relating to editing pertaining to strategies or methods that try to move editing at the point of data collection and its relationship to editing that occurs in the post-collection process. It includes electronic acquisition and processing of data (CAPI, CATI, EDI, EDT, EDR, etc.) and the way editing can be made by the respondent when using electronic questionnaires.

12. Measuring the response/editing burden and the quality and reliability of the responses in order to provide valuable information to other survey processes is another issue of interest in this topic. Papers describing editing strategies to improve the relationship with the respondent or the general editing process are also welcome.

- (ii) **Editing data from multiple sources** - Discussants: Ton de Waal, Netherlands (twal@cbs.nl) and Thomas Burg, Austria (thomas.burg@statistik.gv.at)

13. Combining internal and external available data sources has become an indispensable tool for creating consistent data sets. This topic deals with methods, problems and special issues when combining multiple sources. The process of putting together various sources for a common statistical purpose can incorporate different situations, such as linking administrative data and survey results, census data and sample surveys, in house registers with various exterior sources, many different sources, etc. Contributions for this topic could describe process steps implemented to guarantee acceptable results when combining various sources with a special emphasis on data cleaning procedures. Papers covering all aspects concerning editing when producing integrated data systems as well as in house registers and data bodies for large scaled statistical products are also welcome.

- (iii) **Editing microdata for release** - Discussants: Natalie Shlomo (N.Shlomo@soton.ac.uk) and Rainer Lenz, Germany (rainer.lenz@destatis.de)

14. The focus of this topic is on post-editing and imputation of microdata prior to its release. Data providers, such as National Statistical Offices, often release microdata collected from samples under special requests by researchers and other users (internal and external). Before releasing microdata, modifications may be necessary in order to meet the needs of the users and to protect the confidentiality of the statistical units. These modifications typically take the form of detecting and treating outliers and applying data masking techniques, which may perturb the data in order to ensure that statistical units can't be re-identified. In addition, when users request microdata from data providers, they often ask for additional information from external sources to be merged onto the microdata in order to enrich the information content. For example, deaths and cause of death could be merged on to Census sample microdata to carry out a survival analysis. As a result of these modifications, logical inconsistencies may reappear in the microdata and there is usually a need to carry out an additional pre-release post-editing and imputation stage.

15. Contributions are requested which describe methods and strategies for carrying out a post-editing and imputation stage on microdata, including practical examples and applications that detect and correct logical inconsistencies which may occur after the standard data processing stages.

- (iv) **Macro-editing** - Discussants: Leopold Granquist (leopold.granquist@scb.se); Dan Hedlin (dan.hedlin@scb.se) and Svein Nordbotten, Sweden (svein@nordbotten.com)

16. This topic includes all issues concerning assumptions, development, methods, experiences and evaluations related to the use of macro-editing or selective editing for reducing manual follow-up work while maintaining quality in statistical results.

- (v) **New and emerging methods** - Discussants: Paula Weir (pweir@eia.doe.gov), Maria Garcia, United States (maria.m.garcia@census.gov) and Orietta Luzi, Italy (luzi@istat.it)

17. This topic covers new methods and techniques for data editing and imputation. Contributions could highlight progress in data editing theory and new methodologies, as well as new techniques and software tools, or explore organizational implementation issues and impacts. Topics of interest include:

- temporal and/or geospatial editing and imputation
- detection and treatment of systematic errors or outliers
- selective editing techniques
- machine learning methods for editing and imputation
- new software applications
- graphical editing techniques
- imputation under edit restrictions
- outlier-robust imputation
- variance estimation in the presence of imputation.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

18. 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 14 August 2006**

1 copy to: Ms. Diane Serikoff

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Fax: +4122 917 0040

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E-mail: marco.schwickerath@destatis.de

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 indicate topic ((i)-(v)) and title, if you intend to present a paper:				
10. Date and time of arrival in Bonn:			11. Date and time of departure from Bonn:	
12. Special requirements:				

Date _____

Signature _____