

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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Workshop on Statistical Data Collection ‘Resourceful Data Acquisition’

23 March 2018

10-12 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1

I. PURPOSE AND AGENDA

1. This workshop will be organized as part of the Conference of European Statisticians’ work programme for 2018, within the context of the High Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics. It will take place at the United Nations premises, Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland from 10–12 October 2018.
2. The objective of this workshop is to identify innovative ways and best practices in statistical data collection, and to provide a platform for practitioners to exchange experiences and foster collaboration in this area. In addition to the more traditional presentations, the agenda of the workshop will include target-driven small group discussions to identify best practices and new opportunities. Delegates will be asked to contribute to the development of internationally-coordinated work in the field of statistical data collection.
3. The programme of the workshop will consist of the following substantive topics:
 - (i) Innovating survey design;
 - (ii) Optimize the use of existing sources;
 - (iii) Modernise data collection infrastructures;
 - (iv) Capabilities and management; and
 - (v) Partnerships in data acquisition and collective projects.
4. The target audience for the workshop includes senior and middle-level managers responsible for data collection activities and new data sources, across all statistical domains.

II. CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

5. Participants are strongly encouraged to consider submitting an abstract that summarises the content of their proposed contribution. These should be covering one or more of the topics of the programme of the workshop. **For further details on the coverage of the topics, refer to the annex at the end of this note.** Any contributions should be submitted in English only.
6. A short abstract of the proposed contribution should be submitted by email to the UNECE secretariat, taeke.gjaltema@un.org and gerald.muriel@un.org, as soon as possible and by Wednesday 18 July 2018 at the latest.
7. The steering committee will notify in due time whether the submission is accepted or not and might request changes. Contributions should normally consist of a paper, plus an accompanying presentation. Other forms of contribution may be proposed. Please note that it may not be possible to

allocate time to all proposed contributions.

8. Any written papers must be provided by **Wednesday 12 September 2018** at the latest. A link will be sent to the authors where documents can be uploaded.

9. Any presentation slides, videos or other electronic materials should be provided by **Wednesday 12 September 2018** at the latest. Any equipment required for practical demonstrations must be provided by the participants. A link will be sent to the authors where presentations can be uploaded.

III. REGISTRATION

10. Statistical offices and international organizations should express their interest to participate or contribute by **Wednesday 18 July 2018** to the UNECE secretariat, taeke.gjaltema@un.org and Gerald.muriel@un.org,

11. Participants should also separately register their security information online at the site <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=vqgxj4> by **Wednesday 15 August 2018**, in order to be permitted access to the workshop venue. Please note that the registration process must be fully completed before a request is generated. (When this happens, a message will be displayed that says “*You successfully submitted your application. The application is pending approval.*”)

12. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the workshop. 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.

13. All participants attending the seminar are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas to Switzerland should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the UNECE Workshop on Statistical Data Collection. A letter to facilitate obtaining a visa can also be requested.

14. Participants and/or their offices are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. The UNECE secretariat regrets not being able to offer any financial assistance regarding travel and accommodation arrangements.

IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

15. The official language of the workshop is English. No interpretation or translation will be provided.

16. The workshop will consist of presentations, small group discussions to exchange experiences and to identify lessons learned, and interactive discussions to identify future work in the area of data collection. Participants are expected to actively contribute to the discussions.

17. Abstracts and papers will be made available in pdf format on the workshop website (<https://statswiki.unece.org/x/sACrCQ>). Presentations will be added in pdf format to this web site after the workshop.

18. Participants are encouraged to download the papers from the website and, where feasible, to use electronic devices to read papers in order to minimise paper use. Documents posted on the website before the workshop will **not** be distributed in the conference room.

V. VENUE

19. The workshop will be held at:
Palais des Nations
8-14, Avenue de la Paix
Geneva, Switzerland

A second information notice will be issued and made available on the workshop website nearer to the dates of this workshop, giving details about the location of the workshop, along with additional logistical information.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

20. For further information you may contact the following organisers:

Mr Taeke Gjaltema, tel: +41 22 917 1272, email: taeke.gjaltema@un.org

Mr. Gerald Muriel, tel: +41 22 917 3323, email: gerald.muriel@un.org

Statistical Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

DEADLINES

18 July 2018 **Participation Notification**

18 July 2018 **Abstract** or proposal for intended contribution

15 August 2018 **Registration**

12 September 2018 **Paper** or detailed abstract if no paper is provided

12 September 2018 **Presentation** or other material to be presented (draft)

Final versions of presentations can be uploaded until 9 October

10-12 October 2018 Workshop dates

ANNEX: EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

Topic (i): Innovating survey design

Organisers: Lise Rivais (Statistics Canada) and Britta Gauckler (Eurostat).

21. Despite that more data sources have become available, surveys are still an essential part of data collection and the production of statistics. In order to stay relevant, the quality and cost effectiveness has to be guaranteed. Novel survey techniques can reduce the response burden, increase response rates, and prevent bias. Practitioners are called to share their efforts to do so. Examples of topics that contributions can cover under this theme are:

- Survey design with data collection using apps and new devices;
- Novel survey techniques to improve the response while reducing response burden;
- Communication with and feedback to respondents;
- Creative techniques and/or inclusion of qualitative techniques, such as: social network mapping, group discussions, modular approaches, triangulation;
- Integrating new technology into data collection, such as: smart statistics, gamification, apps, PDA's, clickers or the usage of social network analysis;
- Behavioural questionnaire design and survey techniques;
- Influencing respondents and nudging techniques;
- Techniques to increase response rates of under-represented and hard to reach groups; and
- Reducing the length and complexity of questionnaires.

Topic (ii): Optimize the use of existing data sources

Organisers: Bilal Kurban (Turkish Statistical Institute) and Britta Gauckler (Eurostat).

22. In order to reduce response burden and cost of statistical surveys and to improve the quality of statistical registers and thus to increase the quality of the data, efficient use of already existing data sources has become more important nowadays. Rather than concentrating only on a particular data source, today's data collection focuses more on integration of statistical data, administrative data, geospatial information, big data and other sources. Organizations experiencing multi-source data integration process(es) in data collection are very much welcomed to share their experiences focusing on its benefits and difficulties. Contributions for this session are presented below as examples:

- Using new and non-traditional data sources to improve or create new statistics or to reduce the use of surveys;
- Interoperability of traditional data sources with non-traditional data sources;
- Replacing or substitution of surveys with data from other sources;
- Use of geospatial information;
- Use of big data;
- Limitations and quality of non-survey data;
- Handling risks of using non-survey data;
- Ensuring data security with integrating sources;
- Take advantage of mixed sources to validate non-survey data algorithms and results; and
- Making use of mobile devices for data collection to increase response rates.

Topic (iii): Modernise Data Collection Infrastructures

Topic Organisers: Frances Comerford (Central Statistical Office, Ireland) and Ian O’Sullivan (Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom).

23. This session will focus on modernization of official statistics to address emerging user needs for high-quality and internationally comparable data and statistics in a fast-changing data ecosystem. Modernization of data collection requires an effective technology and an infrastructure that supports integrated statistical production. Management of data collection functions in the changing environment includes management and integration of multiple data collection modes and new data sources, as well as improving respondent experience. This topic will include the following sub-topics:

- Being more efficient and adapting the data infrastructure to enable multi-mode data collections and to cope with new and changing data sources;
- Computer assisted systems;
- Eliminate the use of non-reusable devices and/or platforms;
- Providing personalized feedback to respondents;
- The systems that can deal with multi-source and mixed-mode data collection;
- Eliminating stove pipe and silo structures and creating standardized and integrated processes;
- Integrating flexible management systems and software-support to cope with complex statistical processes.

Topic (iv): Capabilities and Management

Topic Organisers: Barteld Braaksma (Statistics Netherlands) and Paulo Saraiva dos Santos (Statistics Portugal).

24. Statistical Offices face an ever changing information landscape. New and alternative sources have to be considered to produce existing statistics more efficiently or to satisfy the needs for new indicators. This leads to the need for changing technologies, know-how, methodologies, mind-sets and business cultures. It creates challenges for developing the required human resource and managerial capabilities. In this context, subtopics can be as follows:

- Managerial and human resource capabilities needed to modernise data collection and foster innovative approaches in order to adapt to the ever changing information landscape;
- Capabilities (know-how and technological) needed to enable the integration of data sources;
- Aligning statistical organizations to the changing world;
- Adapting to working with standardized processes, rather than stove pipe and silo structures;
- Creating dedicated teams to research the use of alternative sources such as big data;
- Foster innovative mind-set to encourage creative thinking and risk taking; and
- Innovating environments to generate new methodologies and innovative techniques.

Topic (v): Partnerships in data acquisition and collective projects

Topic Organisers: Stela Derivolcov (National Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Moldova), Bilal Kurban (Turkish Statistical Institute) and Barteld Braaksma (Statistics Netherlands).

25. Expectations from statistical organizations are increasing and diversifying day by day. In order

to meet these expectations; while countries formulate their official statistics, they are regulating their laws to use different data sources and trying to establish sound coordination mechanisms. The use of new data sources is possible through partnerships with owners of data, academia, information technology service providers etc. The aims of this session are to better understand strategic partnerships in data collection and collective projects, lessons learned up to the present and the sharing of best practices. Contributions to the session may address either of the following topics: difficulties experienced in identifying potential partners, managing expectations of a partnership, confidentiality and difficulties in data sharing, ensuring sustainability of a partnership, examples of productive partnerships and administrative arrangements for supporting a partnership:

- Collaboration between statistical organizations and other public and private organizations in modernisation projects or to access new data sources or to jointly obtain data;
- Interactivity and dialogue with data providers and efficient communication strategy between all partners;
- Strategic partnerships;
- Eliminate duplication of efforts by more collaboration;
- National and international cooperation in innovative projects;
- Engaging with users, providing services and promoting the value of official statistics;
- Exchange data with partners; and
- Sharing code/open source solutions, devices and practices.