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ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality
8-9 December 2022
Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics to Measure SDG 1 and 10
7 December 2022

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Inform secretariat of your intention to contribute by **16 September (see Annex I)**

Submit **written papers** by **28 October**

Register for the [Workshop](#) and for the [meeting of the Group of Experts](#) by **25 November**

PURPOSE

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will hold the meeting of the [Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality](#) on 8 and 9 December 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting is preceded by the [Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics to Measure SDG 1 and 10](#), on 7 December 2022. The meetings are organized under the Conference of European Statisticians work programme on poverty statistics, with financial support from the United Nations Development Account (14th tranche) project "Resilient and agile national statistical systems".
2. The call for contributions is addressed to statisticians, researchers and analysts from the national statistical offices, ministries and other government agencies, experts from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and experts from the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that produce or use poverty and inequality statistics.

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

3. Participants are welcome to submit a paper and/or presentation in English or Russian on any topic described below. The papers and presentations will be translated within the limits of the translation capacity available and subject to compliance with deadlines for submission.
4. The contributions will be made available on the web pages of the meetings.
5. The UNECE Steering Group on Measuring Poverty and Inequality will review all submissions and, if need be, select the contributions to be presented at the meeting.
6. Please take note of the following deadlines:

16 September 2022	Please use Annex I: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to express your intention to contribute a paper and/or presentation; and- to submit a short summary outlining your proposed contribution (approximately 330 words) to Ms. Vania Etropolska vania.etropolska@un.org with a copy to social.stats@un.org.
28 October 2022	Please submit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the full final version of your paper in Word to Ms. Vania Etropolska vania.etropolska@un.org with a copy to social.stats@un.org.
25 November 2022	Participants must register online by completing the registration forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Meeting of the Group of Experts (8-9 December)- Workshop (7 December)

7. Contributors are reminded that success of the meeting depends upon the ability to review the summaries and the papers in advance and to translate the materials in time, thus giving an opportunity to all participants to prepare before the meeting. Therefore, it is important to strictly adhere to the above deadlines.

WORKSHOP ON HARMONIZATION OF POVERTY STATISTICS TO MEASURE SDG 1 AND 10 (7 DECEMBER 2022)

8. The Workshop focuses on experience in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Representatives from all countries and international organizations are welcome to participate.
9. The following topics will be discussed at the Workshop:

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Data availability on poverty

10. Close coordination between countries and exchange of experience remain an important tool for strengthening national statistics on poverty and inequality in support of SDGs 1 and 10. Countries are welcome to share their latest updates and advances on measuring the poverty related SDGs. How are SDGs indicators communicated to the policymakers and other users?

Poverty as a multidimensional, multi-layered concept

11. The multidimensional poverty approach to assessing deprivations at the household level can be tailored using country-specific data and indicators to provide a richer picture of poverty, including on child poverty, at the country level. The most precise multidimensional poverty index (MPI) is the one that consists of indicators and weights appropriate for the country. The global MPI estimates, however, are constrained by need for comparability. This session will focus on countries experiences in addressing indicator and data requirements to develop measures on multidimensional poverty.

Data collection on poverty during the pandemic

12. The pandemic remains a risk factor to survey taking. Participants are invited to present a brief update on continued challenges with data collection on poverty during the pandemic, e.g. restrictions to physical access, increased non-response, necessity to readjust to remote work and prepare instructions for interviewers to work in the new conditions, additional costs, etc. Particular attention will be dedicated to changes that may have possibly taken place with respect to data sources, including the use of new surveys or survey modules, and the collection methods, i.e., use of administrative data and transition to electronic data transmission. Countries are also invited to share their plans in using of innovative technologies and data such as Big Data, web scraping and geospatial information.

Assessing and improving survey methods

13. In this session, participants are invited to address the traditional challenges in conducting surveys for data collection on poverty, including sample selection, low response rate and reducing sampling and non-sampling errors (calibration methods and weighting techniques). Countries are invited to share experience for improving their survey methods. Are there new and more modern measurement tools developed or already in use as a result of the pandemic?

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON MEASURING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY (8-9 DECEMBER 2022)

14. The following topics will be discussed at the meeting of the Group of Experts:

Focused and timely statistics on poverty

15. Social media is changing the way official statistics work. Developments are happening on a daily pace. More and more, users are interested to know how their own life is affected in concrete aspects, e.g., housing affordability, interest rates, pandemic measures, etc. Can National Statistical Office ensure the needed level of granularity and timeliness? At this session, countries are invited to share their experiences and innovative practices in delivering quick and tailored-to-the-context information.

Impact of global shocks on poverty and inequality

16. Recent developments in energy and food markets have been fuelling inflationary pressures. The most vulnerable have been particularly affected with their purchasing power eroding fast. The increase in the households' expenditure on electricity, gas and other housing fuels could give rise to the number of energy-poor persons. How should official statistics inform policy makers about those who will be most affected? The participants are invited to contribute with experiences on new activities undertaken or planned to evaluate the poverty-related impact of the multiple crises the population is currently facing.

Complementing survey methods, and use of alternative data sources

17. In many countries, surveys capture only 2/3 or less of the household income. Survey underestimation or missing certain incomes from the surveys (e.g., property income) are among the main challenges. Moreover, surveys often suffer from non-response and error. How combining surveys with alternative data sources could help to examine different distributions estimates and inequality levels or correct for nonresponse bias? Countries are invited to present their experiences on the use of alternative data sources, e.g., administrative data or new data sources, including social media and big data, to produce poverty estimates.

Subjective poverty

18. Subjective measures have an important complementary role to play in reaching the poorest and making their voice heard. Subjective measures reflect people's perceptions of their economic well-being with different life aspects, including health, financial situation, and jobs. Obtained estimates vary significantly due to different methods and cultural perceptions of well-being and poverty. The measures are also influenced by age, gender, and the region of respondent. Country examples of the use of subjective poverty measures are welcome. They will also feed in the work of the UNECE Task Force on Subjective Poverty Measures currently developing a guide on measuring subjective poverty and a set of subjective poverty indicators that could be used for international comparison.

Disaggregation for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Going beyond averages

19. Poverty and inequality are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A number of challenges persist, such as lack of methodology for certain indicators, missing data disaggregation on key variables and absence of financial and technical support. Participants are welcome to share experience on efforts to improve data collection and sampling methods on vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, especially on those who may suffer disproportionately in the current crises. These groups may include children, youth, elderly, disabled, ethnic or migrant minorities, etc. The discussions will build on the recommendations of the UNECE Poverty Measurement: Guide to Data Disaggregation.

Assets-based poverty and inequality

20. In research, the joint consideration of income and wealth has been recognized as important in measuring poverty. However, up until now, in most national poverty statistics, income from assets and rentals (interest, dividends, rental income etc.) are considered but not the assets themselves. The official measurement of poverty is therefore usually limited to the measurement of income poverty. This is primarily because statistical offices lack the required data but also because suitable international concepts for integrating assets into the measurement of poverty are still under development. Contributions on methodological approaches that integrate both income and wealth in the poverty measurement are welcome.

Social policies and data

21. Effective social policy protects individuals and their families and helps them lead a fulfilling life in the long term. Countries but also at global and EU levels are constantly working on developing strategies on well-being, social inclusion, social protection or poverty reduction. Participants are welcome to share their experience in how they organize and produce data to support monitoring and implementation of these strategies and track progress towards their targets.
22. Continued efforts on estimating the extent to which social transfers (e.g., on access to services such as health, education, child and long-term care, lifelong learning, etc.) reduce the number of people in poverty or at risk of poverty could provide valuable insights for the development and assessment of social policies. The session will discuss methodologies and imputation challenges for incorporating these resources into the poverty measure. Countries are invited to present their national experience in producing estimates on social transfers, including on experimental basis, and accounting for them in the poverty measurement.

Communicating statistics on poverty and inequality

23. Reliable statistics is the corner stone of sound policymaking. High-quality poverty statistics enable policymakers to make choices that lead to economic and social benefits for the poor. At the same time, nationally and at the policy level having more than one measure of poverty could be challenging and likely to require a large dissemination effort to make use

of additional measures of poverty sufficiently widespread. Good metadata is a prerequisite but what else? How to ensure media and other users understand and communicate the information correctly? What kind of communication strategy, including visualisation techniques is needed to disseminate poverty statistics efficiently? What are the traps? Country experiences are welcome.

INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

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ANNEX I

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
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Title of contribution	<i>Title of your contribution</i>
Author Name	<i>First name LAST NAME</i>
Author Organization	<i>Full name of NSO, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION or ACADEMIA</i>
Author email address	<i>Your email address</i>
Topic	<i>Title of topic (see sections III. Workshop and IV. Meeting of the Group of Experts)</i>
Summary: <i>330 words</i>	
Please select your preferred contribution (you may select both options):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper