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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Conference of European Statisticians**

#### **Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality**

Geneva, 8-9 December 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and election of officers**

### **Annotated provisional agenda**

The Meeting of the Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9:30 am on Thursday 8 December 2022.

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Social policies and data.
3. Assets-based poverty and inequality.
4. Subjective poverty.
5. Communicating statistics on poverty and inequality.
6. Complementing survey methods, and use of alternative data sources.
7. Impact of global shocks on poverty and inequality.
8. Work under the Conference of European Statisticians.

#### **II. Annotations**

The meeting is organized following the provisions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistical Programme for 2022<sup>1</sup>, adopted by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and approved by the UNECE Executive Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> ECE/CES/2022/15, available from: <https://unece.org/statistics/documents/2022/04/working-documents/statistical-programme-2022>.

## **1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers**

The meeting will adopt its agenda and elect the chairperson.

## **2. Social policies and data**

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.

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.

## **3. Assets-based poverty and inequality**

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.

## **4. Subjective poverty**

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.

## **5. Communicating statistics on poverty and inequality**

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.

## **6. Complementing survey methods, and use of alternative data sources**

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.

## **7. Impact of global shocks on poverty and inequality**

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.

## **8. Work under the Conference of European Statisticians**

In this session participants will discuss the work on poverty measurement undertaken under the Conference of European Statisticians, as well as proposals for future work and next steps. The session will end with adoption of the report of the meeting.

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