

**WORKSHOP ON THE MODERNISATION OF
OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

Information Notice No. 1

The 2015 workshop will be hosted by Statistics Netherlands, at their offices at Henri Faasdreef 312, 2492 JP The Hague, Netherlands. It will take place on 24-25 November 2015, starting at 13.30 on 24 November, and ending by 17.00 on 25 November.

I. PURPOSE AND TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services (HLG) was created by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2010. It has developed a vision and strategy for the modernisation of statistical production and services, both of which have been endorsed by the CES. There are various expert groups and initiatives whose work is related to the implementation of the strategy, so the HLG would like to invite two representatives of each of these groups and initiatives to a workshop to discuss progress so far, and determine the key priorities for 2016.
2. The purpose of the workshop is to ensure all of the groups and initiatives represented align their work towards the implementation of a common strategy. The expected outputs are a set of agreed and prioritised implementation actions.
3. The target audience of the workshop is representatives of the expert groups and initiatives whose work is related to statistical modernisation. Representatives should normally include the chair or coordinator of the group or initiative, and one other person. They should canvass their groups on issues and priorities prior to the workshop. All members of the HLG Executive Board and the Modernisation Committees are also welcome to attend.

II. AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

4. The programme of the workshop will consist of the following substantive topics:

Day 1: Overview of the HLG projects and initiatives during 2015

5. This session will review progress on the key priorities and initiatives agreed at the 2014 workshop. The results of the projects on the implementation of the Common Statistical Production Architecture, and the use of Big Data for official statistics, will be presented for discussion and feedback. Participants will be invited to assess the extent to which these projects are meeting expectations, and delivering useful outputs.

Day 2: Identifying key priorities for the implementation of the strategy during 2015

6. Following an initial presentation, discussions in small groups and in plenary will identify the key priorities on which the HLG should focus its activities during 2015, and agree the topics for international collaboration projects during 2016.

7. The outcomes of the workshop will be summarised by the chair. A list of key priority actions will be agreed, including deadlines and responsibilities.

Side Events

8. The following side-events are foreseen, to take place on 23 and 26 November. Please note that they are by invitation only.

- The Marton Vučan Seminar on Artificial Intelligence and Official Statistics – to mark the retirement of Marton Vučan from Statistics Netherlands
- Meetings of the HLG, the Executive Board and the modernisation committees

III. ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

A. Participation and Accreditation

9. Participation to the workshop will be by invitation only. Each group or initiative is invited to send up to two representatives.

10. All participants attending the workshop are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Dutch Embassy in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the UNECE Workshop on the Modernisation of Official Statistics. A letter to facilitate obtaining a visa can be requested from the UNECE secretariat.

11. Invitees should inform the UNECE secretariat **before 31 July** if they intend to participate at the workshop or nominate another representative of their group.

12. Participants should register by **30 September** by completing on-line registration form: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=xhXDab>

B. Travel and Accommodation

13. Participants and/or their offices are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations.

14. The organizers regret not being able to assist participants in their travel arrangements (air tickets, trains, local transportation, etc.). Neither the HLG nor the UNECE secretariat can provide any financial support or take any responsibility for financial arrangements with respect to travel or accommodation.

C. Documentation, Methods of Work and Official Languages

15. The working language of the workshop is English. All documents will be provided in English only, and will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location: <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/x/-IDFAw>.

16. Participants are encouraged to download the papers from the website and bring their own copies to the workshop. Documents posted on the website before the workshop will **not** be distributed in the conference room.

IV. FURTHER INFORMATION

17. For further information, please contact:

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Annex - Groups and initiatives invited to the Workshop

Group	Contact person	Country / Organisation
UNSD Expert Group on Big Data	Ronald Jansen	UNSD
IDR Project	Trevor Fletcher	PARIS21
SAB-AP	Eric Hermouet	UN/ESCAP
OECD SIS-CC	Jonathan Challener	OECD
PC-Axis	Åsa Arrhén	Sweden
IMAODBC	Armin Grossenbacher	Switzerland
ITDG	Emanuele Baldacci	Eurostat
SISAI	Hubertus Cloodt	Eurostat
DIME	Emanuele Baldacci	Eurostat
Metadata WG	Jan Planovsky	Eurostat
Big Data Task Force	Michail Skaliotis	Eurostat
ESSNet on Standardisation	Csaba Abry	Hungary
Data without Boundaries	Roxane Silberman	DwB
DDI Alliance	Mary Vardigan	United States
SDMX Sponsors / Secretariat	Gyorgy Gyomai	OECD
SDMX Tech Standards	Sami Airo	Finland
SDMX Stat Standards	David Barraclough	OECD
HLG	All members	
Executive Board	All members	
Modernisation Committees	All members	
CSPA Implementation Project	Thérèse Lalor	UNECE / Australia
Big Data Project	Carlo Vaccari / Antonino Virgillito	UNECE / Italy
Cross-cutting Task Team on Communicating Modernisation	All members	