

INF. 1

29 September 2023

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality

28-29 November 2023

Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics to Measure SDG 1 and 10

27 November 2023

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Inform secretariat of your intention to contribute by **6 October (see Annex I)**

Submit **written papers** by **20 October**

Register for the [Workshop](#) and for the [meeting of the Group of Experts](#) by **10 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 28 and 29 November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting is preceded by the [Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics to Measure SDG 1 and 10](#), on 27 November 2023. 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:

Please use Annex I:

6 October 2023

- to express your **intention** to contribute a paper and/or presentation;
- 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.

Please submit:

20 October 2023

- 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.

Participants must **register** online by completing the registration forms:

10 November 2023

- [Meeting of the Group of Experts \(28-29 November\)](#)
- [Workshop \(27 November\)](#)

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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 (27 NOVEMBER 2023)

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 remains 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?

Multidimensional poverty

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

12. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated NSOs' efforts to improve timeliness, frequency, and granularity of official statistics. Particular attention will be dedicated to changes that may have taken place with respect to data sources, including the use of new surveys or survey modules, and improvement of 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. Enhancement of NSOs' capacity, including investment in new tools, IT systems and human capital, is considered critical and ad-hoc solutions during the pandemic which continue to be relevant and useful could be transformed into regular processes.

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.

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON MEASURING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY (28-29 NOVEMBER 2023)

14. The experts are invited to submit contributions to the topics suggested below. The listed topics are meant to suggest areas of interest and do not necessarily present an exhaustive list. The topics may be regrouped, or new topics can be added depending on the received contributions.

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.

Inflation and its impact on poverty and inequality

16. The level of inflation has been high for two consecutive years. This may have changed the structure of consumption and yielded social effects that can be substantial and uneven. Without an effective policy response, existing inequalities could widen within and across countries. Participants are invited to share how these challenges are displayed in current statistics. Innovative approaches to show the impact of the cost crisis on the population or certain subgroups are welcome (e.g. different consumption patterns by socio-economic groups, income and consumption in a combined view, contrasting relative and absolute poverty). The effect of social policies to answer this crisis are also of interest under this topic.

Data sources to complement surveys

17. Facing declining response rates of traditional surveys, budget limitations and competing data providers, NSOs need to explore other data sources, establish new partnerships, and leverage statistical modelling techniques. Countries are invited to present their experiences on the use of administrative data, social media and big data for poverty measurement. Possibilities could include using these data alone as an alternative, in combination with survey data, or as a tool to correct for nonresponse bias or allow for small area estimation.

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 can 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. Society is increasingly interested in the situation of specific population groups such as young people or migrants. 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, and on populations missing from official statistics. These groups may include children, youth, elderly, disabled, and ethnic or migrant minorities. Experiences in using small area estimates are welcome.

Assets-based poverty and inequality

20. In research, the joint consideration of income and wealth has been recognized as important in measuring poverty, yet data gaps remain and 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. Related research on the measurement of income from assets or the use of assets to sustain standards of living during periods of unemployment, inflation, or rising interest rates are also of interest.

Social policies, social transfers and data

21. Effective social policy protects individuals and their families and helps them lead a fulfilling life in the long term. 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, and public transport) 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 current cost of living crisis has reinforced the attention towards recent social measures and their efficiency. Participants are welcome to share their experience in how they organize and produce data to support monitoring and implementation of government strategies and ensure that relief measures are working. 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

22. 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 of key figures, infographics and dashboards is needed to disseminate poverty statistics efficiently? What are the traps? Country experiences are welcome.

Emerging topics

23. With this call for papers, the group of experts are invited to submit presentations or short notes on emerging issues. The objective is to organize forward-looking discussions on the meaning of poverty in a broader sense, recognising new aspects that can play a role in defining poverty. The contributions can be in the form of an overview based on national and international developments or policy demand and do not necessarily need to provide empirical results.

24. Topics for discussion on emerging topics could include:

a. **Energy poverty**

The increase in the households' expenditure on electricity, gas and other housing fuels has led to an increase in persons unable to heat their homes properly. How should official statistics inform policy makers about those who are most affected? What about other impacts such as transition to other, often more polluting, sources of heating? The participants are encouraged to discuss what data may be available in their country to assess energy poverty, energy affordability and the efficient use of energy by the households.

b. **Transport poverty**

Tackling transport poverty contributes to social justice. In Europe, the relevance of transport poverty is increasing as the right to access to essential services is part of the European Pillars of Social Rights' principles. Access to transport influences the individuals' capabilities to access to employment, education, health care and other essential and social services. Different aspects should be taken into account when defining transport poverty: accessibility, availability, affordability and the acceptability in the sense of safety, usability, etc. In addition, vulnerability across different groups of the society has to be taken into account. At the same time, issues around transport are also closely linked to the EU's ambitions for climate neutrality.

c. **Cost to a green transition and consumption footprint**

The importance of considering poverty and distributional outcomes in the context of a green transition – are there distributional implications of reducing carbon outputs? This topic touches also on the relationship between poverty and inequality and population's consumption footprint.

d. **Other dimensions of poverty**

Other dimensions of poverty such as housing need, food insecurity, or time poverty. What do these other measures add to the understanding of poverty?

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(s)	<i>First name LAST NAME</i>
Presenter Name	<i>First name LAST NAME</i>
Presenter Organization	<i>Full name of NSO, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION or ACADEMIA</i>
Presenter's email	<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 (to be submitted by 20 October)