Workshop on the Modernisation of Official Statistics 2023

Information Notice No. 1

8 September 2023

I.   PURPOSE AND TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE WORKSHOP

1.   The High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) was established by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2010 to actively steer the modernisation of statistical organisations. The mission of the HLG-MOS is to work collaboratively to identify trends, threats and opportunities in modernising statistical organisations and provide a common platform for experts to develop solutions in a flexible and agile way.

2.   The work programme of HLG-MOS consists of 2-3 annual Projects on emerging technologies and concepts in specific areas and 4 Modernisation Groups that provide continuous support to the cross-cutting pillars that are important for modernising statistical organisations such as standards, modern methods and human resources. Since its inception, the annual HLG-MOS Workshop on the Modernisation of Official Statistics has provided an opportunity for the experts who worked on the HLG-MOS activities to get together to share results and outcomes of the activities, exchange ideas for the selection of activities for the next year, and discuss priorities and alignment with HLG-MOS vision.

3.   Since the establishment of HLG-MOS, the landscape of modernisation and innovation for official statistics has changed significantly. The accelerated pace of technological advancements with global implications requires statistical organisations to identify what is relevant for official statistics and find the common solutions even more quickly to stay relevant. The rapidly evolving user needs and increasing expectation for more timely and granular information necessitates that statistical organisations diversify their data sources and enhance the flexibility and resilience of their production infrastructure. In response to the growing recognition of the pivotal role of innovation, a culture of innovation and modernisation is more widespread than ever in the official statistics community, leading to a multitude of initiatives across different fields.

4.   With this background, HLG MOS aims to broaden the scope of its annual workshop this year. On top of the reporting and planning of HLG-MOS work programme, the workshop will also include sessions where the broad official statistics community could share ongoing initiatives related to modernisation and innovation, thus creating synergies among the organisations and opportunities for further collaboration, which will further enrich the work programme of HLG-MOS.

5.   The target audience of the workshop is experts, managers and leaders in statistical organisations who work on modernisation and innovation initiatives. This includes experts who have participated in the HLG-MOS activities this year as well as those with a broad knowledge of the recent developments in this area and understanding of international cooperation.

6.   The workshop will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The workshop will take place on 21-22 November 2023 and is scheduled to start at 09:00 on 21 November and finish by 17:00 on 22 November.

II.   AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

7.   The agenda of the workshop will consist of the following items (timetable will be released close to the workshop date):

- Contributed Session: the Generative AI for Official Statistics
- Innovation radar
- Soapbox
- Results and achievements of the 2023 HLG-MOS projects:
    i. Cloud for Official Statistics
    ii. Data Governance for Interoperability Framework
    iii. Meta-Academy for the Modernisation of Official Statistics
- HLG-MOS project proposals for 2024
- Results and achievements of the HLG-MOS Modernisation Groups in 2023 and their planned activities for 2024:
    i. Blue Skies Thinking Network
    ii. Supporting Standards Group
    iii. Applying Data Science and Modern Methods Group
    iv. Capability and Communication Group
- Outcome of the 2023 HLG-MOS Expert Meetings: Machine Learning for Official Statistics, Statistical Data Collection, Statistical Data Confidentiality and Dissemination and Communication of Statistics

8.   The contributed session on the **Generative AI for Official Statistics** aims to explore the implication and potential opportunities of this rapidly evolving AI domain. Statistical organisations that are working on the application of Generative AI or developing corporate-wide strategies on the topic are invited to share their progress in this session. For more details about format and submission, please see Section II "D. Information on Contributed Session". Authors of the intended contribution are kindly reminded that the target audience of the workshop comprises managers and experts who work on various topics related to the modernisation of official statistics, therefore, the contribution should be tailored in terms of their scope and depth to align with this audience.

9.   The **Innovation Radar** session will bring together organisations dedicated to innovation and modernisation initiatives on international and regional scales to share on-going projects and explore potential synergies and collaboration.

10.   At the **Soapbox** session, all workshop participants are invited, through a casual and informal 5-minute pitch talk, to present their research, initiative, event, solution or question related to modernisation and innovation that they would like to bring to the attention of the community. More information on the soapbox session will be communicated to the registered participants.

11.   The workshop aims to provide a forum for the open conversations among the official statistics community members, therefore encourages active engagement of the participants. To facilitate dynamic conversations and networking, plenary and small group discussions will be organised throughout the workshop. The insights and expert views gathered from the workshop will be taken into consideration by the HLG-MOS Executive Board when deciding on the 2024 HLG-MOS work programme that will be proposed to the HLG-MOS for approval.

12.   Side events, such as webinars and/ or workshops, will be scheduled alongside the workshop and their details will be shared close to the workshop date.

III.   ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

A.   Participation and accreditation

13.   The workshop will take place in-person in Geneva, Switzerland. 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 Swiss Embassy in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to

the Workshop on the Modernisation of Official Statistics. A letter to facilitate obtaining a visa can be requested from the UNECE Secretariat.

Participants should register by **10 November** by completing the on-line registration form at: https://indico.un.org/e/HLG2023. To register in Indico participants will be required to create an account, for which you will need passport information and a recent photo (jpg format or using your webcam during registration). Please get familiar with the photo requirements, failure to meet prescribed standard for the photo may result in a delay in the issuance of your badge on the day of the meeting.

More information about Indico registration process and photo requirements, could be found here: https://statswiki.unece.org/display/MWHW/Indico+registration+for+participants

B.   Travel and accommodation

14.   Participants are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. Neither the HLG-MOS nor the UNECE Secretariat can provide any financial support for travel or accommodation. The second information notice containing the logistics information will be shared with the registered participants several weeks before the workshop.

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 at the following location: https://unece.org/statistics/events/HLG2023.

16.   Participants are encouraged to download documents 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.

D.   Information on the Contributed Session

17.   Those who wish to contribute to the session on the Generative AI for Official Statistics are asked to contact UNECE secretariat, Ms. InKyung Choi (choii@un.org) via email with **a short description (150-200 words) by 29th September**. Authors of the intended contribution are kindly reminded of the target audience to align the scope and depth of the presentation. Please also note that due to the time limitations, it may not be possible to accept all proposed contributions.

IV.   FURTHER INFORMATION

13.   For further information, please contact:

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