

Information Notice No.1

I. DATE, LOCATION AND OBJECTIVES

1. The 2024 UNECE Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Collection and Sources¹ will take place at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 22 to May 24. The meeting will commence at 9:30 am on Wednesday, 22 May 2024, and conclude in the afternoon on Friday, 24 May 2024.
2. The meeting will be organised as part of the Conference of European Statisticians' work programme for 2024 within the context of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS). The objective of this expert meeting is to identify innovative ways and best practices in statistical data collection and sources, providing a platform for practitioners to exchange experiences and foster collaboration in this area. The target audience for the expert meeting includes senior and middle-level managers responsible for data collection activities and new data sources across all statistical domains.

II. AGENDA

3. The expert meeting will explore pivotal themes in statistical data collection encompassing multimode/mixed source collection, alternative data sources, and the evolving landscape of interview modes. Amidst the dynamic shifts in our socioeconomic landscape, the imperative for innovative solutions has never been more pressing. Therefore, anchored within these critical themes, the meeting will also cover the catalytic role of innovative approaches such as generative AI, serving as a force multiplier to augment the efficiency and reliability of contemporary data collection practices.
4. By fostering the discourse on these fundamental themes, the meeting's aim is to catalyse collaborative endeavours, share invaluable experiences, and chart a course toward a more robust and adaptive framework for statistical data collection.
5. The agenda of the expert meeting will encompass the following substantive themes:

- (i) **Approach to Multi-Mode and Mixed Source Collection: Navigating Challenges and Leveraging Advantages**

This theme dives deep into the intricacies of multi-mode and mixed source collection and acquisition. While investigating challenges and advantages, the discussions encompass strategies for efficient work allocation across diverse modes and different sources.

Furthermore, the theme will explore innovative methodologies aimed at refining communication strategies tailored to various respondent groups and strategies for effectively integrating survey data

¹ Starting in 2024, the meeting title has changed from "Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Collection" to "Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Collection and Sources" to reflect the significant role of diverse data sources in statistical production.

with administrative and other sources, aiming to enhance collection efficiency and bolster the reliability of outcomes. This theme will cover topics such as:

- Investigating challenges and advantages of multi-mode
- Allocating work between different modes
- Differentiating between respondents through improved communication and mode-specific strategies
- Administrative data and its role with data collection

(ii) Alternative Data Sources and Process Automation

This theme explores the untapped potential of alternative data sources and the transformative power of automated data collection processes. Topics to be discussed under this theme include:

- Integrating traditional and alternative data
- Data quality
- Data revision, validation, edition and imputation
- Identifying available alternative data sources
- Performance indicators
- Innovative data collection techniques
- Automation in data collection processes and workflows

(iii) Future of Interview Modes and Interviewers

Various socio-economic developments have made it necessary to take a fresh look at the future of primary social observation in order to develop appropriate social statistics. There are several challenges in primary data collection that underscore this issue such as ever-increasing costs for face-to-face observation, the increase of hard to reach parts of populations and also labour market related issues. This theme will cover topics such as:

- Fieldwork via CAPI
- Fieldwork in relation to other modes like CATI, CAWI and smart surveys
- Contractual arrangements of field staff
- Interviewer performance management - metrics to drive up performance
- Interviewer safety
- Hard to reach groups

6. In addition to sessions based on submitted contributions, the meeting will include small group discussions on lessons learned and identifying topics for future work. The meeting also plans to include a workshop-type activity as part of its programme.

7. The Organising Committee of the expert meeting consists of the following members:

- Ian O'Sullivan, ONS, United Kingdom
- Pasquale Papa, Istat, Italy
- Susan Oudshoorn and Leonne Hollanders, Statistics Netherlands
- Rock Lemay, Statistics Canada
- Paulo Saraiva dos Santos, Statistics Portugal
- Önder Değirmenci, Turkstat, Türkiye

III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION

8. Representatives of Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome at this meeting, as are researchers at universities or research institutes working on statistical data collection applicable in the context of official statistics. Participants representing non-governmental organizations in a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council may also attend. **All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organisation.**

9. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the 2024 UNECE Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Collection and Sources. A letter to facilitate obtaining a visa can be requested from the UNECE Secretariat (see contact details under section VII).

10. Participants and/or their offices are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. The UNECE Secretariat does not offer any financial assistance regarding travel and accommodation arrangements.

11. Participants should register online by **7 May 2024** via the following form: <https://indico.un.org/e/DC2024>. To register in Indico, participants will be required to create an account, for which you will need passport information and a recent photo. Please make sure to follow the photo requirements² as the photo will be used for your digital badge to Palais des Nations and the badge may not be issued if the quality of photo does not meet the requirements.

IV. CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

12. Participants are strongly encouraged to consider submitting an abstract that summarizes the content of their proposed contribution. These should cover one or more of the topics described in section II. Those who contribute are also encouraged to share links to any code repositories containing code, if applicable (e.g., in GitHub). Contributions should normally consist of a presentation and an accompanying paper. Other forms of contributions may be proposed (e.g., a short training course).

13. A short abstract of the proposed contribution should be submitted as soon as possible and by **15 February 2024** at the latest, via the following form: <https://forms.office.com/e/GCViML1NY>

14. The Organising Committee of the meeting will make the final decision with regard to the acceptance of proposals for contributions and notify in due time whether the submission is accepted or not and might request changes. Information about the selection of contributions for the meeting, guidelines on formatting, and means of submission will be sent to authors by email. Please note that given the limited time available for the meeting, it may not be possible to allocate time to all proposed contributions.

15. A draft version of the presentations and papers must be provided by **22 April 2024** at the latest. A link will be sent to the authors where documents can be uploaded.

16. A final version of any presentation slides, videos or other electronic materials, and any written papers should be provided by **7 May 2024** at the latest. Any equipment required for practical demonstrations must be provided by the participants. A link will be sent to the authors where presentations can be uploaded.

V. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

17. The expert meeting will include presentations, small group discussions to exchange experiences and

² You may use digital file (e.g., jpeg) or webcam, but the photo must be a close up of your full head with facing forward (more details: <https://indicohelp.unog.ch/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/UNOG-Indico-picture-standards.pdf>)

identify lessons learned, interactive discussions to identify future work in the area of data collection, and a workshop-type activity. Participants are expected to actively contribute to the discussions.

18. Please note that the official language of the meeting will be English, and therefore all contributions should be submitted in English only. No translation or interpretation during the meeting will be provided.

19. Prior to the meeting, abstracts and papers will be made available in pdf format on the following website: <https://unece.org/statistics/events/DC2024>.

20. Participants are encouraged to download the papers from the website and, where feasible, to use electronic devices to read papers in order to minimise paper use. Documents posted on the website before the meeting will **not** be distributed in the conference room.

VI. VENUE

21. The expert meeting is planned to take place in Geneva, Switzerland at:

Palais des Nations (Building E, Room XXIV)
Avenue de la Paix 14

22. A second information notice with practical information will be shared with registered participants, and loaded onto the meeting website in due time before the meeting.

VII. FURTHER INFORMATION

23. For further information you may contact the following organisers:

Statistical Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Ms. Amilina Kipkeeva, email: amilina.kipkeeva@un.org

Ms. InKyung Choi, email: choii@un.org

DEADLINES

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| 15 February 2024 | Abstract or proposal for intended contribution |
| 22 April 2024 | Paper or detailed abstract if no paper is provided |
| 22 April 2024 | Presentation (draft) |
| 7 May 2024 | Final versions of presentations |
| 7 May 2024 | Registration |
| 22 to 24 May 2024 | Expert meeting |