

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
UNECE Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Editing
7 to 9 October 2024, Vienna, Austria

INF.1
15 January 2024

Information Notice No.1

I. PURPOSE AND TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE MEETING

1. The 2024 UNECE Expert meeting on Statistical Data Editing will be hosted by Statistics Austria in Vienna, Austria from 7 to 9 October 2024, starting in the morning on Monday 7 October, and ending by early afternoon on Wednesday 9 October.
2. This 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).
3. In particular, the expert meeting will explore the following themes:
 - Identifying new methods that can improve the quality and efficiency of editing and imputation;
 - Investigating statistical quality risks arising from using new methods and data sources, and ways to address them;
 - Developing approaches for standardising and implementing statistical data editing functionalities; and
 - Facilitating the sharing of experiences, ideas and tools for modernising statistical data editing and imputation processes.
4. The target audience of the expert meeting includes methodologists, statisticians and researchers in official statistics or closely related fields, working on editing and imputation of statistical data derived from surveys, censuses, administrative and external sources in various subject-matter areas.

II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

5. The participants at the previous meeting on statistical data editing in 2022 expressed their interest in examining the following topics in this meeting:
 - Methods for editing and imputation of new data sources covering e.g., web-scraped, telecoms operators, financial transaction, trusted smart statistics and non-probabilistic data;
 - Use of synthetic data for editing methods assessment;
 - Software tools;
 - Possible new frameworks/common approaches for dealing also with machine learning (ML) and new data sources.
 - Editing and quality from an input standpoint;
 - Generic Statistical Data Editing Models (GSDEM) and standardisation in the context of new data sources (e.g., web-scraped data, telecoms operators, financial transaction data).
 - E&I production examples, including imputation of statistical registers, E&I of time series and quality monitoring of E&I;

- Adapting organisational culture and training to embrace new E&I tools (e.g., open-source software) and methods (e.g., ML, geostatistics, state space models);
- Editing and imputation in the time of declining survey response rates; and
- New and emerging methods.

6. The agenda will be determined based on the abstracts received and a selection of the above-mentioned topics, or amalgamations of them such that presentations made within a particular agenda item have a common theme. This will be reflected in the timetable that will be released closer to the time of the meeting. In addition to presentations by speakers, there may also be short group discussions related to themes such as those outlined above.

III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION

7. Representatives of Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organisations are welcome at this meeting, as are researchers at universities or research institutes working on statistical data editing applicable in the context of official statistics. Participants representing non-governmental organisations 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.**

8. 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 Austria in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the 2024 UNECE Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Editing. A letter to facilitate obtaining a visa can be requested from the local contacts in Austria (contact details below in section VI).

9. Participants should register online by **1 September 2024** by following the link:

<https://indico.un.org/e/SDE2024>

10. Your timely registration will ensure that you receive any email broadcasts of information that we may send out to those who have registered.

11. Please note that if you do not already have a user account on the Indico system, before you can register you may first need to create an account, and then activate it by clicking on the account activation link that is sent to you by email. Once you have a user account, and have logged in, you can submit your registration for this meeting. You will receive a notification confirming this, and then a further notification email when your registration is approved.

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

IV. CALL FOR PAPERS, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

13. Those who wish to contribute may do so in the form of a presented paper on the topics mentioned above in section II. Alternatively, there is the option of a shorter presentation in the form of a “lightning talk” of around 5 minutes, without any supporting paper. 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.

14. Contributions could report on developments in theory and techniques, empirical comparisons and evaluations of methods, exploration of potential bias of given methods, and ways of combining different methods and data sources in an editing process. They could also highlight the expected impact that new methods might have on a statistical agency, including how they contribute to standardising concepts, terminology, methods, data structures and improving the quality of its data products. Those who contribute are also encouraged to share links to any code or data repositories related to their presentation, if applicable (e.g., in GitHub).

15. You are invited to submit the abstract for your contribution via the MS Forms submission page linked below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/bVWJ6Q6f4m>

16. Regarding abstracts received, the organising committee will send notification in due time about whether the submission is accepted or not, and may 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 due to the limited time available of the meeting, it may not be possible to allocate time to all proposed contributions.

17. The following **deadlines** and requirements apply to those who present at this meeting:

- (i) A short abstract of the proposed contribution should be submitted online, as described above, as soon as possible and by **15 May 2024** at the latest;
- (ii) Any written papers (in PDF format, of around 10 pages) must be supplied by **1 September 2024** at the latest. A link will be sent to the authors where documents can be uploaded. Templates for the paper will be made available following abstract acceptance; and
- (iii) Presentation materials, such as slides, should be supplied by **15 September 2024** at the latest, via the upload link that will be sent to them. Any equipment required for practical demonstrations must be provided by the speakers.

18. Where possible, papers and presentations will be made available beforehand and placed online on the UNECE website: <https://unece.org/statistics/events/SDE2024>. The latest version of the meeting materials will be uploaded on the website after the meeting.

19. To minimise paper use, participants are encouraged to download these papers on their own devices. These documents will not be distributed in the conference room.

V. VENUE

20. The meeting is planned to take place in Vienna, Austria at:

Statistics Austria

Guglgasse 13

1110 Vienna, Austria

<https://www.statistik.at/en/about-us/organisation/contact>

21. 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.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

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

UNECE Secretariat:

Mr. Andrew Tait, email: andrew.tait1@un.org

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

Statistics Austria:

Mr. Alexander Kowarik, email: alexander.kowarik@statistik.gv.at

DEADLINES

15 May 2024	Abstract or proposal for intended contribution
1 September 2024	Registration
1 September 2024	Paper
15 September 2024	Presentation materials
7-9 October 2024	Meeting