

Information Notice No.1

I. PURPOSE AND TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The 2024 ModernStats World Workshop will be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 21 to 22 October 2024, starting at 9:30am on Monday 21 October, and ending by 17:30pm on Tuesday 22 October.
2. This workshop will be organized as part of the Conference of European Statisticians' work programme for 2024, within the context of the High-Level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS), which oversees and coordinates international work relating to statistical modernization and promotes standards-based modernization of official statistics.
3. The ModernStats World Workshop aims to explore how conceptual models that describe statistical information, architectures, business processes, and activities, can be used to streamline and modernize the work of national statistics offices and other organizations that produce or exchange statistical data. This workshop aims to showcase new developments in this area, to progress work on development and maintenance of such models, and to provide a platform for the users to exchange experience and lessons learned, as well as identifying opportunities for further international collaboration.
4. The target audience of the workshop includes those staff of statistical organizations who are responsible for overseeing, developing or implementing business processes, information architectures, or new technologies as well as those who wish to use standards-based modernization for the modernization of statistical production.

II. AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

5. National statistics offices are increasingly utilizing a variety of standards and models to modernize statistics. These include implementation standards, like [Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange \(SDMX\)](#) and [Data Documentation Initiative \(DDI\)](#), as well as conceptual models, such as the “ModernStats” models developed under the auspices of the HLG-MOS, and endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians in 2017:
 - The [Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations \(GAMSO\)](#);
 - [Generic Statistical Business Process Model \(GSBPM\)](#);
 - [Generic Statistical Information Model \(GSIM\)](#); and the
 - [Common Statistical Production Architecture \(CSPA\)](#).
6. In addition, various architectures and models have been developed to supplement or support the ModernStats models, such as the [Common Statistical Data Architecture \(CSDA\)](#).
7. Such models have been foundational frameworks for modernizing statistical production in many agencies. Integrating them in an effective way, and implementing them in automated solutions with suitably designed metadata (using standards such as SDMX, DDI, etc.), is becoming critical for achieving the next

stage in the modernization agenda. These models and standards are constantly evolving, and new tools for using them continue to emerge, presenting opportunities and challenges for producers of statistics.

8. This year's workshop aims to examine different organizations' experiences and vision for using these models together with implementation standards to realize the modernization of their statistical production. It also seeks to take stock of where further work is needed, and to identify next steps for moving forward, taking into account recent initiatives such as the smart metadata manifesto¹.

9. On this basis, abstracts for contributions are invited on the following topics:

Topic 1: Improving interoperability using standards

10. Interoperability refers here to the ability of organizations to use more than one implementation standard (such as SDMX and DDI) together without information loss for producing a given statistical output. A recent initiative related to interoperability in this context includes the Data Governance Framework for Statistical Interoperability². Of particular interest would be contributions covering the following questions:

- How have you approached achieving interoperability using implementation standards in your organization?
- If you implemented more than one standard, how did you achieve interoperability across them?
- Were reference ModernStats models useful for guiding this endeavour?
- Where are the key opportunities (and pain points) for realizing interoperability?

Topic 2: Enhancing transparency with standards

11. The use of standards can improve transparency, making it easier to follow and understand the processes used to produce a given statistical output. Of particular interest would be contributions addressing the following questions:

- Do you have insights to share on how to approach the use of metadata (and ModernStats standards) with the aim of improving transparency?
- Were reference conceptual ModernStats models useful for guiding this endeavour?
- Where are the key opportunities (and pain points) for realizing transparency?
- How do models like GSBPM and GSIM help to clarify the processes in a way that is easy to follow and understand by everyone, improving transparency?
- Have you implemented Linked Open Data (LOD) solutions, or have used LOD standards to model or disseminate (meta)data within or outside of your agency?

Topic 3: Tools for automating metadata-driven processes

12. Process automation is a key aim for those wishing to improve the efficiency and reproducibility of statistical production. Of particular interest are contributions addressing questions such as the following:

- Have you automated parts of your production workflows using ModernStats models? What worked and what didn't? Were ModernStats used? How were they used? Were there any limitations to their usefulness?
- Have you implemented solutions using microservices, containers, cloud architecture, and automated pipelines for either data science or statistical production?
- How have you approached workflow design and pipeline construction?

¹ Described at: <http://www.cosmos-conference.org/>

² Presented to the HLG workshop in November 2023: <https://unece.org/statistics/events/HLG2023>

Topic 4: What should modern statistical production look like in 2025 and beyond?

13. This topic aims to take an overview of where we have got to (using conceptual and implementation standards), and where we now need to go addressing questions such as the following:

- How has modernization worked for you and how do standards address your business needs? What needs remain?
- What should the main objectives of modernization be? What are your plans for the future?
- How can developments in the following areas influence the modernization of statistical production?:
 - Data science environments
 - Cloud computing environments
 - Developments in open source
- Does AI have a role in shaping our production systems? How can we use standards to enhance the performance of AI?
- How to foster collaboration between communities using different standards.

14. The exact agenda, based on the above topics will be determined based on the abstracts received, and will be reflected in the timetable which will be released closer to the time of the workshop. In addition to presentations by speakers, there may also be group discussions related to themes such as those outlined above.

III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION

15. Representatives of Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome at this workshop, as are technical specialists who work on relevant topics within the context of official statistics. In order to benefit from this workshop, participants are expected to have a basic level of understanding of the models and standards described above. **All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organization.**

16. This workshop is an in-person event in Geneva, so 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 Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the 2024 UNECE ModernStats World workshop.

17. Participants should register online by **20 September 2024** via following the link:
<https://indico.un.org/e/MWW2024>

18. Registration via this website is essential to be permitted access to the venue where the workshop is located. Your timely registration will ensure that you receive any email broadcasts of information that we may send out to those who have registered.

19. 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 workshop. You will receive a notification confirming this, and then a further notification email when your registration is approved.

20. 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

21. Those who wish to contribute may do so in the form of either a standard presentation or a 5-minute “pitch talk” of on the topics mentioned above in section II. If desired, presentations may be accompanied by a short paper (2-4 pages or longer depending on the content), although papers are not mandatory. Please note that the official language of the workshop will be English, and therefore all contributions should be submitted in English only. No translation or interpretation during the workshop will be provided.
22. You are invited to submit the abstract for your contribution via the following webpage:
<https://forms.office.com/e/nHZLwG0x6G>
23. Those whose abstracts are accepted will be contacted by the UNECE Secretariat within a few weeks of the submission deadline to provide further instructions about submitting their presentation slides and any paper that may optionally be provided.
24. The following **deadlines** and requirements apply to those who present at this workshop:
- (i) A short abstract of the proposed contribution should be submitted online, as described above, by **1 May 2024** at the latest;
 - (ii) Any written papers (in PDF format, of around 3-6 pages) must be supplied by **16 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 **4 October 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.
25. Please ensure that any images you use in your slides are obtained in accordance with copyright regulations and give credit where applicable.
26. Contributions submitted for this workshop will be made available via the following webpage: <https://unece.org/statistics/events/MWW2024>. To minimize 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

27. The workshop is planned to take place in Geneva, Switzerland at:
- Palais des Nations
8, Av. de la Paix 14, 1211 Geneva
<https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>
28. A second information notice with practical information will be shared in due time before the workshop with registered participants, and loaded onto the workshop website.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

29. For further information you may address enquiries to the following contact at the UNECE Secretariat:
- Mr. Christopher Jones, email: JonesC@un.org

DEADLINES

1 May 2024	Submission of abstract
20 September 2024	Registration for the workshop
16 September 2024	Submission of paper (optional)
4 October 2024	Submission of presentation slides
21-22 October 2024	Workshop