

Workshop on the Modernisation of Official Statistics 2024

Information Notice No. 1

14 August 2024

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. The workshop will also include the reporting and planning of HLG-MOS work programme as well as 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.
4. 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.
5. The workshop will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The workshop will take place on 4-6 November 2024 and is scheduled to start at 10:00 on 4 November and finish by 13:00 on 6 November.

II. AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

6. The agenda of the workshop will consist of the following items (timetable will be released close to the workshop date):
 - Contributed Session: Rethinking role of the national statistics offices (NSOs) for the future
 - Innovation Radar
 - Soapbox
 - Results and achievements of the 2024 HLG-MOS Projects:
 - i. Generative AI for Official Statistics
 - ii. Statistical Open-Source Software
 - HLG-MOS Project proposals for 2025
 - Results and achievements of the HLG-MOS Modernisation Groups in 2024 and their planned activities for 2025:

- 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 HLG-MOS Expert Meetings and Workshops in 2024

7. The changes in our society inevitably impact the business landscape for NSOs, affecting data providers, operation models, communication platforms, legal frameworks, data itself as well as the dynamics and interactions among them. The rapid speed and scope of these changes pose profound challenges for statistical organisations, compelling them to rethink the role of official statistics. Notably, the ongoing discussion around data stewardship underscores the need for NSOs to adapt by taking on new responsibilities and positioning themselves as key players in the broader data ecosystem.

8. For many years, HLG-MOS has engaged with forward-looking topics such as emerging technologies, new data sources and methodologies and recruiting new talents. The contributed session “**Rethinking role of NSOs for the future**” aims to explore challenges and visions focusing on the future of the official statistics industry and discipline, for example:

- What are the key challenges and strategic considerations for transforming statistical organisations and their regular operations toward multi-source-based production with data integration or for taking on the role of data steward?
- What is necessary infrastructure for such transition and what are its key characteristics?
- With an increasing need for more data services and analytical products that meet the policy needs, how NSOs balance between professional independence and being relevant?
- Given the constraint budget and limited room for flexibility within the statistical programme, how to build stronger partnership with public and private sectors and enhance user engagement to create more opportunities?

9. 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. For more details about format and submission, please see “Information on Contributed Session” of Section III.

10. 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.

11. 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 community¹. More information on the soapbox session will be communicated to the registered participants.

12. 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 2025 HLG-MOS work programme that will be proposed to the HLG-MOS for approval.

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

¹ The examples of soapbox presentations from the last year’s workshop can be found: <https://unece.org/statistics/events/HLG2023>.

III. ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

Participation and Accreditation

14. 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.

15. Participants should register by **25 October** by completing the on-line registration form at: <https://indico.un.org/e/HLG2024>. 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 ensure that your photo corresponds to the [official standard](#).

Travel and Accommodation

16. 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.

Documentation, Methods of Work and Official Languages

17. 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/HLG2024>.

18. 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.

Information on the Contributed Session

19. Those who wish to contribute to the session “Rethinking role of NSOs for the future” are asked to contact the UNECE secretariat, Ms. InKyung Choi (choii@un.org), via email with a **short description (150-200 words) by 20th 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

20. For further information, please contact:

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