

**INF. 1**

21 August 2024

ENGLISH ONLY

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS  
**Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality**  
Geneva, 28–29 November 2024  
**Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics**  
Geneva, 27 November 2024

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Inform secretariat** of your intention to contribute and **submit summary describing the contribution (see Annex I: Template for contributions,)** by **4 October**
- Submit **written papers** by **18 October**
- **Register** for the [Workshop](#) and for the [meeting of the Group of Experts](#) by **8 November**

## PURPOSE

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will hold the meeting of the [Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality](#) on 28 and 29 November 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting is preceded by the [Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics](#) on 27 November 2024. The meetings are organized under the Conference of European Statisticians work programme on poverty statistics, in cooperation with the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat).
2. The call for contributions is addressed to statisticians, researchers and analysts from the national statistical offices, ministries and other government agencies, experts from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and experts from the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that produce or use poverty and inequality statistics.

## INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

3. Participants are welcome to submit a paper and/or presentation in English or Russian on any topic described below. The papers and presentations will be translated within the limits of the translation capacity available and subject to compliance with deadlines for submission.
4. The contributions will be made available on the web pages of the meetings.
5. The UNECE Steering Group on Measuring Poverty and Inequality will review the submissions and contributions to be presented at the meetings.
6. Please take note of the following deadlines:

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### 4 October 2024

Please use Annex I: Template for contributions

- to express your **intention** to contribute a paper and/or presentation;
- to submit a short **summary** outlining your proposed contribution (approximately 330 words) to Ms. Vania Etropolska [vania.etropolska@un.org](mailto:vania.etropolska@un.org) with a copy to [social.stats@un.org](mailto:social.stats@un.org).

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### 18 October 2024

Please submit:

- the full final version of your **paper** in Word to Ms. Vania Etropolska [vania.etropolska@un.org](mailto:vania.etropolska@un.org) with a copy to [social.stats@un.org](mailto:social.stats@un.org).

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### 8 November 2024

Participants should **register** online by completing the registration forms. The registration is mandatory.

- [Meeting of the Group of Experts \(28-29 November\)](#)
- [Workshop \(27 November\)](#)

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7. Contributors are reminded that it is important to strictly adhere to the above deadlines. The success of the meeting depends upon the ability to review the summaries and the papers in advance and to have the materials translated in time, thus giving an opportunity to all participants to prepare before their arrival.
  8. Representatives from all countries and international organizations are welcome to participate.

## **WORKSHOP ON HARMONIZATION OF POVERTY STATISTICS (27 NOVEMBER 2024)**

9. The experts are invited to contribute to the following topics at the Workshop:

### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Data availability on poverty**

10. Close coordination between countries and exchange of experience remains an important tool for strengthening national statistics on poverty and inequality in support of SDGs 1 and 10. Countries are welcome to share their latest updates and advances on measuring the poverty related SDGs. How are SDGs indicators communicated to the policymakers and other users?

### **Multidimensional poverty**

11. The multidimensional poverty approach to assessing deprivations at the household level can be tailored using country-specific data and indicators to provide a richer picture of poverty, including on child poverty, at the country level. The most precise multidimensional poverty index (MPI) is the one that consists of indicators and weights appropriate for the country. The global MPI estimates, however, are constrained by need for comparability. This session will focus on countries experiences in addressing indicator and data requirements to develop measures on multidimensional poverty.

### **Data collection on poverty**

12. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated NSOs' efforts to improve timeliness, frequency, and granularity of official statistics. Particular attention will be dedicated to changes that may have taken place with respect to data sources, including the use of new surveys or survey modules, and improvement of collection methods, i.e., use of administrative data and transition to electronic data transmission. Countries are also invited to share their plans in using of innovative technologies and data such as Big Data, web scraping and geospatial information. Enhancement of NSOs' capacity, including investment in new tools, IT systems and human capital, is considered critical and ad-hoc solutions during the pandemic which continue to be relevant and useful could be transformed into regular processes.

### **Assessing and improving survey methods**

13. In this session, participants are invited to address the traditional challenges in conducting surveys for data collection on poverty, including sample selection, low response rate and reducing sampling and non-sampling errors (calibration methods and weighting techniques). Countries are invited to share experience for improving their survey methods.

### **Subjective poverty – training session**

14. Subjective measures have an important complementary role to play in reaching the poorest and making their voice heard. Subjective measures reflect people's perceptions of their economic well-being with different life aspects, including health, financial situation, and jobs – as reflected in the UNECE Guide on subjective poverty measures that was endorsed this year. Based on the Guide, this training session will introduce fundamental approaches to subjective poverty measurement and analysis. The first part will focus on estimating subjective poverty lines using the minimum income question and the intersection approach. The second part will explore the potential of utilising qualitative questions, such as the ability to make ends meet, in subjective poverty analysis. Participants will receive training materials, including practical examples with corresponding R codes.

### **GROUP OF EXPERTS ON MEASURING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY (28-29 NOVEMBER 2024)**

15. With this call for papers, the group of experts are invited to submit presentations or brief papers to the topics listed below. The list of topics below is meant to suggest areas of interest and do not necessarily present an exhaustive list. The contributions can reflect on national and international developments or policy demands. The objective is to organize discussions on the meaning of poverty, recognising the role of traditional but also the new aspects that can play a role in defining poverty.

### **Inflation and its impact on poverty and inequality**

16. High inflation is increasingly having an impact on the population and may have caused negative social effects both substantial and uneven. Without an effective policy response, existing inequalities could widen within and across countries. Participants are invited to share how these challenges are displayed in current statistics. Innovative approaches to show the impact of the cost crisis on the population or certain subgroups are welcome (e.g. different consumption patterns by socio-economic groups, income and consumption in a combined view, contrasting relative and absolute poverty). The effect of social policies to answer this crisis are also of interest under this topic.

### **Data sources to complement surveys**

17. Facing declining response rates of traditional surveys, budget limitations and competing data providers, NSOs need to explore other data sources, establish new partnerships, and leverage statistical modelling techniques. Countries are invited to present their experiences on the use of administrative data, social media and big data for poverty measurement. Possibilities could include using these data alone as an alternative, in combination with survey data, or as a tool to correct for nonresponse bias or allow for small area estimation.

### **Assets-based poverty and inequality**

18. In research, the joint consideration of income and wealth has been recognized as important in measuring poverty, yet data gaps remain and suitable international concepts for integrating assets into the measurement of poverty are still under development. Contributions on methodological approaches that integrate both income and wealth in the poverty measurement are welcome. Related research on the measurement of income from assets or the use of assets to sustain standards of living during periods of unemployment, inflation, or rising interest rates are also of interest.

### **Social policies, social transfers and data**

19. Effective social policy protects individuals and their families and helps them lead a fulfilling life. Continued efforts on estimating the extent to which social transfers (e.g., on access to services such as health, education, child and long-term care, lifelong learning, and public transport) reduce the number of people in poverty or at risk of poverty could provide valuable insights for the development and assessment of social policies. The current cost of living crisis has reinforced the attention towards recent social measures and their efficiency. Participants are welcome to share their experience in how they organize and produce data to support monitoring and implementation of government strategies and ensure that relief measures are working. Countries are invited to present their national experience in producing estimates on social transfers, including on experimental basis, and accounting for them in the poverty measurement.

### **Energy poverty**

20. The increase in the households' expenditure on electricity, gas and other housing fuels have their consequences. What is the impact on people's well-being and has that led to an increase in persons unable to heat their homes properly? How should official statistics inform policymakers about those who are most affected? The participants are encouraged to discuss what data may be available in their country to assess energy poverty, energy affordability and the efficient use of energy by the households.

### **Climate change and households' vulnerability and poverty**

21. Climate change impacts and environmental policies raise important fairness issues linked to the uneven impacts of climate change and the unequal resilience of communities and territories. This topic discusses the distributional implications of climate change, at the global, national and sub-national levels. This topic touches on the relationship between climate change and poverty and aims to shed light on the costs to a green transition and help assess the equity and political feasibility of environmental policies.

### **Transport poverty**

22. Tackling transport poverty contributes to social justice. In Europe, the relevance of transport poverty is increasing as the right to access to essential services is part of the

European Pillars of Social Rights’ principles. Access to transport influences the individuals’ capabilities to access to employment, education, health care and other essential and social services. Different aspects should be taken into account when defining transport poverty: accessibility, availability, affordability and the acceptability in the sense of safety and usability. In addition, vulnerability across different groups of the society has to be taken into account. At the same time, issues around transport are also closely linked to the EU’s ambitions for climate neutrality.

### **Economic insecurity**

23. Income instability is concentrated among people who are already susceptible to falling into poverty, such as those who are unemployed, workers on temporary or no employment contracts, or those in single-income or young household. People are on average more exposed to instability, as economic contractions have become more frequent, while at the same time, average living standards have not risen as quickly. Further, the trends of digital transformation and increased rate of globalisation due to advancements in communication and transportation are shaping labour markets in ways that may bring greater income unpredictability. How do we define “insecure” jobs, and do we see inequalities in labour market increasing?

### **Communicating statistics on poverty and inequality**

24. Reliable statistics is the corner stone of sound policymaking. High-quality poverty statistics enable policymakers to make choices that lead to economic and social benefits for the poor. At the same time, nationally and at the policy level having more than one measure of poverty could be challenging and likely to require a large dissemination effort to make use of additional measures of poverty sufficiently widespread. Good metadata is a prerequisite but what else? How to ensure media and other users understand and communicate the information correctly? What kind of communication strategy, including visualisation techniques of key figures, infographics and dashboards is needed to disseminate poverty statistics efficiently? Contributions on national experiences are welcome.

## **INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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## ANNEX I: Template for contributions

**UNITED NATIONS**  
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27 November 2024

<b>Title of contribution</b>	<i>Title of your contribution</i>
<b>Author Name(s)</b>	<i>First name LAST NAME</i>
<b>Presenter Name</b>	<i>First name LAST NAME</i>
<b>Presenter Organization</b>	<i>Full name of NSO, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION or ACADEMIA</i>
<b>Presenter's email</b>	<i>Your email address</i>
<b>Topic</b>	<i>Title of topic (see Call for contributions)</i>
<b>Summary:</b>  <i>330 words</i>	
<b>Please select your preferred contribution (you may select both options):</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paper (to be submitted by 18 October)	