

**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing
(Vienna, Austria, 21-23 April 2008)

INFORMATION NOTICE No.1

The meeting will be held at Statistics Austria, Guglgasse 13, Vienna, Austria, from 21 to 23 April 2008*

I. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

1. At its 2006 plenary session, the Conference of European Statisticians included the Work Session on Statistical Data Editing in its 2007-2008 meeting programme. At the kind invitation of Statistics Austria, the meeting will be held from 21 to 23 April 2008 in Vienna (Austria). The study programme of the meeting focuses on methods and evaluation, with particular emphasis on quality related issues.
2. The target audience of the meeting includes statisticians dealing with editing and imputation of statistical data derived from surveys, censuses, and administrative sources and spanning various subject-matter areas, both social and economic.

II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

3. The programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive topics:
 - (i) Editing of data acquired through electronic data collection;
 - (ii) Editing administrative data and combined sources;
 - (iii) Improvement of quality through data editing;
 - (iv) New and emerging methods;
 - (v) Editing based on results (post-editing);
 - (vi) Censuses.
4. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of topics (i) – (vi) are provided in Section VI of this Information Notice.

III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION

5. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the meeting. 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 organization.** 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 participants reside, with a reference to the UNECE Work Session on Statistical Data Editing.

* Information on the venue and local arrangements in Vienna (hotel accommodation, transportation etc.) will be provided in Information Notice No. 2. See also Section IV of this Information Notice.

6. The statistical offices and international organizations should inform the UNECE secretariat **before 1 December 2007** if their organization intends to participate at the meeting and/or submit a contribution on the topics mentioned above. Please send a short abstract and indicate the topic to which the paper will refer as well as participant(s) name(s) and their contact data.

7. Participants should complete the registration form, which can be found on the last page, and return it to the UNECE Secretariat **by 14 March 2008**.

IV. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

8. Participants and/or their offices are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. Statistics Austria will provide a list of recommended hotels with conventional prices in the Information Notice No.2.

9. The organizers regret not being able to assist participants in their travel arrangements (air tickets, trains, local transportation, etc.). Neither Statistics Austria nor the UNECE secretariat can take any responsibility for financial arrangements with respect to travel or accommodation.

V. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

10. The working language of the work session is English. The documents may be submitted in any of the official languages of the UNECE (English, French, Russian), but no translation and interpretation facilities will be available. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- A short abstract of the paper should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (diane.serikoff@unece.org) **by 20 December 2007**.
- The papers, not exceeding 10 pages, should be sent electronically to the UNECE secretariat **by 5 February 2008 at the latest**.
- Documents should be submitted in MS Word and/or PDF formats. Templates in Word containing the header, document number and format will be sent to authors or may be requested by e-mail (diane.serikoff@unece.org). Alternatively, templates in LaTeX can also be provided.

11. For each substantive item on the agenda the discussants will invite 2-3 speakers to write an **invited paper** and to present them at the meeting. All other participants are welcome to submit a **supporting paper** on any topic of the agenda. The supporting papers will be distributed to the delegates. They will be summarized by the discussants and the issues raised in them will also be discussed.

9. Authors of invited papers will have about 20 minutes per paper for the presentation. Authors of supporting papers may be given (time permitting) about 5 minutes to highlight the main issues raised in their papers. Presenters may use PowerPoint presentations, Adobe Acrobat full screen presentations or A4/letter transparencies. UNECE secretariat cannot provide translation of the presentations.

- Presentations in PowerPoint or Adobe Acrobat should be sent to the UNECE secretariat by **7 April 2008 at the latest**, so that these can be installed on the conference room computer prior to the meeting.

12. Invited and supporting papers will be made available on the website of the UNECE Secretariat at the following location: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.04.sde.htm>

13. Delegates are encouraged to download the papers from the website and bring their own copies to the meeting. Documents posted on the website before the meeting will **not** be distributed in the conference room.

VI. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

- (i) **Editing of data acquired through electronic data collection** - Discussants: Pedro Revilla, Spain (previlla@ine.es); and Paula Weir (pweir@eia.doe.gov)

14. Electronic data collection has provided the capability for editing data at the time of collection to improve the effectiveness of the editing and the quality of the submitted data. This topic includes discussions of what data are being edited at the time of collection, how the data are edited, and any related experiences, particularly those based on data about the process or information about the respondents (actions, interactions, etc). Although the topic focuses on electronic data reporting, papers describing editing strategies to improve relationships with respondents or the general editing process are also welcome. This topic also includes general guidelines for editing in web surveys and attention to balancing edits between the client side and the statistical agency (post-collection) side. Other related topics may include comparisons of editing practices or results between electronic collections and other collection modes, as well as more focused topics on editing in electronic collection for specific types of surveys such as population or housing censuses surveys.

- (ii) **Editing administrative data and combined sources** - Discussants: Natalie Shlomo (natalies@cbs.gov.il); and Vera Costa, New Zealand (vera.costa@stats.govt.nz)

15. Statistical Agencies are relying more and more on administrative data to improve the quality of their statistics and reduce costs and response burden on data subjects. Administrative data however were not originally designed for use as statistical data and therefore need to undergo extensive processing and editing. In past Statistical Data Editing Work Sessions, much attention was focused on the use of administrative data for business surveys to develop reliable sampling frames and to supplement survey data (especially for small establishments). In recent years, more Statistical Agencies are focusing on administrative data for their social and economic data to replace information typically collected in Censuses. Combining multiple sources of data represents a new challenge for statistical data editing, namely in ensuring quality in line with statistical standards and coherence across the different sources.

16. The following topics for papers are welcome:

- Papers which describe the E&I processes with respect to effective methods and best practices in order to adjust administrative data for statistical use, including both business and social data. In particular, papers with an emphasis on improving the usability of business registers and population registers are requested.
- Papers which describe the combination of multiple sources of administrative, census and survey data for constructing high quality statistical databases using effective E&I strategies which will ensure correct coverage, consistent and clean records, especially when the data sets are very large.

17. The focus of the papers should be drawn to practical implementation with an emphasis on general issues and broad enough in scope to allow Statistical Agencies to benefit from recent experiences. Especially welcome are discussions of alternative approaches and the results of ongoing projects that have been initiated in recent years by Statistical Agencies.

- (iii) **Improvement of quality through data editing** - Discussants: Orietta Luzi, Italy (luzi@istat.it) and Dan Hedlin (dan.hedlin@scb.se)

18. The quality of data editing relates not only to its ability to efficiently identify errors in data, but also to its potential to provide information about the quality of the data and the survey process. Editing should be designed and managed in order to achieve these goals. This topic includes all aspects and problems relating to the use of data editing and data editing results for improving the quality of the survey data and survey process. Topics of interest include:

- Monitoring and improving the survey process, e.g. quality indicators and metadata on editing processes (for users and producers) to enhance accessibility and clarity;

- Trade-offs between quality components (accuracy, coherence) when editing, taking into account survey constraints (costs and time) and the need for simplicity;
- Documentation of the results and analyses of the editing process;
- Developments of recommended practices and impact of cultural differences and training of statisticians and users.

19. Papers discussing these issues based on practical experiences and applications are especially encouraged. Presentations should be accompanied by an evaluation of aspects such as the impact on data quality and survey management due to the adoption of tools (such as standards, indicators, information systems, etc.) supporting the design, the monitoring, the documentation and the analysis of the results of editing processes.

(iv) New and emerging methods - Discussant: Jeroen Pannekoek, Netherlands (jpnk@cbs.nl)

20. This topic covers new methods and techniques for data editing and imputation. Contributions could highlight progress in data editing theory and new methodologies, as well as new techniques and software tools, or explore organizational implementation issues and impacts. Topics of interest include:

- temporal and/or geospatial editing and imputation;
- detection and treatment of systematic errors or outliers;
- selective editing techniques;
- machine learning methods for editing and imputation;
- new software applications;
- graphical editing techniques;
- imputation under edit restrictions;
- outlier-robust imputation;
- variance estimation in the presence of imputation.

(v) Editing based on results (post-editing) - Discussants: Maria Garcia, United States (maria.m.garcia@census.gov) and Daniel Kilchmann, Switzerland (daniel.kilchmann@bfs.admin.ch)

21. This topic focuses on issues concerning the editing of data after their release. Statistical Agencies develop methods for efficient E&I, however post-release editing may be necessary in several situations, e.g. if different data sources are matched or if important analysis are done on domains which were not considered during the E&I process. Papers dealing with the question of whether micro-editing rather than macro-editing techniques should be used in such situations are warmly welcomed. Contributions dealing with all aspects relating to editing based on results, selective editing, and graphical data analysis, including issues dealing with development of methods, strategies and experiences in these fields are also requested under this topic. Macro-editing techniques also may be applied in such situations, therefore contributions describing the development, application, and evaluation of Macro-editing methods are also welcomed.

(vi) Censuses - Discussants: Heather Wagstaff, United Kingdom (Heather.Wagstaff@ons.gsi.gov.uk) and Thomas Burg, Austria (thomas.burg@statistik.gov.at)

22. In most countries censuses of population are performed periodically to provide a solid basis for important political and/or economic decisions. A second purpose for census taking is the creation of reference data, centrally held by the statistical agency of each country, and used for many follow-up studies in many socio-economic domains. For these reasons, the data cleaning processes applied to census data, at both the micro and macro level, are essential to ensure sufficient quality of the final outputs.

23. In recent years a degree of resistance to the performance of conventional census taking has emerged. Consequently, some countries are faced with the requirement to switch to purely register-based censuses. Papers that can serve as useful contributions to this topic should deal with editing and

imputation topics for censuses planned in the near future (the 2010 round) as well as with projects lying in the recent past (the 2005 round). Examples of possible topics include:

- Editing of Census microdata;
- Editing at the macro level;
- Transition from conservative to register based census;
- Imputation procedures;
- Special software for editing census data;
- Quality indicators for editing processes on census data;
- New methods for data collection used in censuses;
- Building in of experiences of former censuses.

24. Papers referring to topics from the list above, or any others (since the list is not exhaustive), should describe the procedures and methods used and discuss the results. The aim of the session is to create an overview of data cleaning methods and technologies used in the latest census round based on a broad international spectrum.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

25. For further information, please contact the following organizers:

UNECE: Mr. Juraj Riecan
 Chief, User Services Section
 Statistical Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
 Palais des Nations
 1211-GENEVA 10, Switzerland
 Tel.: +41 22 917 33 28
 Fax: +41 22 917-0040
 e-mail: juraj.riecan@unece.org

Statistics Austria (for matters of content):

Mr. Thomas Burg
 Statistics Austria
 Guglgasse 13
 1110 VIENNA
 Austria
 Tel: +43-1 71128 7877
 Fax: +43-1 71128 7053
 e-mail: thomas.burg@statistik.gv.at

Should you need any organizational information from Statistics Austria, please contact:

Ms. Elena Hoschek
 International Relations Department
 Statistics Austria
 Guglgasse 13
 1110 VIENNA
 Austria
 Tel: +43-1 71128 7354
 Fax: +43 1 712 13 90
 e-mail: elena.hoschek@statistik.gv.at

**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing

(Vienna, Austria, 21-23 April 2008)

REGISTRATION FORM

This form should be completed in duplicate by each participant
and returned **by 14 March 2008 to:**

Ms. Diane Serikoff
Tel: +4122 917 2241
Fax: +4122 917 0040
E-mail: diane.serikoff@unece.org

1. Surname (Family name):		Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	2. First name:
3. Representing (country or organization):			
4. Official function (in home country):			
5. Mailing address:			
6. Tel. No.:		7. Fax No.:	
8. E-mail address:			
9. Please indicate topic ((i)-(vi)) and title, if you intend to present a paper:			
10. Date and time of arrival in Vienna:		11. Date and time of departure from Vienna:	
12. Special requirements:			

Date _____

Signature _____