Summary

In May 2019, UNECE carried out an electronic consultation with the members of the Conference of European Statisticians on the possible topics for the two seminars to be held during the 2020 plenary session of the Conference. Countries and organizations were invited to select topics for the seminars, indicate whether their office would be willing to be a member of an organizing committee or prepare a paper for the seminars, and also to propose additional topics for subsequent years.

A total of 43 countries and international organizations replied to the consultation. The present note provides a summary of the replies received. Based on the outcome of this consultation, the CES Bureau will make a proposal to the Conference for the 2020 seminar topics. The Conference will be invited to decide about the topics on 27 June 2019, under agenda item 8.
I. Introduction

1. This year 43 countries and international organizations replied to the electronic consultation on topics to be discussed at the two seminars of the 2020 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The following countries and international organizations replied: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Eurostat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

2. The Secretariat circulated a list of possible topics on 6 May 2019. The results of the consultation are presented in section II. The countries and organizations that volunteered to be a member of an organizing committee of the seminar or to submit a paper are listed under each topic.

II. Results of the survey conducted in May 2019: preferences

A. Innovations to support statistical organizations in implementing their new role in data ecosystems

3. This topic received the highest number of votes: 24 votes from countries.

4. Denmark and Finland volunteered to be part of an organizing committee for the seminar. The Netherlands and Portugal (to be confirmed) volunteered papers.

B. Digital economy/Impacts of globalisation and digitalization on core economic statistics

5. This topic received the second highest number of votes: 19 votes from countries.

6. Finland has offered to be part of an organizing committee of this seminar. Hungary and Poland volunteered to prepare papers for the seminar.

Comments made:

7. Bulgaria emphasized that it would be most important that seminar cover the following issues:

   (a) Methodological issues regarding the coverage of the effects of digitalization, IT-supported data collection techniques and the inclusion of new multiple data sources;

   (b) Current state of the CES countries in measuring the digital economy;

   (c) “Fight digital with digital” – how the digitalization can help to modernize the statistical system.

C. Practical implementation of models developed under the High-level Group for Modernization of Official Statistics

8. The topic received 12 votes: 11 votes from countries and 1 from an international organization. Portugal tentatively offered a paper.
D. Strengthening the links between official statistics and geospatial data

9. The topic received 11 votes: 10 votes from countries and 1 from an international organization.

10. New Zealand offered to be a seminar organizer and to prepare a paper. Papers were also volunteered by Belarus, France and Poland. United Nations Statistics Division offered to contribute to the organization of the seminar.

E. Challenges in measuring intergenerational relationships

11. The topic received 9 votes from countries. Denmark offered to be a seminar organizer. France offered to prepare a paper.

F. Policy applications of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

12. The topic received 7 votes: 6 votes from countries and 1 from an international organization.

13. The Netherlands offered to be a seminar organizer and session chair. Papers were volunteered by the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway (to be confirmed).

Comments made:

14. The Netherlands highlighted the relevance of the topic given that the revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting will be completed next year. Sustainability receives more and more attention from politicians and society, and reliable statistical information is crucial for assessing the relationship between economic activities and the environment.

G. Can data save lives – official statistics for disaster risk reduction

15. The topic received 2 votes from countries.

III. Conclusions

16. The CES Bureau will discuss the results of the electronic consultation and will present a proposal to the Conference on the 2020 seminar topics. The Conference will be invited to decide about the topics on 27 June 2019, under agenda item 8.