Economic Commission for Europe
Conference of European Statisticians

Sixty-seventh plenary session
Paris, 26-28 June 2019
Item 8 of the provisional agenda
Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2020 plenary session
of the Conference of European Statisticians

Proposal for the seminars to be held during the 2020 plenary
session of the Conference of European Statisticians

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The document presents a proposal by the CES Bureau on topics for the two seminars to take place during the 2020 CES plenary session. The proposal is based on the outcome of the electronic consultation with the CES members in May 2019 (ECE/CES/2019/11), and the CES Bureau discussion on 26 June 2019.

The Conference is invited to take a decision on the 2020 seminar topics on 27 June 2019 under agenda item 8.
I. Proposed topics for the CES 2020 seminars

A. Implementing the role of NSOs in an era of expanded possibilities

1. This seminar is based on the topic ‘Innovations to support statistical organizations in implementing their new role in data ecosystems’ that received the highest number of votes: 24 votes from countries.

Volunteers to organize the seminar: Denmark and HLG-MOS

Possible papers: The Netherlands and Portugal (tbc)

2. This seminar will be a follow-up to the CES 2019 seminar “Emerging role of NSOs as offices for statistics and data” with a focus on practical implementation of the new roles and strategies for statistical organizations in the new data ecosystems.

3. Taking on a new role is a major shift in the tasks and mandates of national statistical offices and will require a discussion on how the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are applied in this new environment. Preparation for the CES 2019 seminar on this topic shows that there is a need to develop a national data strategy for NSOs. The CES seminar in 2020 could discuss strategies for NSOs in new data ecosystems and how statistical organizations can implement these strategies. It will be desirable to invite to the seminar some other stakeholders who are involved in developing data strategies in national governments.

4. The specific contents of the 2020 seminar will build on the conclusions of the 2019 CES seminar on emerging role of NSOs as offices for statistics and data, and will be discussed by the organizing committee with the CES Bureau during the October 2019 meeting.

B. Impacts of globalisation and digitalization on the future of economic statistics

5. This topic is based on the topic “Digital economy/Impacts of globalisation and digitalization on core economic statistics”, which received the second highest number of votes: 19 votes from countries. The CES Bureau considered the proposed topic too wide and decided to focus the seminar on the impacts of globalization on the future of economic statistics.

Volunteers to organize the seminar: Finland and Canada

Possible papers: Hungary, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, OECD (tbc)

6. Current developments regarding globalization and digitalization have a massive impact on economic statistics. Especially the activities of multinational enterprise groups (MNEs) illustrate the challenges faced by official statistics in adequately covering cross-border phenomena and, consequently, ensuring in the long term the quality and information value of major economic indicators.

7. The seminar could discuss:

   (a) Issues arising from globalization and digitalization including both the internal work organization in NSOs (Large Cases Units) and ways of shaping international cooperation;

   (b) Opportunities such as issues of data protection in the context of international data exchange regarding MNEs.

8. The seminar will build on the outcomes of the work by the Friends of the Chair Group on the Future of Economic Statistics and the Task Force on sharing of economic data, whose report is expected to be submitted to the 2020 plenary session for endorsement.
9. Discussion on **better measurement of the digital transformation**, informed by the recent activities of Eurostat, OECD and IMF in this area will be held the October 2019 Bureau meeting and, subsequently, as a standalone item on the agenda of the 2020 plenary session.

C. **Discussion on implementation of models developed under HLG-MOS**

10. In view of support for discussing **practical implementation of models developed under the High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS)**, it is proposed that the Conference in 2020 would devote about 1-1.5 hours to this topic. This could be organized during the time foreseen for the annual report of HLG-MOS.

II. **Next steps**

11. The Conference will be invited to take a decision on the 2020 seminar topics on 27 June 2019 under agenda item 8.

12. Following the decision of the Conference, the seminar organizers will develop the outlines for the seminars. The Bureau will consider the organization of the CES 2020 seminars at its meeting in October 2019.