

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

Seminar “The way forward in poverty measurement”
(Geneva, 2-4 December 2013)

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Seminar will be held in room VIII at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on
2-4 December 2013.

It will start at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 2 December 2013
and finish on Wednesday, 4 December by 5.30 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. UNECE, OECD and CIS-STAT are jointly organising a Seminar on the way forward in poverty measurement, under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The Seminar will be held in room VIII at the Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix 8, Geneva (Switzerland), from 2 to 4 December 2013.

II. PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

2. There is a need for a forum for the exchange of experiences and practices in poverty measurement. The monitoring of Millennium Development Goals and the recent discussions on the post-2015 development agenda have further strengthened the importance of measuring poverty, inequality and vulnerability. Countries and international organizations need comparable data and harmonized data sets. However, there is currently no coherent set of indicators to measure and monitor poverty in the UNECE region.

3. The main purpose of the Seminar is to allow countries to exchange experiences and discuss issues of poverty measurement in the UNECE region and beyond. The focus is on methodological issues, data comparability and the interlinkages between poverty, inequality, vulnerability and social inclusion. The Seminar will include a panel discussion on the future of poverty measurement in the UNECE region.

III. AGENDA OF THE SEMINAR

4. The Seminar agenda will consist of the substantive topics presented below.

Methodological issues in poverty measurement

5. The methods and data sources for poverty measurement vary greatly and reporting on bias and uncertainty of poverty data is limited. The session will discuss methodological and technical issues encountered and solutions found in measuring poverty. Timeliness of data and

the coverage of vulnerable groups and regional disparities are other topics covered by this session.

Data comparability

6. There is a strong need for data that is comparable internationally and over time. The issues for this session include, among others, retrospective estimation of any new poverty measures for understanding their trend, and international micro-data access for calculating comparable poverty indicators.

Interlinkages between poverty, inequality, vulnerability and social inclusion

7. This session will address the relevance of existing poverty indicators, the different aspects of poverty captured by absolute and relative poverty lines, and the relationship of poverty indicators with those of material and non-material deprivation. National experiences in applying conceptual frameworks of poverty measurement can be presented here as well as simulation models and other tools for presenting information on poverty to help policymakers understand the impact of their decisions.

Panel discussion about future work

8. This panel discussion will bring together the conclusions from the substantive sessions and discuss their implications for the future of poverty measurement in the UNECE region, including the perspective of developing a coherent set of indicators. The discussion is expected to identify areas where more methodological work could be undertaken, leading to recommendations for future work.

IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

9. Participants are welcome to submit a paper for any topic on the agenda. See document INF.1 **Call for papers**.

10. The working languages of the work session are English, French and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

11. Papers and slides provided in Russian will be translated to English to the extent possible, provided that they were delivered by the requested deadline. A limited number of papers will be translated from English to Russian. Authors of papers submitted in Russian are strongly encouraged to provide a short abstract in English (maximum one page).

12. Abstracts should be submitted by **30 September 2013**. The abstract should include:

- the title of the presentation;
- a clear description of the issues addressed in the paper;
- the main conclusions of the paper;
- each author's name and e-mail address;
- institutional affiliation.

13. The full final versions of papers should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat in Word format by **21 October 2013**. It is recommended not to exceed 10 pages including charts, annexes and references. Presentations should be submitted by **15 November 2013**.

14. Papers, abstracts and presentations should be submitted electronically to Mr. Taeke Gjaltema, e-mail taeke.gjaltema@unece.org.

15. Papers will be made available on the UNECE website at the following location:
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2013.12.poverty.htm>.

16. Participants are encouraged to download the papers from the website and bring their own copies to the Seminar. Documents posted on the website before the Seminar will not be distributed in the conference room.

V. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION

17. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the Seminar. 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.

18. All participants attending the Seminar 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 Switzerland in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the Seminar “The way forward in poverty measurement”. If a formal invitation letter is required by the embassy, this can be requested from the UNECE secretariat (fax +41 22 917 0040 or e-mail mdg.stats@unece.org).

19. Participants are requested to fill in the attached **registration form** and send it to the UNECE secretariat by e-mail (mdg.stats@unece.org) or fax (+41 22 917 0040) **by 15 November 2013**. The information will be used to register participants with the UN Security Section and for the list of participants.

20. In order to enter the Palais des Nations where the Seminar is being held, all participants need to obtain a security pass (ID badge). For this purpose, please present yourself with your passport at the UN Security Identification Office at Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations (Avenue de la Paix 14, Buses 8 and 18, Stop Appia), **by 8:30 a.m.** on Monday, 2 December 2013. The Security Identification Office is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (non-stop). For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the Palais des Nations.

21. Practical information for seminar participants, including links to maps of Geneva and the Tourist Office where hotel reservations can be made, is available at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>. A map of the Palais des Nations where you can find the Security Identification Office located at the Pregny Gate is available at http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf

VI. IMPORTANT DEADLINES

22. Please take note of the following deadlines:

- 30 September 2013: submission of abstracts
- 21 October 2013: submission of full final versions of papers
- 15 November 2013: submission of PowerPoint presentations and registration

VII. ACCOMMODATION IN GENEVA

23. Participants are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. The UNECE secretariat in Geneva is not in a position to provide such services to participants. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the meeting since available rooms are limited due to other meetings and events taking place in Geneva. Maps of Geneva, list of hotels and information for visitors to the Palais des Nations are available on the following website: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>. The following information is also available:

- The closest hotel to Palais des Nations is the 5-Star Intercontinental.
- Cornavin, Suisse, Les Nations are four-star hotels and within 7-10 minutes to the Palais des Nations by buses 8, 5, 28, F, V, Z and tram 15.
- There are several three-star and four-star hotels near Cornavin, the main train station. These hotels are moderate in price and are 10 minutes by bus or tram and 25-30 minutes on foot from the Palais des Nations. Examples include: Eden, Manotel, Mon Repos, des Alpes, International and Terminus, Montana, Savoy, Suisse, and Windsor. Newly opened hotel Ibis Geneve Centre Nations is in Grand Pre is in 5 minutes by bus.

VIII. FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN GENEVA

24. Geneva International Airport now offers incoming passengers a free ticket for public transport. The free tickets are available from a machine in the airport's baggage collection area and allow you to use any public transport (train, tram, bus) in Geneva and surrounding areas for a period of 80 minutes. Look for the machine pictured below after collecting your luggage and before walking out through the customs area.



25. The Geneva Airport is approximately 4 kilometres from the city centre. The train is the most efficient way to get into the city. Follow the signs to the airport railway station from the arrivals area. All trains leaving from the airport stop at the central Geneva-Cornavin station. The

journey takes six minutes. The buses 5 and 28 will bring you from the airport to the Place des Nations.

26. Taxis are readily available from the airport. They are metered, so costs will vary, the journey from the airport into the city centre will usually cost around CHF 30.

27. When checking-in at your hotel you should receive a free [Geneva Transport Card](#), enabling you to use the entire Geneva public transport system free of charge throughout your stay.

28. Tourist and public transport information is available at the Unireso information desk in the airport arrival hall after you go through customs. More information on Geneva's free public transport initiative is available from:

- Public transport from Geneva Airport:
<http://www.gva.ch/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-67/>
- Free Geneva Transport Card:
<http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/index.php?rubrique=0000000417>

IX. CURRENCY

29. The exchange rate of the euro and the Swiss franc is now around 1.20 francs per 1 euro and is subject to daily market fluctuations. For conversion rate please consult <http://www.ubs.com/1/e/index/bcqv/calculator.html>. Currency exchange facilities are available in the city centre and at the UBS bank branch at Palais des Nations, located on the ground floor of C building (door C6). It is open from 08:30 to 16:30, with no lunch break, from Monday to Friday.

X. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

30. All queries concerning the Seminar should be addressed to:

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