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7 June 2018
ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
Expert meeting on measuring poverty and inequality
Vienna, Austria, 29-30 November 2018

INFORMATION NOTE

The meeting will be held at Statistics Austria
Vienna, Austria
on 29-30 November 2018

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is organising the *Expert meeting on measuring poverty and inequality* under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) on 29-30 November 2018 in Vienna, Austria, in partnership with Statistics Austria.
2. The meeting is preceded by the *Workshop on harmonization of poverty statistics in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*, which UNECE will organize in Vienna on 28 November 2018, with financial support from the United Nations Development Account. More information about the Workshop will be provided in due course.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

3. The Expert meeting will allow countries to exchange experience on the challenges in poverty measurement and ways to address them. The objective is to take forward the methodological work on measuring poverty and inequality, achieve greater comparability and reliability of poverty statistics, and strengthen multilateral cooperation. The meeting will also discuss the progress made by the *Task Force on Disaggregated Poverty Measures*.

III. PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

4. The substantive programme of the meeting will include topics listed below. For more information and description of the topics please refer to document "Call for papers". A detailed timetable will be prepared before the meeting.

- Topic A: Poverty indicators for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Topic B: Improving response rate and sampling precision in surveys
- Topic C: Assets-based poverty and inequality
- Topic D: Inclusion of social transfers in kind, housing wealth and imputed rent in the measurement of poverty
- Topic E: Coverage of hard-to-reach and potentially disadvantaged population groups in data collection
- Emerging issues: Individual level poverty measures, role of differences in cost of living and subjective poverty

5. A concluding session will discuss directions for further work on poverty and inequality statistics in the UNECE countries.

IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND LANGUAGES

6. The working languages of the meeting are English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

7. Participants are invited to contribute a paper for the Expert meeting according to the programme of the meeting (see document "Call for papers").

8. The following deadlines apply:

- Intention to participate and contribute a paper: by **29 June 2018**.
- Full versions of papers (in Word): by **15 October 2018**.
- PowerPoint presentations: by **15 November 2018**.

9. Contributors are reminded that the success of the meeting depends upon the availability of translated materials in advance of the meetings and the opportunity for participants to read the papers before the meeting. Therefore, these deadlines must be strictly adhered to.

10. All submissions should be addressed to the UNECE Secretariat, Ms. Vania Etropolska, e-mail: vania.etropolska@un.org with copy to social.stats@unece.org.

11. Papers will be made available on the meeting web page at the following location: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2018.11.poverty.seminar.html>. The timetable and other documents will be posted on the same meeting page.

12. The posted documents will not be distributed in the meeting room. Participants are encouraged to download them and bring their own copies to the meeting.

V. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION

13. The meeting is open to representatives of all UNECE Member States. Representatives of other Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.3, paras. 11, 12 and 13). All delegates must be accredited by the competent authority of their country or international organization.

14. The meeting targets statisticians and analysts from national statistical offices and other government agencies that produce poverty statistics. Participants are expected to take an active part in the discussion and share their experiences.

15. All participants should register by **15 October 2018** (participants funded by UNECE by **20 August**) by completing the online registration for the following link:

<https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=1t3NPx>

16. The online meeting registration guideline is available at:

<https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/OMR>.

VI. VISA

17. 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 at the Embassy of Austria in the country in which the participants reside or the nearest embassy, with reference to the UNECE Expert meeting on measuring poverty and inequality. If a formal invitation letter is required by the embassy, this can be requested from Statistics Austria, Mr. Matthias Till, email: matthias.till@statistik.gv.at.

VII. TRAVEL

18. Participants not funded by UNECE are requested to organize their own travel and purchase their own tickets.

19. As for participants funded by UNECE, the UN Travel Agency, Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT), will propose an itinerary based on the most direct route and at the most economical rate applicable, including discounted fares. Upon receiving confirmation from the funded participant, CWT will issue their ticket. The cost of the ticket will be covered by the UNECE Secretariat.

VIII. VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

20. The meetings will be held at Statistics Austria at the following address: Guglgasse 13, A-1110 Vienna (metro U3 stop "Gasometer").

21. All participants (both non-funded and funded by UNECE) are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. Participants wishing to stay near the meeting venue may reserve a standard single room at Hotel "Roomz" at a cost of 84 € per night, including breakfast (booking reference: "Statistics Austria"). Please note that the hotel has limited number of rooms available. For information about the hotel, please visit <https://www.roomz-hotels.com>. The hotel is located next to Statistics Austria and Gasometer shopping mall (travel time to city centre about 20 minutes by metro).

22. Alternative hotels in the vicinity with special company rates for "Statistics Austria" include <http://www.hotel-gabriel.at> (~70 €) or www.amediahotels.com. (~80 €). A popular option in the city centre, next to St. Stephan's Cathedral (underground station "Stephansplatz" U1, U3, about 20 minutes from venue) is <http://www.hotel-wandl.com> (~100 €). Participants wishing to stay elsewhere may also consult <https://www.wien.info/en>.

IX. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

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