

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

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)  
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2013)**  
(Paris, France, and Bangkok, Thailand, 23-25 April 2013)

### **INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1\***

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD/ESCAP Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems will be held at the headquarters of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France, and at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23 to 25 April 2013.
2. The two geographical locations of the meeting will be linked through videoconference facilities.
3. The meeting is primarily intended for IT managers from statistical organizations and other specialists responsible for the coordination, planning and management of complex projects in statistical information processing.

## **II. Agenda of the meeting**

4. The work programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive themes:
  - (i) Architecture;
  - (ii) Streamlining statistical production;
  - (iii) Innovation;
  - (iv) Collaboration.
5. We also plan to organize a Panel Discussion based on an emerging topic identified from the abstracts submitted.
6. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of the themes are provided in Section V of this Information Notice.

---

\* Information on the venue and local arrangements in Paris and Bangkok (hotel accommodation, transportation etc.) will be provided at a later date in Information Notice No. 2.

### III. Participation and accreditation

7. 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 to France or Thailand should be made as soon as possible (to the French Embassy or the Royal Thai Embassy) in the country where the participant resides, with a reference to the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD/ESCAP Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems.

8. The statistical offices and international organizations are asked to confirm **before 15 December 2012** whether their organization intends to participate at the meeting and if so, at which location – Paris or Bangkok. For participation in Paris, please inform the **UNECE secretariat** ([diane.serikoff@unece.org](mailto:diane.serikoff@unece.org)), and in Bangkok, **the ESCAP secretariat** ([hermouete.unescap@un.org](mailto:hermouete.unescap@un.org)).

9. Participants are requested to fill in a Conference **registration form**, which will be available on the websites indicated in paragraph 12. Completed registration forms should be sent to the UNECE or ESCAP secretariat as appropriate, by **15 March 2013** so that they may be processed well in advance of the meeting.

### IV. Documentation, methods of work and official languages

10. The official language of the meeting is English. The documents should, therefore, be submitted in English only. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Any organisations wishing to submit a paper to the meeting (either location), are requested to send **a short abstract and indicate the topic** (see para. 4) to which the paper will refer, as well as author name(s) and contact details, to the UNECE secretariat ([diane.serikoff@unece.org](mailto:diane.serikoff@unece.org)) as soon as possible and **by 15 December 2012 at the latest**.
- The **papers** should be sent to the UNECE secretariat ([diane.serikoff@unece.org](mailto:diane.serikoff@unece.org)) **by 15 February 2013**. They should be submitted in electronic format in **MS Word**, and should not exceed 10 pages in length.
- Templates in Word containing the header and format will be made available on the website or may be requested by e-mail ([diane.serikoff@unece.org](mailto:diane.serikoff@unece.org)).

11. The MSIS Organizing Committee preparing the meeting has appointed Session Organizers/Discussants to lead the discussion on the individual themes. The Session Organizers are indicated in the Explanatory Notes to the Agenda in Section V below. On the basis of the contributions received, the Organizing Committee will decide which papers will be allotted a longer slot for presentation at the meeting. Presenters may use PowerPoint presentations, Adobe Acrobat or any other format for full screen presentations. The meeting organizers cannot provide translation of the presentations. The secretariats will post them on the websites after the meeting.

- Presentations should be sent to the UNECE or ESCAP secretariat **by 7 April 2013** at the latest, so that these may be installed on the presentation computers and posted on the meeting websites prior to the meeting.

12. All papers along with the provisional agenda and timetable will be made available on the meeting websites at the following locations:

**UNECE:** <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2013.04.msis.html>

**ESCAP:** <http://www.unescap.org/stat/meet/msis2013>

Participants 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.

## V. Explanatory notes to the substantive themes

13. The work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians on the management of statistical information systems is part of a wider initiative on the modernisation of statistics, led by the High-Level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics (HLG-BAS). In Asia and the Pacific, the ESCAP Committee on Statistics will meet in December 2012 and discuss the possibility to create a regional level strategic body as well as a regional network of experts in relation to the modernization of statistics. The aim of these initiatives is to put in place the mechanisms and organizational structures for standards-based modernization of statistical production, facilitating the use of new data sources and the development new statistical outputs. Key standards include the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM). The topics below are designed to support the HLG-BAS initiative.

### Topic (i): Architecture

**Session Organizers:** Robert McLellan, Statistics Canada ([robert.mclellan@statcan.ca](mailto:robert.mclellan@statcan.ca)) and Matjaz Jug, Statistics New Zealand ([matjaz.jug@stats.govt.nz](mailto:matjaz.jug@stats.govt.nz))

14. The modernization of statistical production is currently focused on the development of component-based solutions brought together into configurable solutions that are both flexible and efficient to create. Furthermore, by aligning architectures with emerging standards and reference models for statistical information and processes, the statistical community can share or co-develop these components and enjoy benefits including reduced cost of development and ownership, agility, and innovation.

15. We invite papers that discuss the architectural strategies, requirements, and methods necessary to realize this future vision. The scope of this session includes all of the facets of enterprise architecture - business, information and technology. Of particular interest is the interplay between how production solutions are designed by subject-matter experts and methodologists and how solutions are designed and built by IT specialists. In a plug-and-play world are the traditional approaches still relevant, or do we need a new paradigm for architecting and building the future? With the advent of new collection methods and data such as web-scraping, and with the evolution of dissemination to include information "wholesaling", we are becoming part of a broader web that seeks to provide models of world activity. What are the architectural implications for us as we become more integrated with the external ecosystem?

### Topic (ii): Streamlining statistical production

**Session Organizers:** Christine Wirtz, Eurostat ([christine.wirtz@ec.europa.eu](mailto:christine.wirtz@ec.europa.eu)) and René Piché, International Monetary Fund (IMF) ([rpiche@imf.org](mailto:rpiche@imf.org))

16. Producers of statistical information are faced with a situation where instant delivery of information has become the norm. In response to these challenges, production chains are being examined with the aim of making them faster and more flexible. The papers under the "Streamlining statistical production" topic are intended to highlight experiences with the industrialization of statistical production, such as reducing throughput time by means of automation and/or the implementation of standard models and processes. Papers could include issues with changes in the organization and collaboration with other organizations, as well as management of projects and programmes, including business continuity planning. What is more, we welcome real examples covering standardization and governance aspects as an enabler of streamlining.

### Topic (iii): Innovation

**Session Organizers:** Trevor Fletcher, OECD ([trevor.fletcher@oecd.org](mailto:trevor.fletcher@oecd.org)) and Joseph Parsons, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture ([joe.parsons@usda.gov](mailto:joe.parsons@usda.gov))

17. This session will cover recent innovations in the management of statistical information systems that include data collection, data processing, dissemination, visualization or any other part of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model and its underlying information models. In particular we would be

interested in seeing innovations in the areas of open data and the treatment of new data sources (such as “big data”).

18. These innovations should have made a significant impact and can take a variety of forms such as new technologies, new methods, new practices or new management approaches.

19. We welcome any approach to presenting innovation and related issues. This might, for example, take the form of a case study, or an analysis of a proposed innovation. We ask that authors make clear in their papers the relevance of their chosen subject to the broad audience of meeting attendees.

#### **Topic (iv): Collaboration**

**Session Organizers:** Marton Vucsan, Statistics Netherlands ([mvcn@cbs.nl](mailto:mvcn@cbs.nl)) and Carlo Vaccari, University of Camerino, Italy ([carlo.vaccari@unicam.it](mailto:carlo.vaccari@unicam.it)) and Eric Hermouet, ESCAP ([hermouete.unescap@un.org](mailto:hermouete.unescap@un.org))

20. In this session, we will discuss all subjects relevant to sharing/collaboration. We are looking for papers to show possible successful ways for statistical organizations to collaborate and we want to stimulate the discussion about these subjects.

21. Aside from tools and other means of collaboration, we are especially interested in papers about the organizational change required for collaboration, and how such organizational changes can be better supported through initiatives such as the HLG-BAS, the MSIS, and the mechanisms that are proposed to be established to strengthen collaboration in Asia and the Pacific.

## **VI. Local arrangements**

### **A. Meeting venue**

22. The meeting will be held at:

The [conference centre of the OECD](#),  
2 rue Andre-Pascal,  
75016 Paris, France

and

ESCAP Conference Centre  
United Nations Building  
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

### **B. Accommodation**

23. Participants are reminded that they are responsible for making their own hotel reservations and are encouraged to do so as early as possible. OECD and ESCAP will provide a list of recommended hotels in Information Notice No.2.

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

## **VII. Further information**

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

**UNECE:**

Mr. Steven Vale  
 Head of Statistical Information and Methodology Unit  
 Statistical Division  
 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
 Palais des Nations  
 1211-GENEVA 10  
 Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 32 85  
 email: [steven.vale@unece.org](mailto:steven.vale@unece.org)

**EUROSTAT:**

Ms. Christine Wirtz  
 Head of Unit "IT for statistical production"  
 Eurostat - Statistical Office of the European Commission  
 BECH Building  
 5, rue Alphonse Weicker  
 L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel: +352 4301 34994  
 e-mail: [christine.wirtz@ec.europa.eu](mailto:christine.wirtz@ec.europa.eu)

**OECD:**

Mr. Trevor Fletcher  
 Head, Statistical Information Management and Support  
 Statistics Directorate, OECD  
 2, rue André Pascal  
 F-75775 Paris Cedex 16  
 France

Tel. +331 4524 1644  
 email: [trevor.fletcher@oecd.org](mailto:trevor.fletcher@oecd.org)

**UNESCAP:**

Ms Rikke Munk Hansen  
 Chief, Statistical Information Services Section  
 Statistics Division, ESCAP  
 Rajadamnern Nok Avenue  
 Bangkok 10200  
 Thailand

Tel : +662 288 1545  
 Email: [hansenrm@un.org](mailto:hansenrm@un.org)

Mr Eric Hermouet  
 Statistician, Statistical Information Services Section  
 Statistics Division, ESCAP  
 Rajadamnern Nok Avenue  
 Bangkok 10200  
 Thailand

Tel: + 662 288 1645  
 Email: [hermouete.unescap@un.org](mailto:hermouete.unescap@un.org)