

Information Notice 1

7th meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics (PWGS)

Organizers: EFTA Statistical Office (ESO) and UNECE Statistical Division.

Place: Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan.

Last year, during the 6th meeting of the SPECA PWGS in Geneva, it was proposed to organise the next SPECA PWGS meeting in Kyrgyzstan.

Dates: 27-30 August 2012

Participants: 30

High-level representatives of SPECA national statistical offices (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), as well as experts from multilateral and bilateral statistical bodies active in the SPECA region

Language: English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

Background information on the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics (PWGS)

The objective of the SPECA PWGS is to strengthen the statistical capacity of member countries of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to produce statistical information in order to monitor demographic, social and economic progress and the regional integration of their economies. It aims particularly to implement international standards and guidelines for enhancing the capacity of the SPECA member countries to produce internationally comparable and reliable data. Particular attention is paid to promoting the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which provide the basis for a sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems.

The PWGS, established in 2006, is a subsidiary body within the governing structure of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The member countries are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The statistical activities within the SPECA framework are also part of the UNECE and UNESCAP statistical programmes, which are supervised by their respective competent sectoral committees: the Conference of European Statisticians for the UNECE and the ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Purpose and scope of the 7th meeting of the SPECA PWGS

The purpose of the 7th meeting of the SPECA PWGS is to discuss in the context of the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA 2008), recent initiatives and approaches, and share good practice in enhancing the coordination of national statistical systems and streamlining statistical production processes, with a major focus on the production of integrated economic statistics. The meeting will allow participants to share

useful information in the perspective of the High-level Seminar on Modernizing Statistical Production and Services that will be held in St. Petersburg on 3-5 October 2012.

In its last session (formal business), the SPECA PWGS will also have to discuss and eventually approve its new Terms of Reference.

The 7th meeting of the SPECA PWGS will be organised in 3 substantive sessions:

1. Capacity building activities in the SPECA region: main achievements and remaining challenges

The purpose of the session is to evaluate the results, actions and outcomes of existing strategic programs and to discuss on-going and upcoming projects in support of statistical capacity building in the SPECA member countries. This session will provide a possibility to discuss among heads of national statistical offices of participating countries and representatives from multilateral and bilateral statistical bodies recent developments and future needs in statistical capacity building in the SPECA region.

2. Modernizing Statistical production and services

The objective of this session is to explore recent developments, and share good practices in modernizing and streamlining statistical processes, to improve the efficiency of statistical production. The session will start with an introduction to the drivers for change, and an overview of the standards that can be used to facilitate change. It will explore how technical assistance for specific projects can be used to benefit statistical production in general. It will then look specifically at the case of dissemination, showing how the use of standard tools can improve the way statistics are disseminated to a range of audiences, with the example of the introduction of PC-Axis by the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic.

3. Implementation Plan for the 2008 System of National Accounts

The System of National Accounts (SNA) is a statistical framework that provides comprehensive, consistent and flexible macroeconomic data for policymaking, analysis and research. It is an update of the 1993 SNA, which was undertaken in order to bring the framework in line with the evolving needs of data users and adapt it to the new economic environment.

This session will build on the outcome of the *Workshop on the Implementation Plans for the System of National Accounts 2008* (29.11-2.12.2012, Kiev), jointly organized by UNECE, UNSD, EFTA, and the *Special Session for Economies in Transition* organised by EFTA, Eurostat and UNECE in the framework of the 11th meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts (1.05.2012, Geneva)