UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON MODERNIZATION OF STATISTICAL PRODUCTION
AND SERVICES

INFORMATION NOTICE No.1
ROSSTAT and UNECE
will jointly host a High-level seminar in St. Petersburg,
on 3-5 October 2012

I. BACKGROUND

1. The State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (ROSSTAT) and UNECE are jointly
organizing a High-level Seminar on the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services
to be held in St. Petersburg, 3-5 October 2012. The seminar is organized in the context of the work
of the High-Level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics
(HLG-BAS) with the financial support of the Russian Federation.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS

2. **Organizers:** ROSSTAT and the UNECE Statistical Division

3. **Place:** St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

4. **Dates:** 3-5 October 2012

5. **Participants:** The Seminar is targeted at the Heads of national statistical organisations of
the UNECE region. Other interested countries outside the UNECE region are also invited to
contribute and participate.

6. **Language:** English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

III. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SEMINAR

7. The objective of the Seminar is to discuss recent ideas and approaches, and share good
practice in modernizing and streamlining statistical processes, to improve the efficiency of
statistical production and strengthen the coordination of national statistical systems.

8. The development of new approaches to statistical production is driven by the need to
respond to new requirements for statistical information including complex cross-cutting issues
such as the impact of globalization on economic statistics, measuring sustainable development,
and climate change related statistics. Whilst the recent global economic crisis and its impact on
public finance will most probably reduce the capacity of national statistical systems to adapt to
emerging requirements, rapid technological developments create new possibilities for collecting, processing, integrating and disseminating statistical information in a more efficient way.

9. The Seminar will focus on the trade off between increasing demand for timely and quality statistical data and the constant strong pressures for efficiency gains and reduction of respondent burden in the production of the information.

10. The Seminar will cover the following main topics:

(a) Adapting the business architecture for streamlining statistical production processes

11. Traditionally, the statistical production process, from survey design, through data collection and processing to dissemination, takes place independently for each statistical domain and each has its own data suppliers, processing systems, methodologies and user groups. This approach may have worked in the past, but it is now challenged by a rapidly changing environment, including new demands, new data sources and significant technological and methodological advances.

12. The focus of this session will be the implications of these changes for the organisation and management of statistical production. Various current global and regional initiatives will be discussed, including the vision and strategy of the High-Level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics, increased standardisation, the management of metadata and quality, and the implementation of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

(b) Effective coordination of national statistical systems – centralized vs. decentralized

13. Statistical systems are described as either centralized or decentralized depending on to which extent the responsibility to collect, process and disseminate official statistics lies with one single central institution. Statistical systems are said to be centralized when all, or most, of the products and services of the statistical system are produced and disseminated by a central organization. Conversely systems are said to be decentralized when statistics are produced by many different agencies or ministries depending on the domains (functional decentralization) or by different territorial statistical bodies (territorial decentralization).

14. Depending on the size, the administrative and territorial organization of the country, both systems might have advantages and disadvantages, but eventually the objective of centralized and decentralized systems must be to provide users with authoritative, high quality, relevant and timely statistics that meet their needs. The issues of data collection, data processing, quality monitoring and dissemination in both systems will be addressed with major focus on sharing good practices on effective and efficient production of statistical information in centralised versus territorially decentralised statistical systems.

(c) Integrated economic statistics

15. The internationally accepted guidelines on economic statistics, including the System of National Accounts 2008, the Balance of Payments Manual and more specialized guidelines ranging from the measurement of prices to the measurement of foreign direct investment aim to support national statistical offices in their production of relevant and internationally comparable economic statistics. In order to produce consistent and coherent economic statistics there is a need to integrate the production of economic statistics.
16. The session will focus on the scope for integration of economic statistics at all levels of the production process, from data collection to data processing and dissemination. This will include discussion of various data sources and the implementation of common definitions and classifications across statistical domains. Integration of economic statistics offers an opportunity for streamlining of the statistical production processes and increasing the efficiency. The session will also discuss this aspect.

IV. ACCREDITATION AND TRAVEL FORMALITIES

17. All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organization.

18. Participants should complete the attached registration form and return it to the UNECE secretariat by 30 April 2012.

19. All participants attending the Seminar are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. If you require a visa to enter the Russian Federation, please indicate so in the registration form and notify ROSSTAT (Elena Katkova: katkova@gks.ru). ROSSTAT will issue an invitation letter, which you will need to submit with your visa application. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Russian Federation in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the UNECE/ROSSTAT High-level Seminar on Modernization of Statistical Production and Services.

V. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

20. Participants are requested to make their own travel arrangements. However, travel for Heads of statistical organisations from CIS countries will be arranged by the UNECE Secretariat and communicated to them in due course. Reservations for all participants will be made at the Holiday Inn (see section VII).

21. Transportation between the hotel and St. Petersburg (Pulkovo) airport will be organised by ROSSTAT for all registered participants. To facilitate this, please indicate your dates and times of arrival and departure, and flight numbers, in the registration form.

VI. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

22. All papers and presentations will be made available on the website of the UNECE Secretariat at the following location: http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.10.hls.html

23. 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.
VII. VENUE

24. The first day of the seminar (3 October) will take place at the Pushkin Palace (Tsarskoye Selo). Transport will be organised to and from the hotel. The second and third days (4-5 October) will take place at the hotel:

Holiday Inn
Moskovsky Prospekt 97a
Tel: 7-812-4487171
Nearest subway station: Moskovskye Vorota

VIII. FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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E-mail: egorenko@gks.ru
**High-level Seminar on Modernization of Statistical Production and Services,**
**St-Petersburg, 3-5 October 2012**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

This form should be completed in duplicate by each participant and returned **by 30 April**

**To Rosstat:**
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**To UNECE**
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Fax: +41 22 917 0040  
E-mail: mijidgombo.oyunjargal@unece.org

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