CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction
The Seminar is a capacity building activity, organized under the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) work programme following the request by the CES to establish a mechanism for sharing country experience on issues related to statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Objective and target audience
The aim of the Seminar is to address strategic issues that EECCA countries are facing when developing statistics for SDGs, and exchange experience, good practices and knowledge in this area. The Seminar will give a regional overview of progress and challenges in implementing measurement of SDGs. It will also provide a space for enhancing sub-regional cooperation and a platform for the participation and contributions of the relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations. The outcome of the Seminar will inform future UNECE capacity building activities for EECCA countries in the field of SDGs.

The target audience of the Seminar are Heads of National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of EECCA countries. The Seminar will also be open to other partner international organizations dealing with statistics for SDGs.

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Road Map on statistics for SDGs will be presented. The Road Map is expected to be endorsed by the CES plenary session on 19-21 June 2017.

The Seminar will discuss the results of a survey on EECCA countries’ strategies and plans related to statistics for SDGs that was sent to countries in December 2016. Building on these findings and the challenges identified, the Seminar will consider sub-regional priorities in capacity building to report official statistics for global SDG indicators.
Provisional Agenda of the Seminar

First day – Wednesday 21 p.m. June

**Session 1: Setting the scene**

This session will introduce the topics of the Seminar, developments at global level, and the main results of the survey on national strategies and plans related to statistics for SDGs in EECCA countries.

**Session 2: National strategies and plans for measuring SDGs in EECCA countries**

The session will focus on exchange of national experiences in developing, producing and communicating statistics for SDGs. The role of NSOs in the SDG measurement process will be discussed, including coordinating the production of global indicators at national level, quality assurance and data validation.

Second day, Thursday 22 June a.m.

**Session 3: Coordination of data flows and harmonization of statistics for SDGs in the EECCA sub-region**

The session will describe national reporting solutions identified to date. The work of a Task Force on Reporting SDG indicators using National Reporting Platforms will be presented, as well as general guidelines for countries regarding the advantages and disadvantages of different reporting solutions.

**Session 4: Coordination of capacity building**

The session will review existing coordination mechanisms, and consider the mechanisms that may be required to ensure efficient coordination of reporting SDG indicators and capacity building. It will include a presentation of the survey on priorities for capacity building in the EECCA sub-region.

**Session 5: The way forward: actions to support EECCA countries to meet the SDG measurement challenges**

The session will build on the outcomes of the previous sessions by discussing how to overcome the challenges in reporting national statistics for SDGs.

The discussion will also consider areas where identifying additional good practices would be most useful to national statistical offices. The session will conclude with highlighting concrete actions for further work in implementing the CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs in EECCA countries.

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