Information Notice No. 1

The meeting will be held at the Simon Goldberg Conference Centre in the R.H. Coats Building of Statistics Canada from 28 to 30 October 2013, starting at 9.30 a.m.

I. Purpose of the meeting

1. The main objectives of the meeting are to facilitate the exchange of experience and identify the best practices in dealing with technical issues related to statistical data confidentiality in national statistical offices. The meeting is primarily intended for experts from national and international statistical offices as well as invited academics dealing with statistical disclosure limitation. At the kind invitation of Statistics Canada, the meeting will be held from 28 to 30 October 2013 in Ottawa, Canada.


II. Agenda of the meeting

3. The work programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive topics:

   (i) New methods for protection of tabular data or for other types of results from table and analysis servers;
   (ii) New methods for protection of microdata;
   (iii) Modes of access to microdata;
   (iv) The trade-off between quality, utility and privacy;
   (v) Confidentiality issues and case studies;
   (vi) Panel discussion on transparency and/or privacy concepts (such as differential privacy);
   (vii) Software developments and demonstrations.

4. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of topics (i) – (vii) are provided in Section V of this Information Notice.

III. Participation and accreditation

5. 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 should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Canada in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality.

6. Statistical Offices are requested to inform the UNECE secretariat before 30 April 2013 whether they intend to participate at the meeting and/or submit a contribution on the topics mentioned above. Please send an abstract and indicate the topic to which the paper will refer as well as participant(s) name(s) and their contact data. It will also be possible to contribute a background paper that will not be presented at the meeting. These papers will also be uploaded to the UNECE website.

7. Participants are requested to fill in the attached Conference registration form, which is found on the last page of this document and which will also be available in Word format on the website at the address indicated in paragraph 13. It should be sent to the UNECE secretariat, as indicated on the form by 2 September 2013 so that it may be processed well in advance of the meeting.

8. The organizers regret not being able to assist participants in their travel arrangements (air tickets, trains, local transportation, etc.). The UNECE secretariat cannot take any responsibility for financial arrangements with respect to travel or accommodation.

9. The UNESCO Chair in Data Privacy (http://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat) sponsors a limited number of travel grants for contributors and delegates from transition countries. For further information please contact unescoprivacychair@urv.cat (att. Tamar Molina).

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:

   - Organizations wishing to submit a paper to the meeting, are requested to send a short abstract and indicate the topic (see para. 3) to which the paper will refer, as well as author name(s) and contact details, to the UNECE secretariat (diane.serikoff@unece.org) as soon as possible and by 30 April 2013 at the latest.
   - The papers, not exceeding 10 pages in length, should be sent in electronic format in MS Word or PDF to the UNECE secretariat by 2 September 2013 at the latest.
   - Templates in Word and Latex will be made available on the website or may be requested by e-mail.

11. The Statistical Data Confidentiality (SDC) 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 given 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 secretariat will post them on the website after the meeting.

12. Presentations in PowerPoint or Adobe Acrobat should be sent to the UNECE secretariat by 11 October 2013 at the latest, so that these can be reviewed by Discussants and installed on the conference room computer prior to the meeting.
13. All papers along with the provisional agenda and timetable and background papers will be made available on the meeting website at the following address:


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 agenda

Topic (i): New methods for protection of tabular data or for other types of results from table and analysis servers
Session Organizer: Sarah Giessing, Federal Statistical Office, Germany (sarah.giessing@destatis.de)

14. In this session we welcome papers with an orientation to SDC issues of the release of tabulation of counts or magnitude data, or of the release of analysis results from statistical models. Topics of interest include:

- disclosure limitation methods such as suppression, rounding, perturbation or masking of tabulations or original microdata or analysis results like those achieved through random noise, controlled adjustment, etc.
- disclosure risk aspects in tabular data and analysis results considering typical kinds of attacks, such as differencing, transformations, analysis of residuals and outliers, etc.
- global and local measures for information loss in the protected data and issues of consistency.

15. We encourage papers not only on new methods, but also on new implementations or recent improvements of existing methodologies. Papers addressing recent challenges like those connected to the increasingly popular statistical maps for grid geographies are also welcome.

Topic (ii): New methods for protection of microdata
Session Organizer: Michelle Simard, Statistics Canada (michelle.simard@statcan.gc.ca)

16. There are a number of methodologies that are applied at the microdata level to protect confidentiality. Data reduction methods such as suppression, sub-sampling and micro-aggregation; and data perturbation methods such as swapping, imputation, noise addition and synthetic files are used. Recently, multivariate analysis techniques have also been used. The techniques may also differ because of the type of files. Records can be at the person-level, household-level or any other type of records. In this session, we invite papers that will present new input disclosure control methods applied on diverse microdata files.

Topic (iii): Modes of access to microdata
Session Organizer: Peter-Paul de Wolf, Statistics Netherlands (pp.dewolf@cbs.nl)

17. Providing (third party) researcher access to microdata has become quite common at national statistical offices. Different modes of access are possible nowadays from heavily protected public use files through onsite access in safe centres to marginally protected microdata via secure remote access. Each mode of access requires its own kind of methodology and infrastructure. This session will focus on modes of access for which the statistical disclosure control will take place after the analysis of the microdata. In some modes of access, the amount of work induced by checking (statistical) output of analyses quickly outgrows the capacity of the providing institutes.
18. The goal of this session is to obtain an overview of existing modes of access, to consider possibly new modes of access and to encourage discussion of the merits and demerits of different modes of access. We invite papers discussing existing or new modes of access, describing guidelines for checking output of analyses and describing methodology to automate output checking as well as papers discussing international aspects of modes of access to microdata. Papers discussing practical ways to deal with the effects of popular modes of access on the growing amount of work will also be appreciated.

**Topic (iv): The trade-off between quality, utility and privacy**

**Session Organizer:** Lawrence H. Cox, National Institute of Statistical Sciences, United States of America (cox@niss.org)

19. The mission of national statistical offices is to release high-quality statistical data, and not to censor it. Nevertheless, they also have the responsibility to preserve the confidentiality of data to be used for statistical purposes. This is called disclosure limitation and often involves censoring (suppression, topcoding), modifying (perturbation, tabular adjustment) or replacing (synthesizing) original data prior to releasing or providing access to a final data product. Ideally, the final product: (a) exhibits low to acceptable disclosure risk, and (b) is a suitable substitute for original data in terms of statistical inference and usability. These two objectives are often in conflict; resolving it is referred to as balancing data confidentiality and data quality.

20. Topic (iv) is concerned with these issues and, in particular:

- Measuring data confidentiality, measuring data quality, and measuring the confidentiality-quality tradeoff.
- Disclosure limitation methods that, in addition to protecting data, control the adverse effects of disclosure limitation on data quality and usability.
- Disclosure rules or models of disclosure risk that take into account both data confidentiality and data quality.
- Actual or constructed examples of confidentiality-quality tradeoffs that are difficult to impossible to resolve.

**Topic (v): Confidentiality issues and case studies**

**Session Organizer:** Eric Schulte Nordholt, Statistics Netherlands (e.schultenordholt@cbs.nl)

21. The objective of this topic is to establish the link between the technical work carried out in the work session and the daily practice of implementing statistical disclosure control methods. Bridging this gap helps to identify the need for further methodological and technical developments, thus enriching initiatives from both sides. In this topic, confidentiality issues and case studies will be discussed concerning:

- Large datasets (‘big data’, streaming data)
- Data linkage
- Data visualization
- Data from social networks
- Confidentiality of geo-spatial data
- Event-based statistics (events versus units)

22. Contributions should focus on practical implementation and solutions and organizational issues. Papers documenting progress in the state of development of standard tools, and implementations of recently proposed methods including prototypes, are encouraged.
**Topic (vi): Panel discussion on transparency and/or privacy concepts (such as differential privacy)**  
*Session Organizer: Josep Domingo Ferrer, Rovira i Virgili University of Tarragona, Catalonia, Spain (josep.domingo@urv.cat)*

23. The panel discussion on transparency and/or privacy concepts will focus on how much can/must be publicly revealed on the nature and parameterization of statistical disclosure control methods used to anonymize a data set. Whereas giving maximum information is good for transparency, accountability and reproducibility, some of the currently employed methods risk being reversible if detailed information on their operation is released together with the anonymized data. That would allow an intruder to recover (perhaps partially) original data. Assessing how to come up with transparency-resistant methods is a hot issue. Paradigms like differential privacy and the better known k-anonymity could be used as benchmarks. Panellists will be invited to make a short presentation followed by an open general discussion.

**Topic (vii): Software developments and demonstrations**  
*Session Organizer: Peter-Paul de Wolf, Statistics Netherlands (pp.dewolf@cbs.nl)*

24. Software has been, is and will always be an important part in applying statistical disclosure control. In this session very short presentations will be given, introducing software that will be demonstrated during a "walk around" session. Presenters are expected to bring their own laptop for their software demonstration.

## VI. Local arrangements

### A. Meeting venue

25. The meeting will be held at:

Simon Goldberg Conference Centre  
R.H. Coats Building  
Statistics Canada  
Tunney's Pasture  
120 Parkdale Avenue,  
Ottawa, ON  
Canada

### B. Accommodation

26. Participants are reminded that they are responsible for making their own hotel reservations and are encouraged to do so as early as possible.

27. The organizers regret not being able to assist participants in their travel arrangements (air tickets, trains, local transportation, etc.). Neither Statistics Canada nor the UNECE can take any responsibility for financial arrangements with respect to travel or accommodation. A list of hotels is provided below with the corresponding map in the annex.
Hotels around the Downtown Area in Ottawa

1. **Delta Ottawa City Centre 3.5***
   101 Lyon Street N
   Single room Queen
   Price per room per night and 13% HST included
   $216.14 (CAD)
   Tel # 613-237-3600 or 1-888-890-3222
   www.deltahotels.com/hotels/delta-Ottawa-city-centre

2. **Ottawa Marriott Hotel 3.5***
   100 Kent Street
   Standard room, 1 King
   Price per room per night and 13% HST included
   $ 190.97 (CAD)
   Tel # 613-238-1122
   www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yowmc-ottawa-marriott-hotel/

3. **Sheraton Ottawa Hotel 3.5***
   150 Albert Street
   Single room
   Price per room per night and 13% HST included
   $ 213.57 (CAD)
   Tel # 613-238-1500
   www.sheratonottawa.com

4. **Arc Hotel Ottawa 4***
   140 Slater Street
   Single room
   Price per room per night and 13% HST included
   $ 168.37 (CAD)
   Tel # 613-238-2888
   www.arctethehotel.com

5. **Hotel Indigo Ottawa 4***
   123 Metcalfe Street
   Single room
   Price per room per night and 13% HST included
   $172.17 (CAD)
   Tel # 613-231-6555
   www.ottawadowntownhotel.com/index.html

6. **Capital Hill Hotel & Suites 3.5***
   88 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5E9
   Single room
   Price per room per night and 13% HST included
   $ 117.53 (CAD)
   Tel # 613-235-1413
   www.capitalhill.com

7. **Lord Elgin Hotel 4***
   100 Elgin Street, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5K8
   Single room
   Price per room per night and 13% HST included
   $ 157.07 (CAD)
   Tel # 1 866-627-2609
   www.lordelginhotel.ca
8  **Fairmont Château Laurier  4***  
1 Rideau Street, Ottawa, ON K1N 8S7  
Single room  
Price per room per night and 13% HST included  
Tel # 613-241-1414  
[www.fairmont.com/laurier-ottawa](http://www.fairmont.com/laurier-ottawa)

9  **The Westin Ottawa  4***  
11 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1N 9H4  
Single room  
Price per room per night and 13% HST included  
Tel # 613-560-7000  
[www.thewestinottawa.com/](http://www.thewestinottawa.com/)

10  **Novotel Hotel Ottawa  4***  
33 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, ON, K1N 9M7  
Single room  
Price per room per night and (13% HST included)  
Tel # 613-230-3033  
[www.novotelottawa.com](http://www.novotelottawa.com)

11  **Les Suites Hotel Ottawa  4***  
130 Besserer Street, Ottawa, ON , K1N 9V9  
1 bedroom suite  
Price per room per night and (13% HST included)  
Tel # 1-866-682-0879  

**Hotels in Gatineau, Québec Area**

**A  Château Cartier  4***  
1170 Chemin d’Aylmer  
Single room  
Price per room per night and 14.97% tax included  
Tel # 819-778-0000  
[chateaucartier.com](http://chateaucartier.com)

**B  Crowne Plaza Ottawa-Gatineau-Place Chaudière  4***  
2 Rue Montcalm  
Single room  
Price per room per night and 14.97% tax included  
Tel # 819-778-3880 or 1-877-660-8550  
[crowneplaza.com](http://crowneplaza.com)
C  Four points by Sheraton 3.5*
35 rue Laurier
Single room $152.10 (CAD)
Price per room per night and 14.97% tax included
Tel # 819-778-6111
www.fourpointsgatineau.com

Statistics Canada (see map on last page)

VII. Further information

28. 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
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Tel.: +41 22 917 32 85
email: steven.vale@unece.org

EUROSTAT:
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Statistical Office of the European Communities
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**REGISTRATION FORM**

*Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality*
*(Ottawa, Canada, 28-30 October 2013)*

This form should be completed by each participant and returned **by 2 September 2013 to:**

Ms Diane Serikoff  
diane.serikoff@unece.org  
Tel: +4122 917-2241

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Surname (Family name):</th>
<th>Mr. □</th>
<th>2. First name:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. □</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Representing (country or organization):

4. Official function (in home country):

5. Mailing address:

6. Tel. No.:

7. E-mail address:

8. Please indicate topic ((i)-(v)) and title, if you intend to present a paper:

9. Special requirements:

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Date ____________________________ Signature ____________________________