

INF.1  
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**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**

**Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2012)**  
(Washington, D.C., U.S.A., 21-23 May 2012)

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

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems will be held at the Offices of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C., United States, from 21 to 23 May 2012, starting at 9.30 a.m.
2. 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**

3. The work programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive themes:
  - (i) Architecture;
  - (ii) Streamlining statistical production;
  - (iii) Innovation;
  - (iv) Collaboration.
4. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of the themes are provided in Section V of this Information Notice.

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

### 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 the United States of America in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems.

6. The statistical offices and international organizations are asked **to inform the UNECE secretariat before 15 February 2012** whether their organization intends to participate at the meeting and/or submit a contribution on the topics mentioned above. Please send **a short abstract and indicate the topic** to which the paper will refer as well as participant(s) name(s) and their contact data.

7. Participants are requested to fill in the attached Conference **registration form**, which will also be available in Word format on the website at the address indicated in paragraph 11. It should be sent to the UNECE secretariat by **31 March 2012** (as indicated on the form) so that it may be processed well in advance of the meeting.

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

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

- A short **abstract** of the paper should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (diane.serikoff@unece.org) as soon as possible and **by 15 February 2012 at the latest**.
- The **papers**, not exceeding 10 pages in length, should be sent to the UNECE secretariat **by 31 March 2012**.
- Papers should be submitted in electronic format in **MS Word** by e-mail to Ms. Diane Serikoff (diane.serikoff@unece.org).
- 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).

9. The Organizing Committee preparing the meeting has asked selected countries to prepare invited papers and appointed 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. For each substantive theme on the agenda, the discussants will invite 2-3 speakers to write an invited paper and to present them at the meeting. All other participants are welcome to submit a supporting paper on any of the themes.

10. Authors of invited papers will have about 20 minutes per paper for the presentation. Authors of supporting papers may be given 5-10 minutes (time permitting) to highlight the main issues raised in their papers. Presenters may use PowerPoint presentations, Adobe Acrobat or any other format for full screen presentations. The UNECE secretariat cannot provide translation of the presentations. The secretariat will post them on the website after the meeting.

- Presentations should be sent to the UNECE secretariat **by 8 May 2012** at the latest, so that these may be installed on the presentation computer prior to the meeting.

11. Invited and supporting papers along with the provisional agenda and timetable will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location:

**<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.05.msis.html>**

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

### Topic (i): Architecture

**Session Organizers:** Robert McLellan, Statistics Canada ([robert.mclellan@statcan.ca](mailto:robert.mclellan@statcan.ca)) and Branka Cimermanovic, Central Bureau of Statistics, Croatia ([brankac@dzs.hr](mailto:brankac@dzs.hr))

12. As statistical organizations increasingly opt for shared and generalized systems that standardize how survey and administrative data is processed, the need for architectures that integrate system components becomes more important. In particular, there is a growing emphasis on designing systems based on sound information models and metadata driven architectures. The presentations under the Architecture topic this year are intended to highlight progress made towards building systems that support data and metadata requirements using effective information management standards, with particular emphasis on information models and data exchange. Examples of IT component reuse, the integration of application components, and applications developed using sound architectural principles are also welcome.

### Topic (ii): Streamlining statistical production

**Session Organizers:** Christine Wirtz, Eurostat ([christine.wirtz@ec.europa.eu](mailto:christine.wirtz@ec.europa.eu)) and Jenine Borowik, Australian Bureau of Statistics ([jenine.borowik@abs.gov.au](mailto:jenine.borowik@abs.gov.au))

13. The information industry is changing rapidly to one where very short production cycles and instant delivery of information have become the norm. In response, many statistical organizations are examining their production chains with the intention of making them more relevant in this environment. This session focuses on efforts of official statistics providers in streamlining statistical production. Participants are asked to exchange experiences so we can all benefit from good practice. Papers could include issues related to industrialization of statistical production, such as reducing throughput time by automation, production of "real-time" statistics or sharing common approaches across organizations. Papers are also invited to cover standardization as an enabler of streamlining, including discussion of standards, related initiatives and implementations. Additionally, we would welcome real examples of good practice in governance, such as approaches for constructing robust business architectures or proposed innovations.

### Topic (iii): Innovation

**Session Organizers:** Matjaz Jug, Statistics New Zealand ([matjaz.jug@stats.govt.nz](mailto:matjaz.jug@stats.govt.nz)) and Rune Gløersen, Statistics Norway ([rune.gloersen@ssb.no](mailto:rune.gloersen@ssb.no))

14. Innovation is widely recognized as one of the most important factors in business success. It is particularly important in the information industry where technology plays an important role. The session seeks papers describing how the innovative use of IT adds value to the statistical products, or how IT is utilized to improve the uptake of statistical methods or best practices in statistical production. This includes innovative methods and practices in the management of statistical information systems as well as the application of new technologies in statistical business processes. Special attention can be drawn to how the statistical business community can take advantage of ongoing developments in the area of linked data/data without boundaries, i.e. to better utilize the abundance of less structured data available on the internet or the growing volume of available data in administrative registers using improved technologies/methods for data integration. Papers that would provide some answers to "How to spark innovation" would also be appreciated. Case studies describing examples of success stories as well as the pitfalls to be avoided are both welcomed.

### Topic (iv): Collaboration

**Session Organizers:** Marton Vučan, 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))

15. This is the item of the meeting where we 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. Aside from tools and other means of collaboration, we are especially interested in papers about the organizational change required for collaboration.

16. In the past year we have seen the birth of two different initiatives: the High-Level Group for Strategic Directions in Business Architecture in Statistics (HLG-BAS), set up by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) to coordinate international work on enterprise architectures within statistical organizations, and the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM), a model put beside the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) in support of "industrialization" of statistics. Papers related to these subjects are welcomed, especially regarding standardization in statistical processes and in statistical products.

## **VI. Local arrangements**

### **A. Meeting venue**

18. The meeting will be held at:

Conference Hall 1&2,  
Headquarters 2 Building  
International Monetary Fund  
700 19<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. , USA

### **B. Accommodation**

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

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

## VII. Further information

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

### IMF:

Ms. Ann McPhail  
Division Chief  
Statistical Information Management Division  
Statistics Department  
International Monetary Fund  
700 19<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
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Fax: +1 202 623 6460  
e-mail: [amcphail@imf.org](mailto:amcphail@imf.org)

### UNECE:

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### EUROSTAT:

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## REGISTRATION FORM

### Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2012) (Washington, D.C., U.S.A. 21-23 May 2012)

This form should be completed in duplicate by each participant and returned by **31 March 2012**

**1 copy to:** Ms. Diane Serikoff  
Tel: +4122 917-2241  
E-mail: [diane.serikoff@unece.org](mailto:diane.serikoff@unece.org)

**1 copy to:** Ms. Lily Seo  
Tel: +1 202 623 9458  
E-mail: [StatisticsQuery@imf.org](mailto:StatisticsQuery@imf.org)

1. Surname (Family name):	Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	2. First name:
3. Representing (country or organization):		
4. Official function (in home country):		
5. Mailing address:		
6. Tel. No.:	7. Fax No.:	
8. E-mail address:		
9. Please indicate topic ((i)-(iv)) and title, if you intend to present a paper:		
10. Special requirements:		

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_