

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
UNECE Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Editing
3 to 5 October 2022, Vienna, Austria

INF.1
20 January 2022

Information Notice No.1

I. PURPOSE AND TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE MEETING

1. The 2022 UNECE Expert meeting on Statistical Data Editing will be hosted by Statistics Austria in Vienna, Austria from 3 to 5 October 2022, starting at 9:30am on Monday 3 October, and ending by early afternoon on Wednesday 5 October.
2. This meeting will be organized as part of the Conference of European Statisticians' work programme for 2022, within the context of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics.
3. In particular, the expert meeting will explore the following themes:
 - Identifying new methods that can improve the quality and efficiency of editing and imputation;
 - Investigating statistical quality risks arising from using new methods and data sources, and ways to address them;
 - Developing approaches for standardizing and implementing statistical data editing functionalities; and
 - Facilitating the sharing of experiences, ideas and tools for modernizing statistical data editing and imputation processes.
4. The target audience of the expert meeting includes methodologists, statisticians and researchers in official statistics or closely related fields, working on editing and imputation of statistical data derived from surveys, censuses, administrative and external sources in various subject-matter areas.

II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

5. The participants at the previous meeting on statistical data editing in 2020 expressed their interest in examining the following topics in this meeting:
 - Machine Learning /Artificial Intelligence for editing and imputation;
 - Modernisation of data editing and statistical production;
 - Use of administrative data for editing and imputation;
 - Quality in the context of statistical data editing;
 - Imputation (for 'Covid-19 mass nonresponse') and variance;
 - Use of Deep Learning on Big Data synchronized with editing and imputation;
 - Statistical data editing and pre-processing of new digital data for statistical purposes;
 - Infrastructure needed for open source statistical data editing packages;
 - Selection bias and statistical data editing;
 - Missing prices and outlying price data; and
 - New and emerging methods.

6. Based on the abstracts received for this meeting, the agenda will be determined based on a selection of the above-mentioned topics, or amalgamations of them such that presentations made within a particular agenda item have a common theme. This will be reflected in the timetable that will be released closer to the time of the meeting. In addition to presentations by speakers, there may also be short group discussions related to themes such as those outlined above.

III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION

7. Representatives of Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome at this meeting, as are researchers at universities or research institutes working on statistical data editing applicable in the context of official statistics. 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.**

8. 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 Austria in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the 2022 UNECE Expert meeting on Statistical Data Editing. A letter to facilitate obtaining a visa can be requested from the local contacts in Austria (contact details below).

9. Participants should register online by **24 June 2022** by following the link:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1000397>

10. Your timely registration will ensure that you receive any email broadcasts of information that we may send out to those who have registered.

11. Please note that if you do not already have a user account on the indico system, before you can register you may first need to create an account, and then activate it by clicking on the account activation link that is sent to you by email. Once you have a user account, and have logged in, you can submit your registration for this meeting. You will receive a notification confirming this, and then a further notification email when your registration is approved.

12. Participants and/or their offices are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. The UNECE Secretariat regrets not being able to offer any financial assistance regarding travel and accommodation arrangements.

13. Although we anticipate an improved COVID situation by the time of this meeting, participants must ensure they have insurance to cover all associated eventualities, including cancellation of flight and hotels if the public health situation deteriorates. Participants attend at their own risk, and should stay up-to-date with any requirements that may be needed for those who travel to Austria, including for example any documentation that might be required to demonstrate vaccination against COVID.

IV. CALL FOR PAPERS, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

14. Those who contribute may do so in the form of a presented paper on the topics mentioned above in section II. Alternatively, there is the option of a shorter presentation in the form of a “lightning talk” of around 5 minutes, without any supporting paper. Please note that the official language of the meeting will be English, and therefore all contributions should be submitted in English only. No translation or interpretation during the meeting will be provided.

15. Contributions could report on developments in theory and techniques, empirical comparisons and evaluations of methods, exploration of potential bias of given methods, and ways of combining different methods and data sources in an editing process. They could also highlight the expected impact that new methods might have on a statistical agency, including how they contribute to standardizing concepts, terminology, methods, data structures and improving the quality of its data products. Those who contribute are also encouraged to share links to any code repositories containing code related to their presentation, if applicable (e.g. in GitHub).

16. You are invited to submit the abstract for your contribution via the indico website, by clicking the button marked “**submit new abstract**” on the following webpage:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1000397>

17. Regarding abstracts received, the organizing committee will send notification in due time about whether the submission is accepted or not and might request changes. Information about the selection of contributions for the meeting, guidelines on formatting, and means of submission will be sent to authors by email. Please note that due to the nature of the meeting, it may not be possible to allocate time to all proposed contributions.

18. The following **deadlines** and requirements apply to those who present at this meeting:

- (i) A short abstract of the proposed contribution should be submitted online, as described above, as soon as possible and by **23 March 2022** at the latest.
- (ii) Any written papers (in PDF format, of around 10 pages) must be supplied by **1 September 2022** at the latest. A link will be sent to the authors where documents can be uploaded. Templates for the paper will be made available following abstract acceptance.
- (iii) Presentation materials, such as slides, should be supplied by **16 September 2022** at the latest, via the upload link that will be sent to them. Any equipment required for practical demonstrations must be provided by the participants.

19. Prior to the meeting, papers will be made available online via the following webpage: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000397>. After the meeting, papers and presentations will be made available via the following webpage: <https://unece.org/statistics/events/SDE2022>. Presentations will not be made available to delegates before the meeting.

20. To minimise paper use, participants are encouraged to download these papers and, where feasible, to use electronic devices to read them. These documents will not be distributed in the conference room.

V. VENUE

21. The meeting is planned to take place in Vienna, Austria at:

Statistics Austria
Guglgasse 13
1110 Vienna, Austria

https://www.statistik.at/web_en/about_us/how_to_get_to_us/index.html

22. A second information notice with practical information will be shared with registered participants, and loaded onto the meeting website in due time before the meeting.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

23. For further information you may contact the following organisers:

1. Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:

Mr. Christopher Jones, email: JonesC@un.org

Mr. Wai Kit Si Tou, email: sitou@un.org

2. Local Contacts in Vienna:

Mr. Alexander Kowarik, email: sde2022@statistik.gv.at

DEADLINES

23 March 2022	Abstract or proposal for intended contribution
24 June 2022	Registration
1 September 2022	Paper (unless you are making a lightning talk)
16 September 2022	Presentation material supplied
3 to 5 October 2022	Meeting