

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
28 March 2017

Original: English

---

**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Transport Statistics****Sixty-eighth session**

Geneva, 7-9 June 2017

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Workshop on Data Sources for Rail Statistics****Workshop on Data Sources for Rail Statistics****Note by the secretariat****I. Background**

1. At its previous session, the Working Party on Transport Statistics agreed to dedicate an item at the beginning of its next session to specific areas of interests with the domain of transport statistics.
2. The Intersecretariat Working Group (IWG) discussed this idea at its most recent meeting and agreed, in consultation with the chair of the Working Party, that a workshop surrounding a specific theme would be useful for participants. Several potential topics were considered by the IWG and members agreed on the topic of "Data Sources for Rail Statistics". This could be the first in a series of workshops on data sources for statistics on other transport modes.

**II. Purpose of workshop**

3. The purpose of this workshop is to share information on how data on rail statistics are collected and/or calculated. Participants are invited to present their own experiences in this area and to comment on the methods used in other countries. Best practices and areas for improvement across countries could also be discussed during the workshop.

### **III. Proposed discussion points**

4. Among other issues raised by participants, the Working Group may wish to consider the following questions regarding data sources for rail statistics:

- What are the biggest challenges faced by statistics offices when collecting rail statistics?
- What agreements are in place with rail companies (both private and public) to share data on infrastructure and train movements?
- How are surveys used in the collection of data?
- What measures are in place to account for uncertainties in measuring passenger and freight rail activity (e.g., passenger-kilometres and tonne-kilometres)?
- What methods are used to integrate data from different sources where the market is open and multiple operators provide rail services?

### **IV. Future Work**

5. The Working Group is invited to propose any future work on data sources for rail statistics and agree on a topic for a similar workshop as part of its sixty-ninth session. One possibility could be a focus on data sources for another transport mode such as road or inland waterways. Alternatively, the Working Group may wish to focus on specific methodological issues or on broader issues affecting the collection of transport statistics. The secretariat also welcomes any suggestions on improving the structure of future workshops.

---