Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixtieth plenary session
Paris, 6-8 June 2012
Item 7 of the provisional agenda
**Selection of topics for seminars to be held during the 2013 Conference
of European Statisticians' plenary session**

Selection of topics for the seminars to be held during the 2013 Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians

Note by the secretariat

Summary

In May 2012, the UNECE secretariat conducted an electronic consultation with the members of the Conference on the possible topics for discussion at the 2013 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The list of topics sent to countries and international organizations for consultation is attached in Annex I. The list has been regularly updated, based on the proposals from countries and recommendations by the Bureau. The list of CES seminars held so far is provided in Annex II.

Member countries and the international organizations were invited to select topics for discussion and indicate whether their office would be willing to organise a seminar/session and/or prepare a paper on a specific topic.

The present note provides a summary of the replies received.

I. Results of the survey: preferences

1. This year fifty one respondents sent their proposals. The following forty-four countries and seven international organizations replied to the survey: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, CIS-STAT, IMF, Eurostat, OECD, UNCTAD, UNECE and UNIDO.

2. **The topics that received most votes are presented in the next paragraphs, by decreasing number of preferences.** The countries/organizations who offered to organize a seminar/session or to present a paper are listed under each topic.

A. Most preferred topics

Topic (10) Challenges in providing access to microdata for research purposes

3. This topic received the highest number of preferences: **17 votes** from countries.

4. Contributions offered on this topic:

Papers: Australia, Canada, Mexico, United States (possibly).

Session organizers: Slovenia, United States (possibly).

Topic (1) Challenges in implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

5. This topic received **16 votes** (14 from countries and 2 from IOs).

6. Contributions offered on this topic:

Papers: Australia, Sweden, OECD.

Session organizers: Slovenia, Switzerland (possibly).

7. **Note**: Australia and Germany proposed to combine topic 1 and topic 2.

Topic (3) Structural business statistics

8. This topic received **16 votes** (12 from countries and 4 from IOs).

9. Contributions offered on this topic:

Papers: Canada, Netherlands, Sweden, United States (possibly), Eurostat, UNIDO.

Session organizers: United States (possibly), Eurostat.

10. **Comments made:**

Netherlands would like to focus on the use of register data, linking productivity data with other data, to pay attention to the service sector.

Topic (8) Key indicators for development

11. This topic received **13 votes** (11 from countries and 2 from IOs).

12. Contributions offered on this topic:

    Papers: Azerbaijan (possibly), Mexico, United States (possibly), UNCTAD.

    Session organizers: United States (possibly).

Topic (9) Capability building — where are the next generation of statisticians and how do we grow them?

13. This topic received **11 votes** (10 from countries and 1 from IOs).

14. Contributions offered on this topic:

    Papers: Australia, New Zealand, Eurostat.

    Session organizers: Eurostat.

Topic (11) How to communicate the value of official statistics in the increasingly competitive data industry

15. This topic received **10 votes** (9 from countries and 1 from IOs).

16. Contributions offered on this topic:

    IMF is willing to contribute.

Topic (4) Government statistics

17. This topic received **9 votes** (8 from countries and 1 from IOs).

18. Contributions offered on this topic:

    Papers: Switzerland ("Monitoring of the Swiss Confederation's legislative program: Experience and Application").

    Israel and IMF are willing to contribute.

B. Topics that received less support

Topic (6) Migration statistics

19. This topic received 8 votes (7 from countries and 1 from IOs).

20. Contributions offered on this topic:

    Papers: Australia, United States (possibly).

    Session organizers: United States (possibly).

Topic (5) Measuring inequality and economic deprivation

21. This topic received 7 votes from countries.

22. Contributions offered on this topic:

    Papers: Denmark (possibly), Netherlands, Sweden.

    Session organizers: Switzerland (possibly).

23. **Comments made:**

Netherlands: In times of economic crises and austerity, measuring issues concerning inequality and deprivation are important to be addressed by statistical offices. Special attention could be devoted to measuring inequality over the life course of persons and on intergenerational inequality.

Topic (2) Measuring sustainable development

24. This topic received 7 votes (6 from countries and 1 from IOs).

25. Contributions offered on this topic:

Papers: Azerbaijan (possibly), Sweden, Switzerland ("Knowledge and experience obtained in establishing the sustainable development indicators system").

Session organizers: Switzerland (possibly).

26. **Note**: Australia and Germany proposed to combine topic 1 and topic 2.

Topic (7) Crime statistics and perceived security of citizens

27. This topic received 4 votes (3 from countries and 1 from IOs).

28. Contributions offered on this topic:

Papers: Mexico.

Session organizers: Switzerland (possibly).

II. Conclusions

29.   The 50th Conference delegated to the Bureau of the Conference the organization of the CES seminars, including the selection of topics. The Bureau will discuss the results of the survey and present the **proposal for the topics of the 2013 seminars to the Conference on 7 June 2012 under agenda item 7.**

Annex I

The following list of possible topics for the seminar at the 2013 CES plenary session was circulated to countries and international organizations for consultation:

1. Challenges in implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

2. Measuring sustainable development

3. Structural business statistics

4. Government statistics

5. Measuring inequality and economic deprivation

6. Migration statistics

7. Crime statistics and perceived security of citizens

8. Key indicators for development

9. Capability building - where are the next generation of statisticians and how do we grow them?

10. Challenges in providing access to microdata for research purposes

11. How to communicate the value of official statistics in the increasingly competitive data industry

Annex II

CES seminars held since 2003

2003　Statistical confidentiality and microdata

　　　Globalisation

2004　National statistical systems

　　　Measuring process and volume of the service sector

2005　Improved data reporting

　　　Sustainable development

2006　Population and housing censuses

　　　Human resources and training

2007　Increasing the efficiency and productivity of statistical offices

　　　Measuring capital – beyond the traditional measures

2008　Strategic issues linked to the measurement of international transactions

　　　Measuring population movement and integration in a globalized world

2009　Balancing principles of professional autonomy and accountability with the mandate to produce policy relevant data

　　　Strategic issues in business statistics

2010　Spatial statistics

　　　Impact of global crises on statistical systems

2011　Organization of data collection and sharing, and the management challenges for the implementation of SDMX

　　　Measuring human capital

2012　Implementing the fundamental principles of official statistics, including issues related to coordination of national statistical systems

　　　Challenges for future population and housing censuses (based on lessons learned from the last round)