

High-Level Seminar on Strategic Partnerships in Official Statistics

Information Notice No. 1

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe will host the seminar in the Palais des Nations, Geneva (Room XII) on 11-12 April 2018. The workshop will start at 9.30 on 11 April, and will end by 17.30 on 12 April.

I. OBJECTIVE AND TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE SEMINAR

2. The objective of the seminar is to bring together those who have built successful partnerships and those who are seeking advice and inspiration in building them, to share experiences, gather the best practices and lessons learned. The seminar will be structured to include plenary and break-out discussions in order to provide networking opportunities, stimulate conversation and knowledge sharing.

3. The seminar will significantly contribute to answering a request from the Conference of European Statisticians: A gap analysis revealing the gap between requirements and outcomes of strategic partnership work. Information shared at this seminar will form basis of the ultimate product, a wiki on best practice and practical advice.

4. The target audience of the seminar is chief statisticians and senior level staff responsible for developing and managing strategic partnerships.

II. AGENDA OF THE SEMINAR

5. One day of the seminar will focus on topics of interest within the official statistics community. On the other day, participants from the private sector, academia, and civil society will be invited to attend to further stimulate discussion.

III. ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

A. Participation and Accreditation

6. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organisations are welcome to participate in the seminar. Participants representing non-governmental organisations 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 organisation.**

7. All participants attending the seminar are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Swiss Embassy in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the UNECE High-Level Seminar on Strategic Partnerships in Official Statistics. A letter to facilitate obtaining a visa can be requested from the UNECE secretariat.

8. Statistical offices and international organisations should inform the UNECE secretariat **by 15 December 2017** if their organisation intends to participate in the seminar.

9. Participants should register by the **end of January 2018** by completing on-line registration form available at: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=izK2rB>

B. Travel and Accommodation

10. Participants and/or their offices are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. Information about the venue of the workshop and suggested accommodation will be provided in the Information Notice No.2.

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

C. Documentation, Methods of Work and Official Languages

12. The working language of the seminar is English. Contributions on the topics listed above are welcome, and any documents and presentations should be submitted in English. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- A short abstract of the contribution should be submitted **by 15 December 2017**.
- Organisations will be notified by **31 January 2018** if their contribution has been accepted for presentation by the Organising Committee.
- Any papers should be sent to the UNECE secretariat (steven.vale@unece.org) **by 15 March 2018**. Papers should be submitted in MS Word or PDF formats, and should not exceed 10 pages.

13. On the basis of the contributions received, the Organising Committee will inform presenters of the time allocated for their presentation. Presentations for the seminar should be submitted by 31 March 2018.

14. All contributions as well as the provisional agenda and timetable will be made available on the seminar website at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2018.04.spos.html>

15. Participants are encouraged to download the papers from the website and bring their own copies to the seminar. Documents posted on the website before the seminar will not be distributed in the conference room.

IV. FURTHER INFORMATION

16. For further information, please contact:

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