

## Invitation - ONS-UNECE HLG-MOS Machine Learning Group 2022

Dear colleagues,

The ONS-UNECE Machine Learning Group is planning an exciting programme to build on its success in 2021. We are pleased to invite you and your organisation to put forward proposals for research, knowledge sharing and capacity building activities to run next year.

The group is an international platform for knowledge exchange, research collaboration and capacity building for all those working in NSOs, ISOs and other statistical and data science roles in government. It provides members with the opportunity to build expertise, develop research ideas, keep up to date with latest developments in ML applications and production, and to network with colleagues working in official statistics from all over the world.

In 2021 the group has made progress on understanding where ML can bring added value to statistical production and on begin to scope out the issues of taking an ML application into production. You can find out more about the group and its activities in our final report for 2021 on the project page [here](#).

### ML 2022 Plans

The group is community driven – the platform is run by ONS and the UNECE, but its activities and content are led and provided by its over 250 members from 33 countries. This helps ensure that they are as relevant as possible to the needs of the international statistical community. ***We are therefore keen to encourage you / your organisation to consider proposing an activity that you could lead on or help run next year.***

The activity should fit with the group's objectives and be of use to the wider official statistics community as well as your own organisation. It can include everything from leading your own research project in collaboration with other members, to presenting research from your own organisation, to running a discussion or expert speaker session, developing a best practice guide or organising a hackathon.

Our plans for 2022 include:

- \*A new 'Global Data Squad' to step up research collaboration and capacity building. This will bring together members from different countries to work actively together on a specific research project using shareable data.

- \*Stepping up knowledge exchange and networking opportunities. This includes changing the previous workstreams into 'Theme Areas' that focus more on discussion, research presentations and resource sharing in a particular angle of machine learning.

\*More opportunities for training, with a dedicated Training Theme, more Coffee and Coding sessions and other training activities and resources tailored to different skills levels.

Depending on resources and interest, we are also hoping to run new activities such as an online community for data scientists working on ML; an expanded resource library and newsletter; a skills exchange; short talks and hackathons.

## How to submit your activity proposal

If you would like to propose an activity, please fill out the following form by **Wednesday 19 January 2021**.

We will invite you to a meeting in the second half of January to link up proposals on common themes, develop a programme for the year and agree ways of working. We will then share the programme with our wider membership and invite them to join relevant themes and activities where appropriate.

Work will begin in February with mid-way reporting in July and a final report due by the end of 2022. As far as possible all outputs will be shared on our public website.

## Get involved

There is no need to be an activity lead to take part in ML 2022 Group. You can contribute to other members' activities in our Global Data Squad or Themes after we announce the programme at the end of January.

If your time is more limited, then you can still be a member of the group, receiving invitations to our monthly meeting, Coffee and Coding sessions and monthly newsletter as well as getting access to the members area of the group's website. If you would like to join the ML 2022 Group, please contact [ML2022@ons.gov.uk](mailto:ML2022@ons.gov.uk).

**Existing members from ML2021 do not need to register again.** If you wish to opt out of further communication, please let us know.

Kind regards,

Alison Baily, ONS, and InKyung Choi, UNECE;

ML 2022 Coordination Team