

Workshop on International Economic & Social Classifications for ESCWA countries

The United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs' Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) are organizing a joint Workshop on International Economic Classifications in cooperation with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and GOIC.

Background

As new economic developments occur and needs in economic analysis change, standards, norms and classifications in statistics have to reflect these new conditions. The revisions of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) have been conducted in this context.

The revision of ISIC and CPC, adopted in 2007 pursued a number of goals, such as to adapt the existing classifications to the changed economic situation in the world, reflect the needs of countries in different phases of economic development, improve the relationship of ISIC to other important activity classifications in use around the world and provide guidance to users through detailed explanatory notes.

Objective

The Workshop will focus on the recently revised activity and product classifications, namely ISIC Rev.4 and CPC Ver.2, to assist countries in implementing them in their routine statistical work. The main topics of discussion will be the following:

Main Topics

- Build upon a previous classifications workshop in the region held in Beirut, 2004.
- Review the current implementation and use of national activity and product classifications and their relationship to new ISIC and CPC in the ESCWA region;
- Provide an up-to-date account of the final versions of the revised activity and product classifications and information on methodological changes related to the application of the classification
- Discuss issues raised by countries in the region on the ISIC and CPC revision;
- Address implementation issues in connection with the revised classifications;
- Provide information on ongoing work in the revision of other economic and social classifications (e.g. BEC, ISCO);
- Review the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics, which are currently being revised from a national and regional perspective;
- discuss partnerships needed to facilitate cooperation in the field of classifications, including coordination of work on regional/sub regional cooperation in classifications.

Outcomes

The main outcome of the meeting will be to:

- Improve the capacity of users and producers of industrial statistics in using and applying economic classification systems
- Increase the harmonization in producing and disseminating data on industry statistics regionally and internationally.

Organization

The meeting is organized by UNSD and ESCWA and is scheduled to be held in Cairo, Egypt, on 10-13 December 2007.

Participants and registration

Experts from National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Industry, as well as other national or regional agencies that elaborate national activity and product classifications or make use of the international standard classifications are encouraged to attend this workshop.

Documentation

Given the meeting's objective and main topics, the documents will include working papers on the topics of the meeting prepared by UNSD and ESCWA; selected country papers, contributed by national experts nominated by their countries on the national experiences; and selected regional and/or international papers: prepared by representatives of the United Nations bodies, international organizations and regional entities;

Participants intending to present papers should submit their contribution no later than 12 November 2007, to allow time for reproduction and inclusion in the meeting programme.

Languages

English and Arabic are the working languages of the meeting, and simultaneous translation from English to Arabic, and vice-versa, will be provided during the meeting sessions.

Additional information and correspondence

The ESCWA webpage <http://www.escwa.org.lb/> and UNSD website <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/training/egypt> provide the latest information on the meeting.

Correspondences, submissions, inquiries and requests for additional information can be addressed to UNSD through Mr. Ralf Becker (email: BeckerR@un.org) and to ESCWA through Ms. Wafa Aboulhosn (email: aboulhosn@un.org)

Once participants have been nominated, they will be contacted directly with additional administrative instructions.