



ESCWA



UNSD

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2004/WG.4/INF.1
14 July 2004
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Workshop on International Economic and Social Classifications
Beirut, 19-23 July 2004

INFORMATION NOTE

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INFORMATION NOTE

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing a workshop on International Economic and Social Classifications, jointly with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), within the framework of the project on Strengthening Statistical Capacity in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Region. The workshop will be held in the UN House- Beirut, the Republic of Lebanon, during the period 19-23 July 2004

Background

As new economic developments occur and needs in economic analysis change, underlying tools, such as economic classifications, have to reflect these new conditions. The revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) is being conducted in this context.

The revision of ISIC pursues a number of goals, such as to adapt the classification 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 to provide guidance to users of the classification through detailed explanatory notes. Therefore, a new revision of ISIC and the Central Product Classification (CPC) is planned for 2007.

Given the above, ESCWA, and UNSD, in recognition of the need to assist ESCWA countries in improving their industrial classification and to have their proposals and input on the revision of the ISIC Rev.4 draft (available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/isic-4.asp>) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) have agreed to organize this workshop.

Objective

The Workshop will focus on industrial classifications. The main topics of discussion are the following:

Main Topics

The main topics to be covered in the workshop are:

- Current implementation and use of national activity and product classifications and their relationship to the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) in the ESCWA region;
- The revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) - revision plans and proposals, including discussion of the questionnaire materials for the 2007 ISIC and CPC revision;
- Measures to facilitate cooperation in the field of classifications, including coordination of work on regional/sub regional cooperation in classifications;

Languages

The languages of the Meetings will be Arabic and English. Simultaneous interpretation may be provided.

Participants

Invitations to participate in the Workshop/Seminar will be extended to the following:

- a. Experts from ESCWA member countries, representing the competent authorities concerned with issues related to industry statistics;
- b. Representatives of the United Nations bodies, and of regional and international agencies concerned with industry and statistics;

Documentation

Given the meeting's objective and main topics, the documents will include:

- a. Working papers on the topics of the meeting prepared by ESCWA secretariat;
- b. Selected country papers, contributed by national experts nominated by their countries on the national experiences on sectoral energy production and consumption statistics;
- c. Selected regional and/or international papers: prepared by representatives of the United Nations bodies, international organizations and regional entities;

Abstracts and Proceedings

Participants intending to present papers should submit no later than **30 June 2004**, to allow time for reproduction and inclusion in the meeting programme.

Arrangement for Participation in the Meeting

All participants, observers and representatives of regional and international organizations will be responsible for their own travel and subsistence expenses.

Assistance for hotel accommodation may be arranged through ESCWA for participants on their own cost. However, all participants will be responsible for making their own arrangements with regard to confirmation of hotel reservations, passports, visas, health certificates and/or other documentation necessary for travel to Beirut - Lebanon.

Further information on the meeting programme of work and other administrative matters will be communicated to the participants in due course.

Outcome

The major expected results from this workshop are:

- 1- Accounting for the views and concerns of the concerned parties in the region in the revision of ISIC and CPC.
- 2- Improving the capacity of users and producers of industrial statistics in using and applying international classification systems
- 3- Increasing the harmonization in producing and disseminating data on industry statistics regionally and internationally.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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