

*STATISTICS IN TRANSITION-new series, July 2009**Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 153—154*

CURRENT ISSUES IN PUBLIC STATISTICS: THE COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

From the Editor:

The motivation for stressing importance of the above mentioned issues (the communication and dissemination of official statistics) is rooted in variety of needs associated with daily practice of centers responsible for those types of activities. However, there is a special occasion to do it now. Namely, from 13 to 15 May 2009, an international conference – *The UNECE Work Session on Statistical Dissemination and Communication* organized by United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe – was held in Warsaw, Poland, gathering representatives from 27 countries¹ and from the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Although intention of this note is calling reader's attention to the significance of these issues, taking the opportunity of the meeting devoted to their discussion – without any attempts to provide a coverage of the event itself² – some of the major types of concerns (as they were reflected in the meeting agenda) seem worthwhile mentioning here. First of all, it is clear interest in the best practice generating approach, geared to better preparation and delivery of the high quality information products to diverse users and multiple-audience, either directly or indirectly. It is paralleled by the growing awareness of the necessity to prepare also them to better reception of the information provided and to its larger utilization for different purposes. The scope of the discussed ways of information use ranges from expertise and policy design to decision making and evaluation; however, still a room was left for a more discernible presentation of the questions related to meta-information and metadata, especially in the context of the information transmission and as a precondition for proper use of information produced. Next important topic concentrated on the key role played by intermediaries in the producer-user communication channel, with a prominent role

¹ Countries represented at the meeting: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

² For the meeting report see <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.05.dissemination.htm>

of the media – ‘working with media’ was entitled one of the main sessions. And finally, it is persistently present concern about respondent and vital importance of cooperation between data provider (subject) and data producer, as a prerequisite of gathering the most valuable information, especially in micro-data generating processes.

Since all the papers presented at the Warsaw’s UNECE Work Session on Statistical Dissemination and Communication are available under the link given in footnote 2, we decided to include in this section only two of them – they both were presented on behalf of the Central Statistical Office of Poland.

Włodzimierz Okrasa
Editor-in-Chief