



Regional Workshop on The Development of Transport Statistics and Transport Related Sustainable Development Indicators in the Arab Countries

Beirut, Lebanon: 16-18 September 2019

Information Note

The Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) are jointly organizing the Regional Workshop on the Development of Transport Statistics and Transport Related Sustainable Development Indicators in the Arab Countries. The workshop will be convened during 16-18 September 2019 at the UN House, Beirut, Lebanon.

The Regional workshop objectives respond to ESCWA and AITRS' strategic and current work on the development of economic statistics including transport statistics and related sustainable development indicators in countries of the Arab region. The workshop seeks to update the transport databases and statistics of the Arab States, including the production and wide dissemination of sustainable development indicators related to transport, as they are important in monitoring the sustainable development goals, as well as, seeking to build a regional database at ESCWA, according to international standards, while providing comparable data and indicators. The workshop also aims to identify member states' needs for capacity-building and improving efficiency, as well as to identify possibilities for mutual cooperation and benefit from success stories and the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned.

1- Objectives of the workshop:

The Regional workshop's objectives are to:

- Strengthen the capacity of the staff of the national statistical offices in the Arab countries to identify statistical gaps, compile, classify and analyze transport data, and periodically report selected data and indicators with a focus on indicators related to sustainable development goals.

- Strengthen cooperation with regional and national partners to ensure consistency and harmonization of data collection and dissemination methodologies with those adopted regionally and internationally.
- Share knowledge on best practices and lessons learned in the collection and dissemination of transport data.
- Promote cooperation in the dissemination of transport data and contribute to the establishment of a regional transport database.
- Agree on a core set of inland transport statistics and sustainable development indicators relevant to the ESCWA regional database platform and agree on steps for future collaboration in updating and developing national and regional databases and their consistency with international data.
- Identify the future needs of Arab States in capacity-building, promoting efficiency and exchange of successful experiences.

2- Expected outcomes of the workshop:

- a) Improved capacity of staff of the National Statistical Offices, bodies and institutions involved in transport statistics, to identify statistical gaps, collect, compile and analyze data and periodically report on selected transport indicators and those related to sustainable development.
- b) Establish follow-up mechanisms to serve Member States in the area of statistical capacity-building.
- c) Strengthen regional, international and national partnerships in transport statistics, thereby contributing to building capacities and the harmonization of methodologies adopted with those adopted internationally.

3-Main themes of the workshop:

To achieve the objectives and goals of the workshop, the workshop will focus mainly on the status of the collection and dissemination of transport statistics in Arab countries, the sources and methodologies used in the collection of transport data and their means of dissemination, the scope of their coverage, completeness, periodicity, and their consistency with international and regional definitions and methodologies. The workshop will also assess the availability of transport related indicators for sustainable development.

In an effort to update its own database on transport, ESCWA had prepared and sent a questionnaire and sent it to its member countries as well as to Arab non-member countries ' national statistical offices in mid-April 2019 with the purpose to identify the status of collection, quality, completeness, sources, periodicity and timeliness of transport data, as well as the consistency of the methods of compiling data with the international and regional ones. The questionnaire is also intended primarily to identify what Member States are doing in their efforts to provide transport related sustainable development indicators. It should be noted that the questionnaire consists of three parts, the first of which addresses the production, availability, continuity and completeness of transport data, the second part addresses availability of transport related sustainable development indicators, while the third requests sectoral transport data starting

2005 to 2018 by: means of transport; data sources, definitions and issuers. The themes and results of the questionnaire will form a major part of the workshop' topics.

The workshop will address the following themes:

1. Statistical Standards, methodologies, statistical categories and legal frameworks governing the provision of transport statistics;
2. Transport-related sustainable development indicators (provided by some relevant specialized organizations and country experiences);
3. ESCWA questionnaire : Objectives, scope, responses and limitations ;
4. Availability, completeness, consistency, comparability and validation of data:
 - a. Road transport (org/presentation + country experiences)
 - b. Railway transport (org/presentation + country experiences)
 - c. Marine Transport (org/presentation + country experiences)
 - d. Air Transport (org/presentation + country experiences)
 - e. Multimodal transport (org/presentation + country experiences)
5. Uses of modern technology as sources of alternative data;
6. Regional and global perspectives on transport indicators: partnerships, stocktaking and harmonization;
7. Panel Discussion: Moving forward in data collection and dissemination for the Arab region, and respective capacity building needs thereof.

The workshop will provide an opportunity for participating countries to present their experiences on the topics and themes mentioned in point 4 mainly and others if they so wish. The representatives of these States will inform the organizers of the workshop of their desire to present their countries ' experiences according to the topics listed as soon as possible and to provide the secretariat of the workshops with the working papers, presentations or summaries of their interventions one month in advance of the date of the workshop and preferably before The first of August in order to organize and manage the working sessions.

4-Participants:

Participants to the meeting will comprise government experts from the national statistical offices of all Arab countries, and preferably involved in the production and dissemination of transport data and aware of ESCWA's questionnaire. Participants from ministries of transport and relevant national bodies may also participate in the workshop provided they are nominated by their respective NSO. Experts from regional and international organizations will also be participating in the workshop.

The organizers will be funding the participation of only one representative from the National Statistical Offices in the Arab countries according to their respective rules of procedure. Additional participants from the Arab countries, regional and international organizations including UN organizations and the League of Arab States will be participating in the workshop at their own expense.

5- Language:

Arabic and English languages are used during the workshop, with simultaneous interpretation available.

6- Time and venue:

The workshop will be held from 16-18 September 2019 at the UN House Beirut ,Lebanon.

7- Administrative arrangements:

Participants are required to obtain an entry visa to Lebanon (for those who need it); transport from and to the hotel is to be secured by the participant. ESCWA and the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical research will make necessary administrative and logistical arrangements to organize and facilitate participation. It is important to confirm participation and provide the requested information about participants before 30 July 2019 at the latest. For more information on logistical, administrative and technical matters, there will be a meeting page on the websites of the organizers. For further information the following staff may be contacted:

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