Joint UNECE/IEA/Eurostat Webinar on Administrative Microdata for Climate Change, Energy and Environment Statistics

30 March, Online

CONCEPT NOTE

The webinar will take place on 30 March on MS Teams starting at 2 p.m. in English only. All documents related to the webinar will be posted on the website:
https://unece.org/statistics/events/MicrodataWebinar2023

The webinar is organized jointly by the UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics, the International Energy Agency and Eurostat.

I.   Background

Among new data sources for climate change, energy and environment statistics, particularly promising are administrative microdata, such as utility meter data, energy performance certificates of buildings and vehicle tests data. These sources can complement traditional data collection methods to increase the efficiency of data production or enable producing new statistics, indicators and analyses. Such statistics and analyses should be particularly important for charting the transition to a low carbon economy and the associated ambitions of just transition and leaving no one behind. Emissions from buildings and from transport are sizeable and microdata related to those two sources of emissions should be of high interest to statistical producers. Obtaining access to and using administrative microdata is also an important first step towards future attempts to obtain access to data from smart meters. The meter and household level administrative microdata could be linked with socio-demographic surveys to produce new innovative environment-related statistics such as differences by household type.

The 2022 UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics discussed the current practices of using such data based on a questionnaire conducted by the Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics and a paper and presentation by the Central Statistics Office of Ireland. In the questionnaire results, data quality and availability was the second most mentioned obstacle to improving climate change-related statistics. At the same time, only 9 out of 33 responding countries reported using administrative microdata for producing climate change-related statistics. In the Expert Forum discussion, it was noted that existing data sources should be leveraged cost-effectively, including linking data from across multiple sources and domains. New data sources, emerging technologies and methods offer unprecedented opportunities but require addressing methodological, technical and quality verification issues, as well as strengthening staff skills and ensuring a legal basis to access the data. As an outcome of the discussion, the Expert Forum asked the Steering Group to organize knowledge sharing across countries about the use of

administrative microdata for climate change-related statistics, to identify synergies, develop common tools and methodologies in the form of a focused webinar.

The International Energy Agency (IEA), an intergovernmental organisation committed to advancing security of energy supply, economic growth and environmental sustainability through energy policy co-operation, collects, compiles and disseminates a wide portfolio of energy data. In this role, it also supports the governments of its members and beyond, promoting opportunities for exchange with the objective to improve global energy data quality. The ability to access and use emerging technologies may significantly advance national energy statistics in the near future, and international collaboration will favour optimal exchange among countries with different levels of expertise and experiences in this area.

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union, with a mission to provide high-quality statistics and data on Europe. Eurostat produces European statistics in partnership with National Statistical Institutes and other national authorities in the EU Member States. The current ground rules for European statistics are laid out in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics. This Regulation is currently under revision to take account of the developments that have transformed the field of data and the environment in which European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated. Among others, the intention of the revision is to seize opportunities provided by digital transformation - new data sources, emerging technologies and the growing data ecosystem - to meet growing demand for more up-to-date, granular and responsive official statistics to support EU policies and public debate.

The webinar is a joint event organized by UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics, Eurostat and IEA. Members of the organising committee are Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Eurostat, the International Energy Agency and UNECE.

II. Objectives of the webinar

The webinar will aim to:

- Provide a platform to share experience and knowledge about the availability and use of environment-related administrative microdata, such as utility meter data, building energy performance certificates or vehicle tests data in energy, climate change and environment domains, and

- Identify and prioritize the next steps needed in supporting countries seeking to improve their climate, energy and environment statistics through the use of administrative microdata.

III. Participants

The target audience of the meeting are experts from national statistical offices, national energy agencies, ministries of climate, energy or environment, environmental agencies and international organizations interested in the use of environment-related administrative microdata, such as utility meter data, building energy performance certificates or vehicle tests data in energy, climate change and environment domains.

IV. Content of the webinar

The webinar will aim to address the following questions:

- What are the user needs that environment-related administrative microdata can help to address?

- Which microdata sources have the highest potential for environment-related statistical purposes?
- What are the most important statistical uses of administrative microdata in energy, climate and environmental statistics?
- Which administrative microdata would have much greater statistical value if they could be linked at record level with other microdata files?
- What is the current situation in countries in relation to access and analysis of these administrative microdata?
- What have been the successes, challenges and lessons learnt by countries that are already using these microdata files?
- What are the key obstacles (strategic, legal, operational) preventing NSOs from using such data and how could they be addressed?
- What common approaches, tools and methodologies could be developed to support countries interested in using such data?

The webinar will build upon the results of the questionnaire completed by countries in advance of the 2022 UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics and will serve as a platform for discussing more detailed questions on this topic to be included in the 2023 questionnaire.

V. Format and language

The webinar will be organized on MS Teams, in English only, and will last between 2 to 3 hours.

VI. Further information

All meeting updates and documents will be posted on the meeting website: https://unece.org/statistics/events/MicrodataWebinar2023.

VII. Contact

UNECE

Ms. Malgorzata Cwiek
Statistician
UNECE Statistical Division
E-mail: cwiek@un.org

Ms. Caroline Jeunet
Programme Assistant
UNECE Statistical Division
E-mail: caroline.jeunet@un.org

IEA

Ms. Roberta Quadrelli
Head of Data and Indicators for Energy Transitions
International Energy Agency
E-mail: roberta.quadrelli@iea.org

Eurostat

Ms. Madeleine Mahovsky
Head of the Energy Statistics Unit, Eurostat
E-mail: Madeleine.Mahovsky@ec.europa.eu

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