



REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES

15 – 16 November 2011

UN House, Beirut

Information Note

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) and the League of Arab States (LAS) are organizing a regional training workshop on "Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries" in Beirut, during November 15-16, 2011.

Background:

Industrial statistics in the Arab region received modest attention in face of the growing importance of industrial information for investment, trade policy and business decisions. Earlier research showed that the region suffers the absence of reliable and detailed databases on industrial activities and their relevant indicators driven by the lack of adequate methods to collect, to compile and to timely disseminate such statistics. The lack of providing up-to-date industrial statistics in most countries of the region leave officials and policy makers from both government and private sectors at a disadvantage when the need arises for formulating industrial and investment policies. Similarly, while identifying the appropriate levels of tariffs and other means of taxation in line with the national development and growth strategies, industrial statistics provide trade and economic policy makers with knowledge of the prevailing industrial structures and mapping out the right policy measures to enhance national industrial competitiveness and its well-being.

To promote the development of industrial statistics in the Arab region, ESCWA organized the regional workshop on economic classifications in cooperation with UNSD in Cairo, Egypt during 10-13 December 2007, followed by the regional workshop on industrial statistics in Rabat, Morocco during 10-13 November 2008 that aimed at building national capacities in the Arab countries in collecting, compiling and disseminating industrial statistics. Based on direct feedback received during these workshops, extended capacity building activities are still needed in the region on the path to level up the provision and quality of industrial statistics and in particular in the areas of international classifications and recommendations relevant to industrial statistics. Such activities will hopefully improve the understanding and skills of statisticians in the Arab region to better handle collection and dissemination of statistics relevant to the region's industrial activities, and help mitigating the prevailing data inconsistencies and discrepancies in collection methodologies.

In a continuing effort to build on the previous regional workshops, ESCWA and League of Arab States are holding this regional workshop on industrial statistics in the Arab countries in line with their capacity building programs in statistics at the regional level. A number of experts from other regional and international organizations will be invited to participate in this workshop.

1. Objectives:

The workshop aims at increasing the participants' knowledge in the area of collecting, compiling and disseminating industrial statistics. Participants will have an opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge of the relevant statistical systems and international classifications relevant to collecting and compiling industrial statistics and indicators. High on the agenda of this workshop is the introduction of international recommendation pertaining to industrial statistics (IRIS 2008), international standard industrial classification of all economic activities (ISIC Rev.4) in addition to the central product classification (CPC Rev.2).

Also, the opportunity will be open to all participants from National Statistical Offices, Central Banks and Ministries of Industry in the Arab countries to take active part during the workshop to make presentations on the status of industrial statistics in their home countries highlighting the prevailing difficulties, gaps and future improvement needs for industrial statistics. The workshop will be interactive in nature, and participants throughout the different sessions will be able to validate their acquired knowledge in the field, and to gain new skills. Participants are expected to provide positive input to developing industrial statistics in their respective countries.

The agenda will cover, among other things, the following items:

- (i) Importance of industrial statistics for policy making;
- (ii) The international recommendation for industrial statistics (IRIS 2008);
- (iii) The international standard industrial classification of all economic activities (ISIC Rev.4);
- (iv) The central product classification (CPC Rev.2); and
- (v) Industrial statistics in the Arab countries: status and development needs.

2. Participants:

Officials from National Statistical Offices, Central Banks and Ministries of Industry responsible for producing industrial statistics in the Arab Countries will be invited to the workshop. Nominated participants are requested to make presentations on their relevant country experiences in industrial statistics.

Statistics experts from the UN-ESCWA, League of Arab States (LAS), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Arab Industrial development and Mining organization (AIDMO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) will be invited as resource persons to take part in this workshop.

Working papers or presentations by participants concerning member countries' experiences in developing industrial statistics are welcomed during any of the sessions. Those who wish to make a presentation, under the approval of ESCWA, should submit their working

papers no later than 15 October 2011, in order to make the necessary preparations and ensure the efficient organization of the Workshop.

3. Date and Venue

The Regional Workshop will be take place during 15-16 November 2011 in the United Nations House in Beirut, Lebanon.

4. Visa Requirements for Entry into Lebanon

All participants must have an entry visa to Lebanon unless they are exempt. Participants should send scanned copies of their passports to ESCWA to get their entry visas to Lebanon. Passports should have validity of at least six months.

5. Travel and accommodation

Travel expenses, arrangements and hotel bookings are the responsibility of participants and ESCWA will send shortly a list of hotels that will provide preferential rates to ESCWA participants.

6. Language

The Workshop will be held in English and Arabic with simultaneous interpretation.

7. Additional Information

Any inquiries and requests for additional information should be addressed to:

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