

# UNITED NATIONS

Economic and Social Commission  
for Western Asia



# Institut National de la Statistique

(INS)



## Training Workshop on Short Term Economic Statistics

November 14-17, Tunis, Tunisia

### Information Note

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in collaboration with Institut National de la Statistique (INS) in Tunisia, is organizing a training workshop on Short Term Economic Statistics during 14-17 November, 2016 in Tunis, Tunisia, in the context of the development account project that aims at strengthening capacities of member countries in the production and dissemination of Short Term Economic Statistics.

### A. Background

Short-term macroeconomic fluctuations are increasingly impacting the socio-economic wellbeing of people in countries all over the world. Many developing economies including Arab economies fall far short in providing policy/decision makers with a complete set of reliable short-term economic indicators. They also lack experience and technical knowledge in producing and disseminating such indicators. This results in exclusion or severely limited participation of these economies in building an early warning system for economic and financial crises.

In line with the ongoing international efforts for capacity building, and the growing need of member countries to technical assistance on short-term indicators, the Statistics Division at UN-ESCWA is currently implementing the project "Strengthening the Statistical Capacity of ESCWA Member Countries in Producing and Disseminating Short-term Economic Indicators for Sustainable Growth", in collaboration with UNSD, ECA, ESCAP and the IMF, to strengthen the capacity of member countries in producing and disseminating a core set of priority short-economic indicators of appropriate quality and timeliness together with their related metadata in order to facilitate review of the economic performance and provide a basis for the preparation of future performance.

For this purpose, a regional training workshop to train officials from the 7 pilot countries on harmonized methodologies to produce short term statistics will be organized,

### **B. Objective of the Workshop**

The objective of this workshop is to train producers of short term statistics (STs) from National Statistical Offices on data collection and calculation methodologies according to international recommendations by specialists in the areas of short-term economic. The workshop will focus on the following four main themes

- Quarterly GDP,
- Turnover indices,
- Production index for construction,
- Industrial index for Production.

This workshop will also be an opportunity for participants from the pilot countries and regional and international experts to have a dialogue on the role of short term statistics in official statistics, to share knowledge and experiences and discuss good practices.

### **C. Work Programme**

The training workshop will be modules based. It is expected that the workshop be divided into different sessions, each pertaining to a specific theme. Presentation about the concepts, definitions and methodologies will be delivered, underlying the compilation of the indicators under each theme. Numerical application will follow the presentations, where participants will be divided into groups to solve specific exercises. A final discussion on the specific theme will wrap up the session.

The workshop will conclude with a panel discussion that will focus on how can NSOs improve the methodologies of their STs in the four themes? How can NSOs benefit from the training workshop? Recommendations to improve the existing methodology, quality and timeliness of existing STs and to start with the compilation process for the unavailable indicators.

### **D. Participants**

- Officials from National Statistical Offices of seven pilot countries: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Tunisia.
- Regional and International experts in Short Term Statistics (STs)
- Experts from Regional and International Organizations

### **E. Working Language**

The languages of the workshop will be in Arabic and English. Simultaneous interpretation to the two languages will be made available.

### **F. Date and venue**

This meeting will be organized in Tunisia from 14 to 17 November 2016, in The Golden Tulip Hotel- El Mechtel, Tunis.

#### **Further information, contact:**

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