



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNBigData



المركز الاتحادي
للتنافسية والإحصاء
FEDERAL COMPETITIVENESS
AND STATISTICS CENTRE

Mobilizing Big Data and Data Science for the Sustainable Development Goals Event

25 - 27 January 2022

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

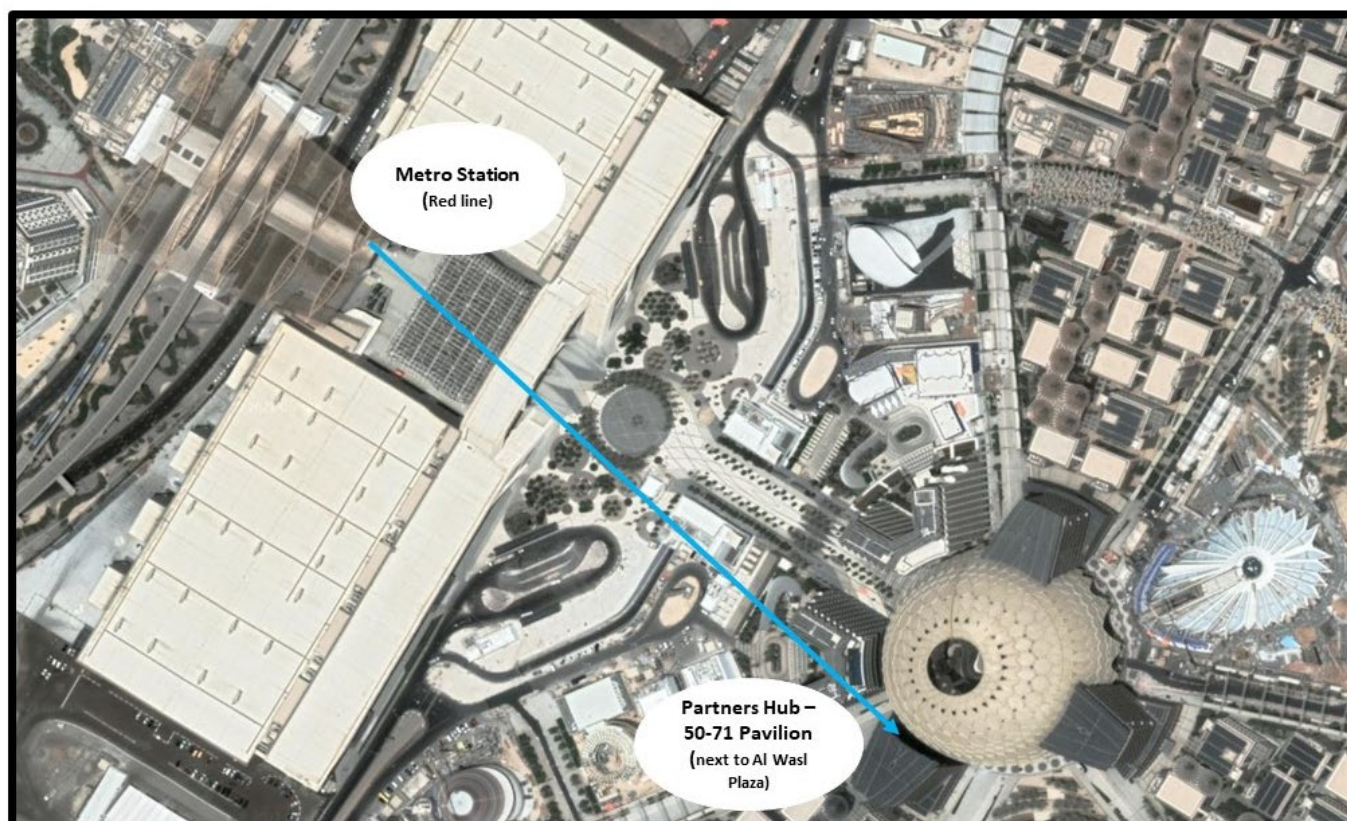
GENERAL INFORMATION

ORGANIZERS

The Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Centre, a Government center affiliated with the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs in the United Arab Emirates, together with the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) of the UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs, and the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD) invite you to participate in this event focusing on enabling data-driven transformation for better decision making.

DATE & LOCATION

This event will take place in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates from 25 – 27 January 2022 under the theme *“Mobilizing Big Data and Data Science for the Sustainable Development Goals Event”*.



[Partner Hub - 50/71 Pavilion - Expo2020](#)

25 January 2022 - The session will take place at the Partner Hub (next to the Al Wasl Plaza) situated within the Expo2020 venue.

26 – 27 January 2022 – The workshops will take place at Emirates Towers situated on Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai. Conference Room locations with Emirates Towers to be confirmed closer to the time. (Emirates Towers is accessible from the Emirates Towers Metro Station)

VISA REQUIREMENTS

- Visa requirements for Dubai varies depending on Nationality
- International participants are responsible for checking the requirements pertaining to their passport issuing country in obtaining an entry visa to the United Arab Emirates
- Some participants may obtain a visa on arrival however, others will need to obtain their visa before entering the UAE. Visit the UAE Government Portal for further information, [Do you need a VISA to enter the UAE](#).
- Should you have any doubts on the requirements or eligibility, or need to apply for a visa, contact the Consulate/Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in your country.
- For information on the nearest Consulate/Embassy to you, visit the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs website [UAE Missions Abroad](#).

For all visa applications, you will need to submit...

- Completed visa application forms
- Passport Copy - clear colour copy of the “Biometric” page and the page across from it
(PLEASE ENSURE YOUR PASSPORT HAS A MINIMUM VALIDITY OF 6 MONTHS FROM ARRIVAL IN THE UAE)
- Recent Passport size photograph
- The Invitation letter issued by the Event Organizers
- Additional documents may be required on submission

Alternative ways to apply for a UAE visa...

- **Emirates Airlines** – should you fly with Emirates Airlines, you may ask your travel agent to include the cost of the visa (they will obtain the visa via EK) saving you time. For further information, please check the following link [Emirates Airlines Visa Information](#).
- **Etihad Airways** – should you fly with Etihad Airways, you may ask your travel agent to include the cost of the visa (they will obtain the visa via EY) saving you time. For further information, please check the following link [Etihad Airways Visa Information](#)
- **UAE Visa Online** – an electronic visa, which allows eligible citizens to travel to the UAE for short stays. For further information, please check the following link [UAE Online Visa](#).

Visit [VISA - Plan your trip](#) to find out what the requirements are in order for you to enter the UAE.

DUBAI Explore Dubai ▾ Things to do ▾ Eat & Drink ▾ What's on ▾ Plan your trip ▾ Expo 2020 Dubai Dubai Presents

Visit Dubai > Plan your trip > Visa information

Visa information

Planning a trip to Dubai? Find out whether you need a visa and how to apply.

DO YOU NEED A VISA?

What citizenship do you hold?

What type of visa do you need?

[UAE COVID-19 Travel Updates.](#)

TRANSPORTATION

To and from the United Arab Emirates

Participants are responsible for covering their own flight and other travel related expenses.

To and from the respective UAE Airports/Hotels/Conference Venue

Participants are responsible for organizing and covering the costs of their own transfer to and from the Airports, Hotels and the Event venue, the Expo2020 Site. This can be done by:

- ✓ **Limousine/Chauffeur Service** - if you are flying Business Class on Emirates or Etihad you can book your complimentary service from the airport to your hotel. Remember to book your return service for your flight home
- ✓ **Taxi** - follow the "Taxi" signs from arrivals hall
- ✓ **Careem/Uber** - it is advisable to download the apps before your travel to Dubai
- ✓ **Car Hire** - all major car hire companies are represented within the UAE
- ✓ **Hotel Transportation** - to be arranged with the hotel at the time of room booking
- ✓ **Metro** - Metro stations based at Dubai Airport Terminals 1 & 3. There is a metro station at the Expo2020 site making it easier to travel to and from the venue. For additional information on the Metro please visit [Dubai Metro Information](#)



ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for booking and covering the cost of their hotel accommodation. The following hotels were selected for their proximity to the Dubai Metro allowing easy access to and from the venue.

1. **Kempinski Hotel** (★★★★★)

Situated in Mall of the Emirates, Al Barsha 1, Sheikh Zayed Road

Tel : +9714-341-0000

[Kempinski Hotel MOE - Website](#)

[Kempinski Hotel MOE - Google Maps](#)

2. **Sheraton Hotel** (★★★★★)
Situating in Mall of the Emirates, Al Barsha 1, Sheikh Zayed Road,
Tel : +9714-377-2000
[Sheraton Hotel - Website](#)
[Sheraton Hotel - Google Maps](#)
3. **Address Sky View** (★★★★★)
Situating in Emaar Square Area, Downtown Dubai
Tel : +9714- 873-8888
[Address Hotel Sky View - Website](#)
[Address Hotel Sky View - Google Maps](#)
4. **Address Hotel Dubai Mall** (★★★★★)
Situating in the Dubai Mall
: +9714-438-8888
[Address Hotel Dubai Mall - Website](#)
[Address Hotel Dubai Mall - Google Maps](#)
5. **Fairmont Dubai** (★★★★★)
Situating on Sheikh Zayed Road, Trade Centre 1
Tel : +9714-332-5555
[Fairmont Dubai - Website](#)
[Fairmont Dubai - Google Maps](#)
6. **Avani Ibn Battuta Dubai** (★★★★★)
Situating on Sheikh Zayed Road, Ibn Battuta Mall
Tel : +9714-574-3111
[Avani Ibn Battuta Dubai - Website](#)
[Avani Ibn Battuta Dubai - Google Maps](#)

We would like to reiterate that the above-mentioned hotels were selected for their proximity to the Dubai Metro. Participants are free to make their own choice of accommodation from a wide variety of Hotels located throughout Dubai.

REGISTRATION & VENUE ACCESS

- ✓ Online registration is mandatory, as this is a “*by invitation only*” event
- ✓ Participants are to register at the following link,
<https://surveys.moca.gov.ae/en/Surveys/Publish/Xt7OF>
- ✓ Once registered, participants will receive a confirmation from the host country
- ✓ Venue access is limited and only accessible to registered participants

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

COVID-19 Pandemic

Organizers are constantly monitoring the global and local situation regarding COVID-19 and will keep participants updated with any new information and/or changes in guidance as it arises. When registering online, participants must answer questions regarding COVID-19 and indicate that they have understood the various preventative measures undertaken by the organizers.

COVID-19 entry requirements to United Arab Emirates

- A COVID-19 vaccination certificate is **NOT** required for entry into the United Arab Emirates
- All passengers arriving into the UAE from any point or origin must hold a **NEGATIVE** PCR test certificate for which the test must be taken no more than **72 HOURS** prior to the time of departure.
- Travellers from certain countries must hold a negative PCR test taken no more than **48 HOURS** prior to the time of departure. Please check the following link for a list of these countries as it may change.

[UAE COVID-19 TRAVEL UPDATES](#)

- Negative COVID-19 certificates **MUST BE** printed in English or Arabic. PCR certificates in other languages are acceptable if they can be verified at the originating station.
- The date and time of the test **MUST BE** detailed.
- The printed certificate **MUST HAVE** a valid QR code.
- No hand written, SMS or digital certificates will be accepted.
- You may be required to take another test at Dubai Airports upon arrival if travelling from selected destinations or if you show symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival.
- Ensure you have medical travel insurance with international coverage that covers COVID-19 before travelling. If you are travelling with [EMIRATES AIRLINES COVID COVERAGE](#) or [ETIHAD AIRWAYS COVID COVERAGE](#) you will automatically benefit from additional multi-risk insurance. See the above links for further information.
- Please refer to entry requirements in the days before your departure in case of any changes or updates.

COVID-19 entry requirements to the Event

- For Participants to access the Expo2020 Site, you will need to present your COVID-19 vaccination card (where available) or negative COVID-19 PCR test conducted within the last 72 hours.
- Face Masks are to be worn at all times
- Social distancing regulations need to be adhered to
- All venues and common areas are regularly cleaned and sanitised
- Hand sanitisers are positioned at regular intervals throughout the site
- Appropriate facilities and specialist staff are available to manage any potential medical issues on site
- For more information on Expo2020's COVID-19 Safety Measures, please visit. [EXPO2020 Covid Safety Measures](#)

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

LANGUAGE

Arabic is the official language of the United Arab Emirates however, English is widely spoken and understood in all industries.

CLIMATE

Given the location in the Arabian Desert, Dubai enjoys a warm climate year round. Winter months are the mildest with average temperatures in December ranging from highs of 28°C (82°F) dropping to lows of 15°C (59°F). Business attire or national dress is suitable for all meetings. The conference venue will still utilize air conditioners so consider this when planning what to wear. Please check weather conditions before your departure for a more accurate day-to-day forecast.

BUSINESS & TRADING HOURS

Malls and shops open from 10am - 10pm every night so there is plenty of time after hours to do your shopping. Some malls are even open until midnight on the weekends. Unlike most countries, the workweek in the UAE is from Sunday to Thursday with Friday and Saturday being the weekend.

CURRENCY & BANKING

The monetary unit is the Emirati Dirham (AED). The dirham is divided into 100 fils and pegged to the US dollar at AED3.67. Coins in common use are 25 fils, 50 fils and 1 dirham with notes in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000.

Reference rate (as on 5 Oct 2021): - 1 USD = 3.67 AED - 1 Euro = 4.26 AED

All major credit cards (Visa, Master Card, American Express & Diners Club) and debit cards are widely used and ATM's (from International and local banks) are plentiful. Please check with your bank before you leave what fees you will be charged when using them in the UAE. It is also advisable to let your card provider know in advance that you will be travelling to Dubai to avoid having them block your transactions. Make a point of carrying some cash in smaller denominations as small retailers may not have change available.

Currency/Exchange Bureaus are available in the Airport terminals as well as all the shopping malls making it easy to exchange your cash to local currency. Banks are open from Saturday to Thursday however, banking hours vary depending on location. Branches within the shopping malls are generally open from 10am to 9pm where as Banks in town operate from 8:00am to 2:00pm

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The standard voltage is 230V in the United Arab Emirates. The power sockets used are type G (square 3 pin plugs). Participants are advised to bring personal international adaptors if required. Adaptors are available at the Duty Free Shops in the arrivals hall as well as in local supermarkets and stores around the UAE.

MOBILE/CELL PHONES

Service providers Etisalat, Du and Virgin can be located at the Airport as well as most malls. Should you wish to purchase a "local" SIM card to avoid paying high roaming costs you will need to provide your passport with a valid visit visa. Data packages are also available, staff located at each outlet will be able to assist you with this. Credit top-ups are available from almost all convenience stores, supermarkets or petrol stations or online.

TAX (VAT)

Value Added Tax (VAT) is set at 5% and may or may not be included in the retail price displayed on goods and services.

TIPPING

While most restaurants will note at the bottom of the menu that taxes and service charges have already been included in the bill, it is still common among most diners in Dubai to tip the service staff. A figure of between 10 and 15 per cent is customary, but this is dependent on the quality of service. While tipping is always appreciated, it is rarely expected, no matter if one per cent or 50 per cent is given, the most important thing is to treat service staff with respect. A smile and a “Thank you” goes a long way.

TIME ZONE

United Arab Emirates Time is UTC + 4

TRANSPORTATION

TAXI – Taxis are efficient, metered and reasonably priced. You can hail a taxi from the street or book one using the “DTC” (Dubai Taxi Corporation) app. The app is available in App Stores, Google Play and Huawei App Gallery ([DTC APP LINKS](#)).

CAREEM/UBER - You can alternatively use apps such as “Uber” or locally based “Careem” to book your ride. The apps are available for both IOS and Android.

METRO - The Dubai Metro is inexpensive, clean, air-conditioned and very modern. There are two lines, the **Red Line** that runs through the heart of the city along Sheikh Zayed Road connecting many significant landmarks along the way as well as taking you to the **Expo2020** site. The **Green Line** primarily serves “old” Dubai, including the Creek area and the souks of Bur Dubai and Deira. Stations are open from:

Monday to Thursday	-	5am – 1:15am (next day)
Friday and Saturday	-	5am – 2:15am (next day)
Sunday	-	8am – 1:15am (next day)

The trains run roughly every five minutes during peak timings and every eight minutes during off-peak periods. The station staff are extremely helpful and will guide you to where you need to go. For further info on the Metro please visit [DUBAI METRO TIMETABLE](#) . You can also download the Dubai Metro App making your journey a little easier.

TRAM – Dubai’s first tramlines opened in November 2014 running for a little over 10km with 11 stops in and around the Dubai Marina area. The tram does offer useful connections for those wanting to visit some of Dubai’s popular waterside and beachfront areas. For further info on the Dubai Tram please visit [DUBAI TRAM](#) .

CAR HIRE – While taxis and public transportation are the best day-to-day options, hiring a car can be worthwhile for those who have some time off during their stay. Be warned however that traffic in the UAE can be congested at peak times and a little chaotic compared to what many people are accustomed to. There are numerous car rental companies situated at the airport. It is suggested however that you book your vehicle before your arrival as due to the large number of visitors to the UAE, vehicles are not always available on arrival.

WI-FI

Most of the major malls, café's and restaurants have free WiFi as do the hotels. Some hotels will charge extra for the in room connection but as a guest you can usually use the internal business centers to browse for free.

INDEMNITY

While every care will be taken in all arrangements, please note that the organisers of this event, will not be held liable for any accidents, loss of/or damage to property or person. Delegates must therefore ensure that suitable personal insurance arrangements are included in their travel arrangements.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

MEDICATION – Some prescribed and over the counter medicines that are available in other countries are considered controlled substances within the UAE. It is therefore best to procure a prescription or prior permission from the UAE Ministry of Health before travelling with medicine such as psychotropic drugs or anything containing codeine. Failure to do this may lead to prosecution under UAE law. See [CONTROLLED MEDICINES](#) for current information, or consult your local UAE consulate/embassy.

DRESSING APPROPRIATELY – Dubai has a relaxed attitude towards attire, however, visitors should remember that they are visiting a Muslim country. All participants are requested to dress modestly and most of the events hosted at the premises adopt a dress code of business formal or business casual.

PHOTOGRAPHY – In general, ask for permission before photographing people. Avoid photographing women unless you have their permission to do so.

ALCOHOL – Visitors can buy alcohol at licensed restaurants, bars and hotels or from Dubai Duty Free on arrival. The UAE adopts a zero-tolerance policy to drinking or being drunk in public.

OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR – Good manners are essential in Dubai and displays of offensiveness can have consequences. Avoid using foul or abusive language, or making obscene gestures.

WATER - It is not advisable to drink the tap water as this is mostly desalinated water. Various brands of bottled water are available for purchase at all shops and restaurants. Most hotels usually provide two complimentary bottles of water in your room each day.