

**9th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,
8-10 September 2014, Washington DC**

Agenda item: 8.2

Big data

Introduction

The advent of the Internet, mobile devices and other technologies has caused a fundamental change to the nature of data. Big Data has important and distinct qualities that differentiate it from “traditional” institutional data, particularly the timeliness of the data. Big Data could provide information on topics that are currently under the purview of national statistical offices (NSOs). Consequently, some NSOs have started to explore how best to harness Big Data in order to supply quality statistics for improving economic performance, social well-being and environmental sustainability. For example, computing a price index to estimate inflation by collecting price information over the internet could be published daily with a three day lag as opposed to the official inflation numbers which are published monthly with a an even longer lag. A quick turn-around allows for early detection of inflation trends and may allow policy makers to tailor policies in a much timelier manner. This session will explore ways of using Big Data in the compilation of national accounts aggregates.

Documentation

Presentations on the use of Big data in selected countries.

Main issues to be discussed

The AEG is requested to express their views on using Big data for the compilation of the national accounts