

Comments to GUIDELINES ON INTEGRATED ECONOMIC STATISTICS

The manual includes a range of excellent recommendations. However, it is difficult to focus on the messages (and consequently difficult to remember them), because the chapters sometimes include a mixture of issues. For example chapter 2 concerns: “Benefits and principles”, but chapter 3 also concerns: “General guiding principles and building blocks” and within chapter 4 you find “Principles and protocols”.

In chapter 4 the focus is on institutional arrangement and management, but other chapters show institutional integration and conceptual integration together, and that makes understanding difficult. It would probably help to make an explicit differentiation throughout the manual between the conceptual integration, the integration of products, the integration of work processes and the integration of institutions. But on the other hand it also seems important to explain, how they are related.

More graphic presentations of what is said in the text would also help to focus on the issues.

The case studies are excellent. But since the guidelines are of special interests for NSO's, It would help to have more case studies on management issues with examples of institutional arrangements in NSO's – centralized and decentralized cases, and preferably with graphics.

Minor comments:

In the contents for chapter 3 “Institutional arrangements” appears twice.

In chapter 2 two sections seem similar: “Benefits of integrated economic statistics” in the beginning, and then after some sections on other issues in the end “Benefits of achieving integration in the economic statistics production process”. Perhaps they should be put together in the beginning.