

# **Integrated Economic Statistics**

**Presented in this document are the comments of the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia on the Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics.**

The Guidelines are well structured and in general are applicable for all countries. To some extent there will be differences in the application related to different stages of the development of the statistical systems, no matter if they are centralized or not centralized.

The basic principles including the Code of Practice and principles of international organizations are a good example of building the relevant structure of data based on principles for data collection, application of common classifications and data structuring.

In some cases too many regulations directed to establishing of the different statistical surveys in the system increase the burden on the respondent. Integration of administrative data and maintaining the data warehouse are important elements for decreasing the number of the surveys. For these activities more financial support is needed. The establishment of different agencies not only in the Government sector is a good source of information but it requires a new legal frame for integration of those data in the system. Data protection is one of the main principles, which is regulated in different ways in different countries, and represents a rigorous factor for data integration.

The need for integration of data between different institutions leads to establishing a common IT frame, which is a difficult activity regarding the financial conditions and the time frame.

In good circumstances GDSS and SDDS are a good example of the integration of data in the stage of dissemination.

A very important part of the Guidelines is the integration of the variables in the surveys in the statistical system, which is one of the main intentions in the planning process, but this process will go slowly.

A large part of the integration of data in the statistical system is based on the household surveys that are becoming more expensive, and gathering of data changes very frequently. This part of data is very important for the NA.

The bottom-up method is more acceptable for countries with centralized system. Managing of this system is more acceptable but it consumes more management efforts.

Integration through I/O frame is a very useful and very convenient system in NA and for other statistics, but integration through satellite accounts is a wide frame for which more recourses are needed and there will be discrepancies in the process of building of the common time frame in the NA system. Generally, this is a good process for further development of statistics.

Two very important parts in the Guidelines are the Promotion of the Code of Practice as common principles in the production of official statistics and the Promotion of SNA framework that will initiate the integration of accounting systems and integration of the production of data with common standards in the agencies and other producers of statistics that could be integrated in the statistical system

The Guideline is a very good document with many general explanations of the main principles that give the possibility to create separate guidelines for the main principles of integration.

The State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia as coordinator of the statistical system in the country has recognized and included the principles of the Eurostat Code of Practice in strategic documents and intends to promote the SNA 2008 to the other producers of statistics as well as to the users. One of the strategic goals of the State Statistical Office is to further support the development of the Data Warehouse, which is in function since 2001.

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