

Comments to the global consultation on *Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics*

Statistics Netherlands

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1. Statistics Netherlands welcomes this draft of the handbook for Integrated Economic Statistics. Statistics Netherlands readily participated in the Friends of Chair Group and we were pleased to deliver some contributions to these guidelines.
2. The main topic in the draft is the presentation of valuable guidelines how to compile integrated statistics in general and integrated economic statistics in particular. Also a lot of case studies of statistically developed countries are presented. Perhaps for less developed countries this is not adequate to a certain extent.
3. Some text is devoted to the use of administrative data. A typical problem in this field is to get this data appropriate for the use in an integration framework. In many cases the use of this data give special problems (handling (thoroughly) data bases, errors or delayed data, data fulfill primary the requirements of the administration and not the requirements of the statistical framework) and for each problem solutions are possible. We think some more attention is needed to give assistance to the use of this kind of data.
4. In general, the relationship of integrated statistics to their source statistics is of interest. Important is to make clear possible differences in concepts between the needs of the integrated system and the possibilities of the sources. In the end descriptions are useful to explain how sources are handled to meet the requirements of the integration framework.
5. An important issue in the National accounts is the relationship to the source data. Where source data often describe the actual perspective, the National accounts describe the comparability in time. Sometimes discrepancies occur between the source data and the integrated data for this reason or sometimes a new source may show a level shift compared to the figures in National accounts. For these reasons periodic revisions of the National accounts are necessary. Such a revision of the National accounts also implies a time series project to adjust the older annual and quarterly National accounts (integrated) data in such a way that they are comparable to the revised figures of the benchmark period. Perhaps the handbook should give recommendations for the application of special procedures for such time series projects (for supply and use tables, for sector accounts and for labour and regional accounts).
6. In the balancing process of the National accounts statistical differences between sources are eliminated. This means that the outcomes of the source statistics may be changed to certain extent. In the practice of most statistical offices there exists a close cooperation between statisticians of the source statistics and their colleagues working in the field of the integrated frameworks, like the National accounts. So, the results of the balancing process (and the adjustments to the sources) are feed-back in the chain of the statistical production process. Perhaps the handbook should give recommendations how to handle this feed-back.