

Report of the meeting of the Extended Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TFSITS)

17 – 18 April 2013, Rome

Agenda item: 6	The implementation and compilation guidance process	Presenter: UNSD
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Virtual meeting (VM) after comments in Paris last year was well received by the countries. Participants of the VM placed 103 posts and UNSD is still receiving inputs from countries and a few more is expected. VM was open for 3 weeks. A summary has been prepared by UNSD. 103 issues were listed that do not include minor/editorial suggestions.

The 15 May 2013 as deadline for contributions is difficult to comply with for some contributors. The deadline should be flexible but UNSD shall be advised about the delay.

By mid June UNSD will present which parts of the Compilers Guide shall be included in the printed version and electronic version.

Part I – General Framework

Chapter 1

The Task Force (TF) confirms the chapter is too long. A link to electronic version will be added.

Conclusions: The TF suggests that the text is to be shortened, the specific topics should not be discussed in detail--only just mentioned--and it should make reference to chapters in Part III. Gross/Net evaluation should be mentioned here. Decisions as to what will go on the web and what will be the core part will be decided by end May.

Chapter 2

Still in progress.

Chapter 3

The TF agreed that institutional arrangements should come first in this chapter. TF agreed that primary classification on FATS should be by activity and that the title does not need to specify FATS.

Part II – Data Collection

Chapter 4

The TF agreed that the chapter needs an introduction which will present the main content/structure of Part II (and explains why the section has been organized in this way). TF agreed that country experiences could be moved to relevant chapters.

Conclusions: The TF concluded that the first chapters for parts II and III should be general introduction instead of going into many details. Chapter 4 should make some reference to modes and then focus on the data sources for each mode, and country practices should rather move to the relevant chapters.

Chapter 5

The TF decided to have a separate chapter, as developing countries need further details/updates on it before starting the data collection, even if this is not completely logical.

The TF discussed that possibly a paragraph on mechanics should be added.

The TF agreed that that there should be more focus on services when talking about business registers.

The TF solicited more country examples.

The TF discussed whether self-employed persons are included in business registers or not and whether this could be used to measure mode 4.

The TF discussed how to tackle the issue of non-response. The TF suggests that some text could be added with reference to the sanction procedures (rather in Chapter 6).

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 is missing an introduction. The TF agreed that enterprises surveys are not properly addressed and that typical business surveys are not discussed.

The TF agreed that the terminology for traveler-visitor needs to be clarified.

The TF discussed who could contribute transportation surveys and insurance surveys.

The TF discussed how it is difficult to talk about data collection and data compilation separately; it was suggested that the editor check to see how the BPM6 CG tackles the issue.

Chapter 7

The TF is still checking on the status of some contributions for this chapter.

The TF agreed that some text from BPM6 CG could be used in this chapter.

Chapter 8

The TF discussed that more country experiences are needed for this chapter and discussed possible contributors.

Chapter 9

The TF identified that an introduction is lacking. The TF also discussed that clarifications are need in part C in order to further clarify mode 4.

Chapter 10

Parts of this chapter are still initial drafts and need to be revised. The TF agreed that further illustrations on data source limitations would be useful. The TF agreed that the example of using mobile phone records could be included in this chapter.

Chapter 11

This chapter is still in progress.

Part III

Chapter 13

This chapter is still in progress.

Chapter 14

The TF agreed that more text needs to be added to generalize the current text more. The TF agreed that a general call for papers be made for missing sections of this chapter to statistical offices and BoP compilers.

Part (ii) on Manufacturing

The TF agreed that more general descriptions are needed. The importance of consistency with the global production handbook was noted.

Repair services

The TF will solicit contributors.

Transportation

The TF will solicit contributors.

Travel

The TF agreed that the table outlining sources for travel be simplified.

Construction services

The editor will decide whether or not to split the chapter in two.

Insurance Services

The TF agreed that more examples could be added to this section and that BPM6 CG can be used for the general part (including the numerical example).

FISIM

The TF discussed availability of FISIM examples and background papers, including ISA 2010.

Other business services

The TF agreed that more general text is needed as an introduction.

IPP

This contribution is forthcoming.

Part C

This section includes country example. The text will be harmonized.

Part D

No comment.

Chapter 15

Contributors will revised and update this chapter as needed.

Chapter 16

The TF agreed to move some material from chapter 14 to this chapter.

Chapter 17

More clarifications are needed on this text.

Part IV

Limited comments.

Part V

Some text on and metadata on Services not allocated will be provided. The TF discussed unallocated services and how best to deal with them so as to avoid distortions. TF members will circulate drafts on this subject and solicit feedback from TF.

Deadlines

The TF will follow up with countries and organizations to finalize the text. The TF agreed that revised and/or missing text will be submitted generally by 15 May, but in case of difficulties the latest deadline is end of May.

31 May → draft text revised

By June, 10th → finalization of full first draft of CG

10th June → submission of full first draft of CG to the UN Expert Group

25th - 28th June → UN EGM

9th – 27th September → Virtual Meeting

By end of the year → finalized version