

ISWGNA Meeting

26 February 2020

Minutes

Participants: John Verrinder and Nicola Massarelli (Eurostat and Chair); Jorrit Zwijnenburg (OECD); Eric Métreau and Bala Bhaskar Naidu Kalimili (World Bank); Jim Tebrake and Jennifer Ribarsky (IMF); Ivo Havinga, Herman Smith, Benson Sim and Jonathan Gessendorfer (UNSD); and Tihomira Dimova (UNECE)

1. Introduction of the ISWGNA report to the Commission

The draft introduction to the ISWGNA report for the 2020 United Nations Statistical Commission will be discussed at the ISWGNA Management Group Meeting.

2. The SNA research agenda

2.1 An update on progress of the work of the 4 sub-groups

Each of the sub-group secretariats summarized the status of their work and will prepare a short note to be used as background document for the ISWGNA Management Group Meeting scheduled for 3 March.

The digitalization, globalization and well-being and sustainability subgroups have been able to advance their work considerably since the last meeting. The three subgroups are on track to prepare draft guidance notes for the Advisory Expert Group Meeting in October 2020 and other relevant meetings.

The newly formed subgroup on communication will have a first planning meeting with the co-chairs and secretariat on 27 February 2020 to develop a high-level workplan, identify subgroup members and review the project plan for the development of the SNA collaborative hub.

The ISWGNA decided to prepare a draft timeline of activities for the 2025 update of the SNA for discussion at its next meeting. The Chair and secretariat will prepare the draft timeline.

For coordination purposes, the sub-group secretariats will also prepare a list of cross-cutting issues arising from the discussion and deliberations of the subgroups on digitalization, globalization and well-being and sustainability.

Actions

1. All subgroup secretariats to prepare/update their short note for the MG meeting by cob, 27 February 2020.
2. Eurostat and secretariat to prepare the draft timeline of activities for the 2025 update of the SNA
3. All sub-group secretariats will also prepare a list of cross-cutting issues arising from the discussion and deliberations of the subgroups on digitalization, globalization and well-being and sustainability by 15 April

2.2 Collaboration between the SNA and the BPM with respect to the update process

The ISWGNA reaffirmed that aligning the update of the SNA and the BPM is a crucial task in the overall process to update international statistical standards. Effective collaboration in the work on overlapping issues will ensure the appropriate alignment and the use of consistent terminologies across manuals.

The IMF prepared a list of issues that are overlapping in the SNA and BPM research agendas. While for some of these issues, collaboration is ongoing in the form of joint task teams, for others the modalities of cooperation will need to be discussed at the next ISWGNA technical group meeting.

The meeting also noted the need to involve experts from government finance statistics and monetary and financial statistics in resolving those issues which are relevant to these two domains.

Action

1. Further discussion at the next ISWGNA meeting on modalities of collaboration for the potential list of overlapping issues between the updates of the macroeconomic manuals. The creation of new joint groups may be considered for topics on which work has not yet or just started, whereas for already advanced work strands a larger involvement of BOPCOM experts in the existing task teams may be considered.

3. Meeting of the ISWGNA Management Group and Transfer of Chair

The meeting of the ISWGNA Management Group will take place on Tuesday, 3 March 2020. In accordance with the rotation policy it is expected that UNSD will be the next chair.

4. Next ISWGNA meeting

The date of the next meeting will be decided in due course.