

ISWGNA Meeting

19 February 2021

Minutes

Participants: Ivo Havinga (Chair), Herman Smith, Benson Sim and Jonathan Gessendorfer (UNSD); Nicola Massarelli (EUROSTAT); Jim Tebrake, (IMF); Peter van de Ven and Jorrit Zwijnenburg (OECD); Catherine van Rompaey and Eric Metreau (World Bank); Tihomira Dimova and Rami Peltola (UNECE)

The key conclusions of the meeting are as follows:

I. Draft notes on the SNA update programme

1. The ISWGNA discussed the following revised draft notes on the SNA update programme:

a. Editorial process and funding strategy for the update of the 2008 SNA

Participants agreed on the following:

- The budget for the editorial process is expected to be for four years, from the third quarter 2021 to third quarter of 2025.
- For the editorial process the neutrality of the editor should be ensured, and the funding needs be cost effective with appropriate accountability.
- To ensure neutrality and expand the pool of candidates for the post of lead editor, an assessment of the alternative hiring arrangements such as a contractor rather than an employee should be explored.
- As the pace of the work is likely to accelerate in the latter half of the update process, the lead editor can be initially hired on a part-time basis and then a full-time basis later on.
- The guidance notes are final deliverables to be published in addition to the SNA. The lead editor will work together with the members of the editorial team to refine the guidance notes and ensure coherence within and between the GNs (work to be undertaken in consultation with the TT) in a format that is ready for publication.
- UNSD and Eurostat will circulate revised versions of the notes respectively on the funding strategy and on the editorial process, with proposed tracked changes reflecting the above conclusions, for consideration by the other members of the ISWGNA:NA. After that, the revised notes and the budget will be discussed at the upcoming ISWGNA:MG meeting on 24 February 2021.

b. Strategy for experimentation and testing of the recommendations for the update of the 2008 SNA and Monitoring the progress of the project on the update of the 2008 SNA and BPM6

- Participants approved the revised notes.

II. Joint AEG/ISWGNA meeting

2. Participants agreed on the following:

- To organize the meeting later in March 2021 to allow more time for preparations.
- Given the online format of the meeting, the meeting does not need to be organised on consecutive days.
- The secretariats of the task teams will coordinate with the chairs of their task teams to confirm the list of papers to be presented at the meeting.
- The digital SUT guidance note will be submitted for endorsement for global consultation. In this regard, guidance notes which have been endorsed by the AEG/ISWGNA for global consultation will be circulated to the national accounts community by UNSD and, where appropriate, to the BOP community by the IMF as well. Where appropriate, other ISWGNA members can also circulate the guidance notes to their respective constituencies for comments. The cover letters for these global consultations will also request the various communities to circulate the guidance notes to their user communities and other agencies in their statistical system for comments.
- It was suggested to put all guidance notes for global consultation, including comments and discussion, at a centralised digital workspace, similar to what is done for the update of BPM6.
- UNSD will propose revised dates for the meeting, taking into account the dates of the meetings of the IFTT and feedback on the availability of the papers.

III. Oral introduction for the report of the ISWGNA to the United Nations Statistical Commission

3. Participants will provide their comments on the oral introduction by 24 February.

IV. Frequency of future meetings of the ISWGNA/Task Teams

4. UNSD will propose a schedule of more frequent ISWGNA meetings.

V. Any other business

5. UNSD will make available the finalized summaries of ISWGNA meetings after October 2019 on the ISWGNA meetings webpage.
6. The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board expressed their interest to participate in the SNA update programme and will submit a formal request to the Secretariat.