



The 1993 SNA Update

Workshop on Statistics of International
Trade in Services
(Beirut, 14-17 December 2004)

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Overview

- Introduction
- Criteria for approving the issues to be updated
- Governance structure
- Timetable
- Update of other economic statistics standards

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Introduction

- UNSC charged ISWGNA with responsibility for the update of the SNA in February 2003
- UNSC approved the work programme in February 2004
- Work began in early 2003, Canberra II Group was established (first meeting in April 2003)

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Introduction (cont.)

- Principal goals of the ISWGNA:
 - Product that meets the needs of NSOs and users
 - Efficient update process - release of updated SNA in 2008
 - Maximum involvement by all interested parties throughout the process
 - Transparent management process
 - Perfect consistency with BPM and maximum consistency with GFSM

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Introduction (cont.)

- A very important tool for achieving these goals is the UNSD website, which includes:
 - The work programme
 - A list of the issues with short description
 - Issue papers already considered by AEG
 - Issue papers awaiting discussion
 - Minutes of AEG and ISWGNA meetings
 - Comments on issue papers

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Criteria for selection of issues

- No fundamental change the 1993 SNA;
- Take into consideration implementation aspects in countries;
- Issues emerging in the new economic environment;
- Issues widely demanded by users;
- Old issues rejected in the 1993 revision process but have economic significance and/or for which methodological research may justify a different treatment;
- Any recommendation for change should be assessed for consistency with the rest of the SNA and related manuals (e.g. BPM, GFSM, etc.);
- Any recommendation should address the implementation aspects in countries.

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Issues selected

- 44 issues were selected at the first AEG meeting and other consultations
- Examples relevant for TIS:
 - *Residence*
 - *Definition of units*
 - *Merchandising and goods processed abroad*

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Governance structure

- Main players are: ISWGNA:NA, ISWGN:MG, AEG, Canberra II and other city groups, wide consultation
- ISWGNA: National Accountants is responsible for managing and coordinating the updating process supported by project manager and editor
- ISWGNA: Management Group Senior management of the five ISWGNA agencies provides collective oversight (UN, IMF, WB, OECD, EC)
- United Nations Statistics Division is the Secretariat of the ISWGNA

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Advisory Expert Group (AEG)

- 20 members from NSOs + ISWGNA
- Takes decision on technical and substantive issues
- Deliberates on the recommendations of the expert groups (city groups, EDG, etc.) and proposes a final recommendation
- AEG members to consult in-country and at (sub)-regional level

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Wide spread consultation

- Regional meetings organized in cooperation with Regional Commissions
- Consultations with NSO and Central Banks (after AEG deliberations comments are solicited from NSOs - 60 days)

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Timetable

- February 2004 AEG meeting at IMF, Washington DC
- December 2004 AEG meeting at UN, New York
- November 2005 AEG Meeting
- May 2006 AEG meeting
- October 2007 AEG meeting
- Statistical Commission – March 2008

- Regional Commissions meeting in 2004 - 2007
- Each meeting of AEG is followed by Member States' consultations
- In-country consultations of stakeholders encouraged and supported upon request in 2004 and 2005

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Updates of other economic statistics standards

- Manual of Statistics on International Trade in Services (expected completion 2009)
- Tourism Satellite Accounts (expected completion 2008)
- Link between National accounting and Business Accounting
- Manual on the Measurement of Capital Stock

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