

Summary report of the Global Consultation on the Handbook on Economic Tendency Surveys

1. The draft Handbook on Economic Tendency Surveys was prepared as part of an international programme of work on short terms economic statistics, which includes four thematic areas, namely Business cycle composite indicators, Economic tendency surveys, Rapid estimates and Data template and analytical indicators.
2. The draft Handbook on Economic Tendency Surveys was drafted by a working group comprising the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), KOF-ETH Zürich, the National Statistical Coordination Board Philippines, CBS Netherlands and the United Nations Statistics Division. The working group was led by ISTAT.
3. A Global Consultation on the handbook was carried out during the period from 28 July 2014 to 29 August 2014. To facilitate the consultation a comment form was prepared.
4. A total of 65 responses¹ were received from countries/areas (56) and international/regional organizations (7). Note that not all the responses were received through the comment form and therefore they were not included in the summary statistics in Table 1. However, the comments were included in the summary below where appropriate.
5. Overall there was a strong support for the Handbook: the responses were extremely positive and a number of useful comments were received. A summary of the responses to the global consultation is provided below and it is organized according to the order of the questions in the comments form. The list of countries/areas and organizations that participated in the Global Consultation is provided in the Annex I while the comments form is provided in Annex II.

Table 1: Summary of the responses that were received to the questions

	Yes		No	
	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number
Question 1: Do you consider that the Handbook provides useful recommendations on Economic Tendency Surveys?	100	53	0	0
Question 2: Do you agree with the recommendations provided in the handbook?	100	53	0	0
Question 3: Overall do you consider the structure of the handbook clear and coherent?	100	53	0	0
Question 6: Do you consider the Handbook ready for publication, subject to the incorporation of the comments made during this global review?	98	52	2	1

Summary of comments to Question 1: “Do you consider that the Handbook provides useful recommendations on Economic Tendency Surveys?”

6. Overall the comments were very positive. Respondents welcomed the handbook and its recommendations and noted the comprehensive coverage of the topics and the usefulness of the

¹ As of 21 October 2014.

recommendations provided in the handbook dealing with the whole aspects of the statistical production process: from sample design, to data collection, data processing, data validation and dissemination. Some respondents noted, however, that the handbook often makes reference to the experience from EU countries giving the impression that it is mainly designed for advanced statistical systems. It was suggested to include references or examples from non EU countries and describe how shortcomings could possibly be overcome in countries with a less advanced statistical system.

Summary of comments to Question 2: “Do you agree with the recommendations provided in the handbook?”

7. The large majority of the comments agreed with the recommendations provided in the handbook mentioning that they cover all the phases of the statistical production processes and they can be adapted to local circumstances. Some respondents suggested that the text could elaborate more on issues relating to countries with less developed statistical systems and poor data quality, in the case, for example, of how informed economic agents are in the absence of economic data (and therefore, how valuable are ETS in these economies); and how qualitative indicators should be assessed in the absence of supporting quantitative data. Also it was suggested that the text could elaborate on the case when there is a large informal economy.

Summary of comments to Question 3: “Overall do you consider the structure of the handbook clear and coherent?”

8. All respondents agreed that the current structure of the handbook is clear, coherent and easy to follow. Some provided suggestions for improvement such as, for example, providing the set of recommendations in a box/table in order to serve as a quick reference for compilers; providing the list of references at the end rather than by chapter; providing in chapter 1 a brief overview on how the economic tendency surveys are used.

Question 4 Chapter-specific comments

9. A number of chapter-specific technical and editorial comments and/or proposals for revision were provided through the comment form. They will be addressed in the revised draft of the handbook.

Summary of comments to Question 5: “Do you have any additional comments on the handbook?”

10. While most of the respondents to this question simply provided positive remarks on the current draft handbook, a number of useful comments were also provided including for example: a close review of the text to ensure that the language is aligned and consistent with that of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA); and the classification references should be to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Rev.4.

Summary of comments to Question 6: “Do you consider the Handbook ready for publication, subject to the incorporation of the comments made during this global review?”

11. Overall there was a strong support for the handbook: 98 per cent of the respondents considered the Handbook ready for publication subject to the incorporation of the comments received through the global consultation.

Annex I: List of countries and organizations responding to the Global Consultation

1	Afghanistan
2	Albania
3	Algeria
4	Armenia
5	Azerbaijan
6	Belarus
7	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
8	Brazil
9	Canada
10	Chile
11	China
12	China, Hong Kong SAR
13	China, Macao SAR
14	Comoros
15	Croatia
16	Denmark
17	Egypt
18	Germany
19	Ghana
20	Guam
21	Honduras
22	Indonesia
23	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
24	Israel
25	Japan
26	Jordan
27	Kuwait
28	Mexico
29	Mongolia
30	Montserrat
31	Mozambique
32	Norway
33	Paraguay
34	Poland

35	Qatar
36	Republic of Korea
37	Republic of Moldova
38	Romania
39	Russian Federation
40	Saudi Arabia
41	Sierra Leone
42	Singapore
43	Slovenia
44	South Sudan
45	Sri Lanka
46	State of Palestine
47	Sweden
48	Thailand
49	Togo
50	United Arab Emirates
51	Ukraine
52	United Kingdom
53	United States of America
54	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
55	Vietnam
56	Zanzibar (Tanzania)
57	Southern African Development Community
58	Eurostat
59	AITRS
60	UNIDO
61	IMF
62	Statistical Center for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat)
63	UNSD

Annex II: Comment form

Comments form on the Handbook on Economic Tendency Surveys

This comments form has been designed to facilitate the global review of the draft *Handbook on Economic Tendency Survey* (referred to as ‘the Handbook’). This is an unedited draft of the Handbook which was prepared by a working group comprising the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), KOF-ETH Zürich, the National Statistical Coordination Board Philippines, CBS Netherlands and the United Nations Statistics Division. The working group was led by ISTAT.

The draft Handbook and the comments form are available on the United Nations Statistics Division’s website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/gc.asp>.

Please send your comments by completing the form below and returning it to sna@un.org by **Friday, 29 August 2014**.

Your contact information:

Country:	
Institution:	
Contact person:	
Phone:	E-mail:
Other contact person:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Questions

1. Do you consider that the Handbook provides useful recommendations on Economic Tendency Surveys?

Yes No

Comment:

Click here and start typing

2. Do you agree with the recommendations provided in the handbook?

Yes **No**

Comment:

Click here and start typing

3. Overall do you consider the structure of the handbook clear and coherent?

Yes **No**

Comment:

Click here and start typing

4. Please provide any chapter-specific technical and editorial comments and/or proposals for revision in the space provided below.

Comment:

Chapter 1. Introduction:

Click here and start typing

Chapter 2. Constructing ETS: scope:

Click here and start typing

Chapter 3. The questionnaire design:

Click here and start typing

Chapter 4. Survey frame and sample design:

Click here and start typing

Chapter 5. Estimation procedures:

Click here and start typing

Chapter 6. Data collection:

Click here and start typing

Chapter 7. Managing sources of non-sampling errors:

Click here and start typing

Chapter 8. Processing tendency survey data:

Click here and start typing

Chapter 9. Data dissemination and publication:

Click here and start typing

Chapter 10. Use of tendency survey results:

Click here and start typing

5. Do you have any additional comments on the handbook?

Click here and start typing

6. Do you consider the Handbook ready for publication, subject to the incorporation of the comments made during this global review?

Yes No

Comment:

Click here and start typing

Thank you!