

ISWGNA Meeting

OECD, Paris 26 October 2016

Minutes

Participants: John Verrinder (Eurostat), Claudia Dziobek (IMF, Chair), Peter van de Ven, Jennifer Ribarsky, Jorrit Zwijnenburg (OECD), Benson Sim, Ilaria DiMatteo (UNSD), Tihomira Dimova (UNECE), Barbro Hexeberg (World Bank).

1. Report of the ISWGNA to the United Nations Statistics Commission

The ISWGNA agreed on the structure of the ISWGNA report to the UNSC which was circulated by UNSD prior to the meeting. The structure of the report will be similar to that in previous years, covering: the activities of the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts, progress with the research agenda on practical issues of implementation of the 2008 SNA, and an update on the finalization of publications supporting the implementation of the 2008 SNA. It will also provide the work programme of the Working Group and of the regional commissions, an update on the scope and timeliness of the implementation of SNA at the country level, and an update on the international coordination of regional and global data collection and data exchange activities.

The deadlines for the contributions to the report by ISGWNA members (23 November) and the final submission of the report to the UNSC (2 December) were indicated during the meeting.

2. ISWGNA Side event at the United Nations Statistics Commission

The ISWGNA agreed to organize a side event during the UNSC on the topic of “Globalization - Challenges for national accounts”. UNSD will make the arrangements for the event.

3. AEG

The 11th Meeting of the AEG will tentatively take place in the second half of 2017. The ISWGNA also discussed the AEG membership and the filling of the two vacant positions. At this stage, however, the ISWGNA agreed not to make any change until further consultation takes place.

4. SNA News and Notes

The ISWGNA discussed possible topics for the upcoming issues of the SNA News and Notes. In particular, it agreed that a summary of the IMF-OECD paper on the digital economy (OECD) be included in the December 2016 issue. A note on Chain Linking (IMF) and a note on distributional information within national accounts (OECD, Eurostat) will be included in the March 2017 issue. Other topics for the SNA News and Notes include: single deflation (IMF), pension issues (OECD/Eurostat), statistical units (OECD), linkages of micro-macro data, and impact of globalization in practice.

5. Pensions

The paper on “The accrual recording of property income in the case of liabilities between a sponsor and a defined benefit pension fund” was circulated for comments during the months of September and October, and a number of comments were provided by ISWGNA members. There are still some outstanding issues concerning how to calculate the property income flow and how to record this flow. Bilateral discussion between OECD and UNSD will take place to address these issues and a revised draft will be circulated to the ISWGNA before it is being circulated to the AEG members for comments.

6. Update on various items

The ISWGNA took note of the upcoming meeting of the UN Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics, which will take place in New York, from 29 November to 1 December 2016.

The ISWGNA also discussed the launching of the Task Force on Statistical Units. OECD will be in contact with UNSD, as the Secretariat of the ISWGNA, to send out invitations to countries to become part of the Task Force.

The ISWGNA also reviewed the draft “GDP Compilation: A simplified manual” by the African Development Bank. The group took note that the main objective of the document is to provide simplified guidance on compiling national accounts in the region in accordance with the recommendations of the 2008 SNA and its intended use for training purposes. IMF will coordinate a response from the ISWGNA.

7. Other business

The revised COICOP was circulated for comments to the ISWGNA, with a deadline of 26 November 2016 for providing comments and suggestions. Some ISWGNA members had already provided comments.

The OECD will be in contact with UNSD with regard to the global consultation on the OECD Guide for measuring inventories.

8. The next ISWGNA meeting

The date for the next ISWGNA meeting will be decided electronically.