

ISWGNA Management Group meeting

15 June 2022

Minutes

Participants:

Paul Schreyer (Chair), Sarah Barahona (OECD), Stefan Schweinfest, Herman Smith (UNSD), Mariana Kotzeva (Eurostat), Jim Tebrake (IMF), Haishan Fu, Nada Hamadeh, Catherine Van Rompaey (World Bank), Peter van de Ven (Lead editor), and Peter Harper (Project manager)

The ISWGNA:MG:

Adopted the agenda for the meeting and approved the minutes of the meeting on 22 February 2022.

1. Status of progress of the SNA update project

a) Progress report

Welcomed the progress report on the SNA update project and thanked everybody who is working so conscientiously and continuously on moving the updating of the macroeconomic economic standards forward.

Noted that the update programme is on track and emphasized the need to involve developing countries in the update process, particularly in respect of the experimentation and testing of the new recommendations.

b) Project manager report

Welcomed the update from the project manager, agreed that really good progress has been made which speaks to the efforts of the whole team, and noted that there are currently no showstoppers or red flags.

Welcomed the practical implementation of the parallel process between the SNA and the BOPCOM which is carried out in a good spirit of collaboration and noted that when the experimentation and testing of recommendations show that their implementation is not feasible the default position would be not to change the SNA.

Stressed that the stakeholder engagement plan is useful, and emphasised the need for managing expectations about what the updated SNA will be able to do, particularly in the areas of wellbeing and sustainability, because there will be a good contribution, but it won't resolve all the issues.

c) Editor report

Welcomed the update from the lead editor on the editorial process, including the engagement of the supporting editors and noted not only the good progress, but also that it is a very inclusive process.

Noted the developments related to beyond GDP measures initiated by the United Nations Secretary General and stress that wellbeing measurement has a long history, which are now being addressed at the global level and that beyond GDP starts with GDP.

2. Return to in-person AEG meetings

Logistics: Noted that the 21st AEG meeting is scheduled to be an in-person meeting from 17 to 20 October 2022, 20 October will be a joint AEG/BOPCOM meeting, the editorial team will also meet in person during that week, and the meetings will be hosted by the World Bank.

Governance issues: Agreed that UNSD will chair the joint AEG/BOPCOM meeting and that UNSD would send, in due course, formal invitations to AEG members to attend in their personal capacity.

3. The budget for the update project

Noted that the World Bank finalised the establishment of the Global Data Facility fund which include a dedicated trust fund for the SNA update programme, the overall budget has not changed, pledged contributions, which need to be confirmed on a yearly basis, covers the expenses of the editorial team, and that additional fund raising is required to support developing countries with experimentation and testing and facilitate the publishing of the 2025 SNA.

4. Other matters

Noted the good progress with the organization of the Eurostat-UNSD Conference on the Update of Macroeconomic Statistics Standards on 9 and 10 November 2022 in Brussels, and the opportunity for further user consultations on the SNA update at the upcoming conferences of the IARIW in August 2022 and the World Statistical Congress of the ISI in July 2023.

Agreed that the next meeting of the ISWGNA:MG will be scheduled in due course, probably to be held in late November.