

**The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics**  
**The third meeting**  
**4-6 February, Vienna, Austria**

## **Report**

### **Contents**

1. Summary of opening statements
2. Findings and conclusions
  - 2.1 General
  - 2.2 Scope of official energy statistics
  - 2.3 Scope and contents of IRES and ESCM
  - 2.4 Organization of the revision process
  - 2.5 Guiding principles for IRES preparation
  - 2.6 Selected issues of energy statistics
  - 2.7 Follow-up actions and activities prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group
3. Time and place of the next meeting
4. Agenda
5. List of participants

### **1. Summary of the opening statements**

The meeting was opened by Prof. Peter Hackl, Director General Statistics Austria. In his welcome address Mr. Hackl pointed out that Statistics Austria has a long tradition of working in various areas of statistics dating back to 1828. Statistics Austria has compiled energy statistics for decades and developed energy balances back in the 50's. Austria is rich in natural resources and, although still relying on traditional sources of energy, is promoting the development of renewable energy sources like hydropower and wood pellets. In this context Mr. Hackl stressed that the updating of international recommendations on energy statistics is a very important task and wished the Oslo Group to have a successful meeting and pleasant stay in Vienna.

In his opening statement Mr. Olav Ljones, Chair of the Oslo Group and Deputy Director General of Statistics Norway, warmly welcomed all participants to the Third meeting of the Oslo Group with special greetings to the newcomers. He stressed the importance of energy in the economy with consequences in terms of income difference and climate change and pointed to the meeting on Climate Change and Official Statistics to be held in Oslo in April 2008. He also mentioned the work of the London Group on Environmental-Economic Accounting and the importance of cooperation and exchange of findings between the London Group and the Oslo Group. He quoted the agreement between him and the chair of the London Group. Mr. Ljones

emphasized that the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Oslo Group is a continuation of the work done during the previous two meetings of the group and wished participants fruitful deliberations during the next three days.

In her inauguration remarks Ms. Martina Schuster, Head of Division, Environmental Economics, Energy Policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Affairs, stressed the importance of good quality energy statistics in the combat against climate change. She talked about sharing of burdens, both in effort and connected with monetary burdens and monetary flows. She stated that updating of the handbooks on energy statistics is important. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Affairs offered the participants of the meeting a city tour on Tuesday.

The meeting proceeded according to the agenda and was attended by 45 participants. Section 5 of this report contains the list of participants.

## **2. Findings and conclusions**

The Oslo Group:

### **2.1 General**

1. Expressed appreciation of the Statistics Austria hospitality, excellent logistical support as well as the valuable contributions by its staff to the discussion of the substantive issues;
2. Welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation for the papers and presentations prepared for the meeting in accordance with the agreement reached in New Delhi during the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Oslo Group;
3. Urged participants to use more actively the electronic discussion forum created by the Oslo Group Secretariat.

### **2.2 Scope of official energy statistics**

4. Confirmed that the Oslo Group should take a holistic approach to energy statistics to ensure its firm placing as a part of official statistics. This implies continuation of work on basic energy statistics, energy balances and energy accounts. All three are important in their own right and should be seen as complementary;
5. Concluded that strengthening of energy statistics as an effective part of official statistics does not necessarily mean that more of them have to be produced by a centralised national statistical office. Many national solutions can be used. The main point is that the quality principles for the production of official statistics are followed for energy statistics;
6. Encouraged transparency in principles and legal foundation for coordinating official energy statistics in a decentralized system.
7. Agreed in this connection that the quality dimensions should be clearly articulated and promoted in the revised international recommendations;

8. Welcomed the UNSD report on Global Assessment of Energy Statistics and Balances and highlighted the importance of describing the roles of national statistical offices and other national agencies in compilation of the energy statistics;
9. Agreed that during the current revision process the Oslo Group should give priority to basic energy statistics and balances as the most needed for policy making in majority of countries and providing the basis for further analysis and compilation of energy accounts;
10. Concluded that more attention should be paid to the needs and capabilities of developing countries and welcomed the UNSD initiative to organize an International Workshop on Energy Statistics (tentatively Q4 2008) to provide an additional opportunity for developing countries to express their views and propose solutions to the issues under discussion (see also Section 2.4);
11. Confirmed that the Oslo Group will be active in the work on energy accounts and cooperate in this respect with the London Group on Environmental Accounting based on the understanding expressed in a joint letter by Chairs of the Oslo Group and the London Group and under the coordination of the UN Committee of Expert on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA);

### **2.3 Scope of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES) and the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM)**

12. Endorsed the UNSD proposal to develop *International Recommendations for Energy Statistics* (IRES) and to submit IRES to the UN Statistical Commission for adoption at its 41<sup>st</sup> session (2010); the Group recognized, however, that the time schedule is very tight and effective work of all members will be required to meet the deadline;
13. Agreed that IRES should focus on basic energy statistics and energy balances;
14. Concluded that a follow-up publication *Energy Statistics Compilers Manual* (ESCM) should be prepared as soon as possible (ideally by the end of 2010) to provide additional guidance to data compilers by describing good practices and discussing technical matters not covered in IRES (requested UNSD to prepare an initial outline of ESCM and present it to the 4<sup>th</sup> Oslo Group meeting);
15. Requested UNSD to amend the draft outline of IRES presented at the meeting to reflect the views of the Group expressed during the meeting and to submit it for electronic discussion on the Oslo Group Electronic Discussion Forum;
16. Agreed that such topics as basic concepts, definitions, classifications, statistical units and data items covering flows and stocks as well as data sources, data collection, data compilation strategies, institutional arrangements, data quality, metadata, institutional arrangements, and dissemination (including core tables) should be addressed in IRES in order to provide a firm foundation for energy statistics as a part of official statistics;
17. Welcomed the InterEnerStat commitment to actively participate in preparation of IRES and, in particular, welcomed the IEA work on harmonization of definitions of energy products;

18. Concluded that IRES should contain a chapter on bridging energy balances and energy accounts. Took note, in this connection, that UNSD plans to prepare a complementary document *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy* (SEEA-E) which will provide the international statistical standard for energy accounts.
19. Was informed by UNSD that the current UN handbooks on energy statistics have been converted from pdf- to word- format in order to facilitate the use of the text in the issue papers of the Oslo Group and the drafting of IRES. The documents will be made available on the Oslo Group Electronic Discussion Forum by April 2008.

#### **2.4 Organization of the revision process**

20. Welcomed the UNSD role to: coordinate the revision process, consolidate and edit inputs into the successive versions of the draft IRES and ESCM;
21. Agreed that preparation of IRES should include the following:
  - a) Preparation of an annotated outline of the IRES and a list of issues for a worldwide consultation (end of March 2008);
  - b) Worldwide consultation with countries on the outline and list of issues (April-May 2008);
  - c) Conduct of an International Workshop on Energy Statistics to focus on the user needs and data collection capabilities, especially of the developing countries (Q4 of 2008);
  - d) Preparation of the first version of IRES and its review by the 4th meeting of the Oslo Group (February 2009);
  - e) Review of the first version of IRES by InterEnerStat at its next meeting
  - f) Worldwide consultation on the provisional draft IRES (May-June 2009);
  - g) Preparation of the amended draft of IRES, its review and endorsement by the UN Expert Group on Energy Statistics [Q4, 2009]; and
  - h) Submission of the final draft of IRES to the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission for adoption (December 2009).
22. The International Workshop on Energy Statistics will be an important milestone to take stock of the progress in the preparation of IRES.

#### **2.5 Guiding principles for the preparation of IRES**

23. The Oslo Group agreed that the preparation of IRES will be guided, inter alia, by the following principles:
  - (i) needs of major user groups should be considered as a starting point and be taken into account to the maximum extent possible to ensure that the compiled data are policy relevant, meet the needs of the energy community (both

- producers and users) and provide a solid foundation for integration of energy statistics into a broader accounting framework;
- (ii) the revision should be conducted in close consultation with both national statistical offices and national energy agencies as well as with the relevant international and supranational organizations;
  - (iii) while providing recommendations on data items and their definitions care should be taken that (a) necessary data sources are available in at least some countries to compile such data, (b) collection of such data items will not create significant additional reporting burden, and (c) collection procedures can be implemented by most countries to ensure improved cross-country comparability;
  - (iv) the revision should be seen in the context of promoting an integrated approach in the national statistical system which requires, to the extent possible, the use of harmonized concepts, classifications, and standardized data compilation methods in order to achieve maximum efficiency and minimize reporting burden;
  - (v) additional guidance on more practical/technical matters to assist countries in the implementation of IRES should be treated in ESCM. During the revision process, the Oslo Group will decide on what will be covered in ESCM and to what extent.

## **2.6 Selected issues of energy statistics**

The Oslo Group:

- 24. Welcomed the papers prepared for the meeting and, in general, to facilitate the discussion, recommended that, for the next meeting, issue papers be prepared in such a way that they cover: the treatment of the specific issue in the UN handbooks on energy statistics; current treatment in countries and in other energy statistics manuals (in particular the IEA/Eurostat manual); and suggested recommendations on how to solve the specific issue;
- 25. Took note on the template for Best Practices prepared by Statistics Norway and encouraged countries to provide comments on the template and to submit their country practices to the Oslo Group Electronic Discussion Forum.
- 26. Recommended that IRES will cover concepts and methods for wood pellets, firewood and biomass, given their increased consumption in several countries in the recent years.
- 27. Agreed that basics concepts and laws of thermodynamics should guide statisticians in their discussion of various conceptual and data compilation issues and their importance and acknowledgment should be included in IRES;
- 28. Agreed that there is a need to develop clear definitions and classifications for renewable and non-renewable energy sources. In addition, issues related to the classifications/definitions may need to be addressed taking into consideration

- environmental issues (for example, in the case of municipal waste or any waste from potentially unsustainable use of biomass and/or unclear mixed use of fossil fuels and renewables);
29. Took note of the presentation on the net v.s. gross calorific values which compared the recommendations on the subject in the UN handbooks with those used by IEA and IPCC. The Oslo Group agreed that the default calorific values and gross/net ration should be reviewed taking into account work done by IEA in harmonizing calorific values for OECD countries;
  30. Took note of the presentation on solar energy and, in general, agreed that there is a need to review reporting practices in solar heaters and solar energy heat pumps. In the case of solar thermal power plant (STPG), it was suggested that the heat produced would form the primary production and that the gross electricity and heat (if delivered/used) generated from the heat would form the secondary production;
  31. Took note of the presentation on tracking and accounting nuclear energy. The Group recognized that the tracking/accounting for the full nuclear fuel cycle is too detailed and falls outside the scope of IRES. A proposal for the scope of nuclear fuels in IRES will have to be developed in close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.
  32. Took note on the statistical treatment of heat pumps in Sweden and concluded that a review of country practices is needed for the formulation of recommendations in IRES. Country practices in the statistical treatment of heat-pumps will be an important contribution to ESCM;
  33. Welcomed the concept of a common energy statistics questionnaire among international organization (for example, with customized modules for selected regions) to reduce response burden to countries. The Oslo Group encouraged IEA and UNSD to work towards it;
  34. Recognized that the terminology used in energy statistics and in other area of official statistics (for example, in national accounts) may not be fully consistent. The Group recognized that, although ideal, a common terminology may not be achievable in practice. To this respect, it was recommended that IRES contain clear definitions and consistent usage of terms as well as links of terminology used in basic energy statistics with that in other areas of official statistics especially for terms which have a contextual meaning (e.g. the term “stock” has different definitions in energy balances and energy accounts);
  35. Recognized the importance in the preparation of IRES of harmonized definitions and encouraged IEA and UNSD to give this the highest priority; In this respect, the Oslo Group welcomed the offer from IEA to review the definition of energy products from various international organizations (available on InterEnerStat website) and prepare a proposal for harmonization;
  36. Recognized the importance of taking into account in the harmonization of definitions the legal definitions when they exist;
  37. Recognized that building a common system of energy supply and use data (database/data warehouse) to address needs of all users is an example of a good

practice: countries may wish to follow subject to their needs, resources and institutional framework; the Oslo Group supported the view that a more detailed elaboration of such a system should be described in ESCM;

38. Concluded that developing bridge tables between energy balances and energy accounts/national accounts is an important part of the Oslo Group work programme and expressed appreciation of the work done in this direction by Austria, Netherlands and Norway; further contributions are encouraged. It was agreed that a sub-group of the Oslo Group be established to work on this matter. The sub-group will contribute to the work of the drafting group of the *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy* (SEEA-E) with focus on bridge tables. A more elaborated exposition of good practices in this area will be part of the ESCM;
39. Discussed principles for dissemination. Users should be treated equally when it comes to access to statistics and the dissemination should be user friendly.
40. Encouraged the UNSD to evaluate alternatives for online publication of the IRES and ESCM that would facilitate online reading.

### **2.7 Follow-up actions up to 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2009**

41. Requested that UNSD in cooperation with the Oslo Group Secretariat prepare an amended outline of IRES together with a list of issues for the global consultation and place them on the Oslo Group Electronic Discussion Forum (by end of March 2008) for further discussion with the Group and finalization (by mid April 2008);
42. Appreciated the UNSD invitation to attend the International Workshop on Energy Statistics and encouraged individual members to participate in the Workshop;
43. Agreed that the Oslo Group Secretariat, in cooperation with UNSD, will compile by the end of March 2008 a draft list of tasks for the members of the Group for comments. The list of tasks will consist of a list of issues to be addressed in issue papers by member of the Group by September 2008. The papers will be the basis for discussion during the International Workshop on Energy Statistics (Q4 2008) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Oslo Group meeting.
44. Agreed to focus the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group to review of the draft IRES.

### **3. Time and place of the next meeting**

45. Accepted with thanks the invitation of Statistics Canada to hold the fourth meeting of the Oslo Group in Ottawa, Canada on 2.-4. February 2009.

## Agenda

### Monday 4 February

#### 8:30- 9:15: Registration

#### 9:15-10:00: Session 1: Inauguration

- a. Welcome address  
Prof. Peter Hackl, Director General, Statistics Austria
- b. Opening address from the chair of the Oslo Group  
Mr. Olav Ljones, Chair of the Oslo Group, Deputy Director General, Statistics Norway
- c. Inauguration  
Mrs. Martina Schuster, Head of Division Environmental Economics, Energy Policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Affairs

#### 10:00-12:00: Session 2: Revision of UNSD handbooks and manuals on energy statistics

*Chair: Mr. Wolfgang Bittermann*

- a. Status of the work in the Oslo Group  
- [Presentation](#)  
Mr. Atle Tostensen, Senior Adviser, Secretariat leader for the Oslo Group, Statistics Norway
- b. International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES): the revision process, guiding principles, scope and contents  
- [Presentation](#)  
- [Paper](#)  
Mr. Vladimir Markhonko, Chief of Trade Statistics Branch United Nations Statistical Division
- c. Scope of energy accounts in the revised SEEA and SEEA-E and suggested issue list on energy accounts  
- [Presentation](#)  
Mr. Vladimir Markhonko, Chief of Trade Statistics Branch United Nations Statistical Division
- d. Electronic searchable solution for the new manuals  
- [Presentation](#)  
Ms. Sara Øvergaard, Senior Executive Officer, Statistics Norway

#### 12:00-13:00: Lunch offered by Statistics Austria

#### 13:00-14:00: Session 3: Austria's Energy Statistics

*Chair: Ms. Sara Øvergaard*

- a. Join all forces: the successful cooperation between data providers, statistics compilers, and statistics users in Austria  
- [Presentation](#)  
Mr. Wolfgang Bittermann, Head of Energy Statistics, Statistics Austria



- b. Austrian Statistics on Electricity and Gas
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Mr. Hans Nischkauer, Energie-Control GmbH
- c. Austrian Air Emission Inventory - Use of Energy Statistics
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Mr. Stephan Poupa, Environmental Agency
- d. Use of energy statistics data in environment statistics
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Mr. Sacha Baud, Statistician, Statistics Austria

**14:00-15:45: Session 4: Background, settings, borderline and conceptual framework**

*Chair: Mr. Olav Ljones*

- a. From Concepts and Methods in energy statistics to IRES: Purposes and organization of a worldwide consultation
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper I](#)
  - [Paper II](#)
  - Mr. Vladimir Markhonko, Chief of Trade Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistical Division
- b. Proposal for definitions
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper](#)
  - Mr. Atle Tostensen, Senior Adviser, Secretariat leader for the Oslo Group, Statistics Norway
- c. Thermodynamics for energy statisticians
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper](#)
  - Mr. Paul Westin, Head of Unit, Swedish Energy Agency

**15:45-17:00: Session 5: Best practice**

*Chair: Ms. Ilaria DiMatteo*

- a. Best practice template
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Template](#)
  - Ms. Sara Øvergaard, Senior Executive Officer, Statistics Norway
- b. The Danish Wood Pellet Survey
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Mr. Peter Dal, Senior Advisor, Danish Energy Authority
- c. Organizational structure of energy statistics in the Russian Federation
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper](#)
  - Mr. Alexander Goncharov, Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Statistics and International Cooperation, Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat)

**19:00 Organized dinner (at your own expense, registration Monday morning)**

## **Tuesday 5 February**

### **9:00-12:00: Session 6: Define scopes of official energy statistics**

*Chair: Ms. Maria Mantcheva*

- a. The scope of official energy statistics
  - Presentation
  - [Paper](#)Mr. Olav Ljones, Chair of the Oslo Group, Deputy Director General, Statistics Norway
- b. Results of the Global Assessment of Energy Statistics and Balances
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper](#)Ms. Ilaria DiMatteo, Statistician, Energy Statistics Section, United Nations Statistical Division
- c. Requirements, methodologies and data collection strategies on energy statistics
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper](#)Mr. Carlos Roberto López-Pérez, Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Statistics, National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics
- d. Data collection issues and procedures
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper](#)Mr. P. K. Ray, Additional Director General, Central Statistical Organization
- e. Quality control and assurance
  - [Presentation](#)Mr. Justin Lacroix, Assistant Director, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division, Statistics Canada
- f. Dissemination
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper](#)Mr. Martin Howley, Manager, Energy Policy Statistical Support Unit, Sustainable Energy Ireland

**12:00-13:00: Lunch (at your own expense)**

### **13:00-14:45: Session 7: Users' needs**

*Chair: Mr. Jean-Yves Garnier*

- a. Users needs
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper I, National Accounts](#)
  - [Paper II, Emissions Inventory](#)Ms. Jun Elin Wiik Toutain, Senior Adviser, Statistics Norway

- b. London Group and Environmental Accounting
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Mr. Mark de Haan, Chair London Group on Environmental Accounting, Statistics Netherlands
- c. Energy accounts and environmental economic instruments
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper](#)
  - Ms. Viveka Palm, Coordinator environmental accounts, SCB

**14:45-15:30: Session 10: Definitions and conversion factors**

*Chair: Mr. Justin Lacroix*

- a. Status of the InterEnerStat Work with focus on Harmonisation
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Mr. Jean-Yves Garnier, Head of Energy Statistics Division, IEA
- b. Gross and net calorific value
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Ms. Karen Treanton, Head of section for annual statistics and balances, energy prices and taxes, energy statistics division, IEA

**18:15-21:00: Sightseeing in Vienna offered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Affairs. Snacks will be served**

**Wednesday 6 February**

**9:00-11:30: Session 8: Basic energy statistics**

*Chair: Mr. Anders Jönsson*

- a. Geothermal energy
  - [Presentation](#)
  - [Paper](#)
  - Mr. Paul Westin, Head of Unit, Swedish Energy Agency
- b. Solar energy
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Mr. Andrii Gritsevskiy, Energy System Analyst, IAEA
- c. Biomass statistics - A lot of problems and two solutions
  - [Presentation 1](#)
  - Mr. Wolfgang Bittermann, Head of Energy Statistics, Statistics Austria
  - [Presentation 2](#)
  - Mr. Bernard Lang, Austrian Energy Agency
  - Mr. Dietmar Hagauer, DI, Austrian Energy Agency
- d. Renewable - non-renewable energy
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Mr. Andrii Gritsevskiy, Energy System Analyst, IAEA
- e. Tracking
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Mr. Andrii Gritsevskiy, Energy System Analyst, IAEA

**11:30-12:30 Lunch offered by Statistics Austria**

**12:30-14:10 Session 9: Energy supply and use**

*Chair: Mr. Vladimir Markhonko*

- a. One common system of energy supply and use that addresses all users' needs  
- [Presentation](#)  
Ms. Jun Elin Wiik Toutain, Senior Adviser, Statistics Norway
- b. The multipurpose system – what we want to obtain  
- [Presentation](#)  
Ms. Ann Christin Bøeng, Senior Adviser, Statistics Norway
- c. Austria's work on developing bridge tables between energy balances and the SNA  
- [Presentation](#)  
Ms. Barbara Mayer, Statistician, Statistics Austria
- d. Basic Energy Statistics versus Energy Accounts SNA  
- [Presentation](#)  
- [Paper](#)  
Mr. Hans Pouwelse, Senior researcher, Statistics Netherlands
- e. Measuring the oil sector in National Accounts  
- [Presentation](#)  
Ms. Maria Mantcheva, Senior Economist, Statistics Department, IMF

**14:10-17:00: Session 11: Summary and the way forward – List of issues for 2008**

- a. Draft of list of issues and important milestones in 2008  
Ms. Sara Øvergaard, Senior Executive Officer, Statistics Norway
- b. Summary of the meeting, and the future work program of the Oslo Group  
Mr. Vladimir Markhonko and Mr. Olav Ljones
- c. The fourth meeting of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics in Ottawa, Canada  
Mr. Justin Lacroix, Assistant Director, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy  
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