

Final report of the Fifth Oslo Group Meeting

Opening session

1. The Fifth Oslo Group meeting (1-4 February 2010, Cork, Ireland) was dedicated to the review of the version 0 of the IRES prepared by UNSD and writing teams consisting of member countries representatives, based on the work of the Oslo Group and taking into account the format and structure of other international recommendations approved by the Statistics Commission for other areas of basic economic statistics. The meeting was co-hosted by Central Statistical Office Ireland and Sustainable Energy Ireland and gathered about 34 representatives from 19 countries and 4 international organizations (UNSD, IEA, IAEA and Eurostat). The meeting welcomed the three new participating countries Azerbaijan, Egypt and Greenland. The meeting was opened by Mr. Gerry O'Hanlon, Director General of the Central Statistics Office Ireland, Mr. Olav Ljones, Deputy Director General, Statistics Norway and Chair of the Oslo Group and Dr. Brian Motherway, Chief Operations Officer of Sustainable Energy Ireland;

2. The Oslo Group expressed its appreciation of Central Statistical Office Ireland and Sustainable Energy Ireland for hosting the meeting, for their logistical and substantive support to the event and for the excellent presentations on the programme on energy statistics in Ireland. The Group also expressed appreciation for the papers, presentations and contributions made by participants and, in particular, welcomed efforts made by UNSD, Statistics Canada, Statistics Austria, INEGI and SENER Mexico in providing substantial input into the process and urged the Oslo Group members to participate actively in the further preparation of ESCM;

3. This report covers the main decisions made during the meeting. The many good suggestions for improvement of the text are not reflected in the report, but will be included in the next revision of IRES;

IRES the draft manual

4. During the session the following presentations were given: (i) Status of the work in the Oslo Group; (ii) IRES, version 0: an overview;

The Oslo Group:

5. Welcomed the efforts by UNSD to prepare version 0 of IRES for the meeting;

Chapter 1: Introduction

6. A revised draft of chapter 1 based on the comments received by the fourth Oslo Group meeting and the 2nd virtual meeting was presented and discussed;

The Oslo Group:

7. Endorsed the chapter with minor amendments;

In particular:

8. Suggested to explicitly mention in the introduction three pillars of energy statistics, namely energy security, environmental sustainability and competitiveness;

9. Agreed that the main differences between the IRES and SEEA-E should be clarified in paragraph 1.10. IRES provides reference classifications and definitions of data items for the collection and compilation of energy statistics. It mainly focuses on basic energy statistics and on the links between energy statistics and balances with the SEEA-E;

10. Agreed that the description of the main purpose of IRES in paragraph 1.11 needed some revision to reflect that IRES will serve as a reference to all countries, not only developing countries;
11. Agreed that the footnote to Box 1.1 should be elaborated more and to explain differences due to institutional arrangements;

Chapter 2: Scope of energy statistics

12. A revised draft of chapter 2 based on the comments received by the fourth Oslo Group meeting and the 2nd virtual meeting was presented and discussed;

The Oslo Group:

13. Endorsed the chapter with some amendments;

In particular:

14. Agreed on the use of the term “energy product” as proposed in the current version of IRES. Energy products refer to products that are relevant for energy statistics in the sense that they are used as a source of energy either directly or after a transformation. They include fuels as well as energy in the form of heat and electricity.
15. Agreed on the use of the term “energy industries” as proposed in the current version of IRES. *Energy industries* are defined in Chapter 5 as economic units whose principal activity is primary energy production, transformation of energy and transmission/distribution of energy. This means that the value added generated by these activities exceed that of any other activity carried out within the same economic unit.
16. Although agreed that the concepts and classifications of energy reserves and resources are important, and should therefore be reflected in IRES, also agreed that this should not be the focus in IRES. In IRES the scope for energy reserves and resources as well as their classifications and definitions should be consistent with those developed by the London Group as part of the SEEA-E process (which takes into account the work by the UNECE Expert Group on Resource Classification). IRES should be consistent with definitions and classification of energy reserves/resources where relevant;
17. Noted that the compilation of data on energy reserves/resources is often under the responsibility of specialized agencies (e.g. geological institutes) and the statistical offices should cooperate with them in order to gather these data;
18. Agreed that energy prices should be included in IRES. A separate paragraph on energy prices should be added to the chapter;
19. Agreed that the part of energy covered by IRES must be clarified;
20. Suggested that the terms ‘primary’ and ‘secondary energy products’ be defined in this chapter;
21. Noted that IRES should encourage the collection and/or estimation of data items on the energy consumed by nationals abroad and by foreigners on the territory in order to support bridging energy balances with energy accounts;
22. The scope of IRES includes elements of business statistics about energy industries, such as, data items about infrastructure;
23. The text has to reflect the need of a multipurpose data warehouse;

Chapter 3: Standard International Energy Classification

24. A revised draft of chapter 3 based on the comments received by the fourth Oslo Group meeting and the 2nd virtual meeting was presented together with a detailed presentation on the work carried out by UNSD on the current structure, and the basic principles for international statistical classifications on which this work was based; during this session a presentation was also given by IEA on the current status of harmonisation of energy products.

The Oslo Group:

25. Welcomed the draft of chapter 3 and in particular the development of one standard of international classification of energy products based on the basic principles for international statistical classifications;
26. Generally agreed on the proposed classification structure with the following amendments:
27. (a) The classification should contain one top-level category for electricity and one for heat with no further disaggregation according to source. The breakdown of production by origin to be provided in chapter 5;
28. (b) That the disaggregation of peat should be on the third level;
29. (c) The lists of “renewable and non-renewable” and “primary and secondary” energy products should be included in annex of the classification;
30. (d) Nuclear fuels should be included in the classification for conceptual reasons (e.g. consistency with the stated scope of SIEC), but noted practical limitations of producing actual data related to this category.
31. (e) Suggested that the definition of ‘waste’ be harmonized with that used in other statistical contexts.

Chapter 4: Measurement units

32. A revised draft of chapter 4 based on the comments received by the fourth Oslo Group meeting and the 1st virtual meeting was presented and discussed;

The Oslo Group:

33. Endorsed the revised draft with some amendments;

In particular;

34. Agreed to use default calorific values from the IPCC guidelines and complemented with values for additional energy products when available from international organizations; it also recognized the need to possibly review and revise the values currently provided in the text. IEA and UNSD offered to review these values. It was also suggested that IPCC should be consulted.
35. Suggested that the names of the energy products in the chapter should be harmonised with SIEC;
36. Suggested to include in Table 4.8 a fourth column with correct symbols for physical units;
37. Suggested to include in the text an explanation of ‘wet’ and ‘dry basis’;
38. Agreed to include a small section on monetary units in the chapter;

Chapter 5: Flows, Stocks and Related Concepts

39. The first draft of chapter 5 was presented and discussed;
40. During this session an update to the Oslo Group on the current status of harmonisation of energy flows was given by IEA. The Oslo Group welcomed the progress done by InterEnerStat on the harmonisation of flows;
41. The Oslo Group welcomed the draft chapter but agreed that the chapter needed some restructuring in order to have separate sections on energy industries, other industries producing energy and energy consumers;

The Oslo Group:

42. Agreed that transport of energy products via pipelines is part of the energy industries;

43. Agreed to the proposed approach in chapter 5 which describes and classifies energy industries and energy consumers in terms of activities and suggested to further elaborate on the classification of consumers versus consumers activities;
44. Suggested to add few paragraphs to explain the recording and classification for pump storage plants;
45. Agreed with the proposed text of IRES which explains that the statistical units are classified according to ISIC, but, in the presentation of energy statistics and balances, information is often regrouped to show for example the use of energy in transport independently on the economic activity (ISIC) in which it takes place;
46. Agreed that definitions in the chapter should be consistent with similar definitions in BoP and SNA to the extent possible and if there are differences they should be documented and explained;
47. Emphasized the growing importance of energy services activities (such as services incidental to energy distribution) and their possible inclusion in the scope of ‘energy industries’. The Group, however, recognized that it is premature to include in IRES as a systematic review of country experience, relevant classifications and further work is required;
48. Agreed that the concept of auto-producers should be clarified in paragraph 5.15;
49. Agreed that the use of the term “residential” should be avoided;
50. Agreed that the definitions of production and transformation have to be clarified to show differences between primary and secondary production;

Chapter 6: Statistical units and data items

51. A revised draft of chapter 6 based on the comments received by the fourth Oslo Group meeting and the 1st virtual meeting was presented and discussed;

The Oslo Group:

52. Generally agreed on the part on statistical units;
53. Agreed that the reference lists of data items need some restructuring; to this end, it was suggested that common data items will be listed separately and only specific data items will be regrouped by group of energy products;
54. Suggested that the borderline between Chapter 5 and 6 be examined in order to get rid of existing overlaps ;
55. Agreed that limited lists of data items on energy infrastructure, assessment of the economic performance and underground reserves should be included in IRES. Reference should be made to arrangements for data collection;

Chapter 7: Data sources and collection strategies

56. A revised draft of chapter 7 based on the comments received by the fourth Oslo Group meeting and the 2nd virtual meeting was presented and discussed;
57. During this session the following additional presentations were given: (i) Statistical process as a structured chain of successive actions and intermediate products, supported by the coherent use of metadata – Focus on energy statistics and relation to IRES by Hans Pouwelse from Statistics Netherlands; and (ii) Provision of energy data regulation by Jeff Subramoney, DoE South Africa;
58. The Oslo Group welcomed the efforts by Roberto Lopez from INEGI and his writing team to prepare a preliminary draft of the chapter; and suggested that;
59. The Chapter will be restructured to better reflect its contents (name of the chapter to be further discussed) and include more text/recommendations specific to energy statistics

60. The chapter should include definitions of “data compilation” and “data collection”;
61. The issue of confidentiality will be aligned with chapter 10;

Chapter 8: Energy balances

62. The first draft of chapter 8 was presented and discussed;

The Oslo Group:

63. Endorsed the chapter and the template/format of energy balance;
64. Agreed that the chapter focus on energy balances but that commodity balances be explained in a limited text either in a separate small section or in an annex;
65. Agreed that, in addition to the existing template of an energy balance, IRES will also provide a more aggregated balance;
66. Agreed that the relationship with ISIC should be made more explicit and explained;
67. Agreed that specific figures for accuracy measurements should not be given in IRES;

Chapter 9: Data quality

68. The draft chapter 9 was presented and discussed;

The Oslo Group:

69. Welcomed the issue paper by Roeland Mertens from Eurostat on “Data Quality Monitoring”
70. Acknowledged the efforts by Andy Kohut from Statistics Canada and his writing team to prepare the draft chapter;
71. Endorsed the chapter with minor amendments;
72. Agreed to rename the chapter to “Data quality assurance and meta data”;
73. Underlined the need for a paragraph which explains the difference between quality assessment and quality assurance

Chapter 10: Data dissemination

74. The draft of chapter 10 was presented and discussed. The chapter was endorsed with minor amendments;

The Oslo Group concluded that:

75. The chapter should mention that energy statistics being a public good, electronic data should be provided free of charge;
76. How to deal with confidentiality should be clarified;
77. The recommended reference period should be the calendar year;
78. The use of the word ‘revision’ should be avoided when discussing editing and quality checking activities;
79. An encouragement for international organisations to coordinate their data collection activities in order to reduce response burden to countries and at the same time, an encouragement to countries to cooperate with international organization in their activities of data collection ;
80. Data revision is an ongoing process and countries should therefore be encouraged to send revised numbers to international organisations they are reporting to;

Chapter 11: Use of basic energy statistics and energy balances in the compilation of energy accounts and other statistics

81. The draft of chapter 11 was presented and discussed.
82. The Oslo Group welcomed the efforts by Wolfgang Bittermann from Statistics Austria and his writing team to prepare a preliminary draft of the chapter; and concluded that:
83. In order to compile energy accounts using basic energy statistics and energy balances additional data items need to be identified and included in the chapter and that the links between energy balances and energy accounts based on SEEA-E definitions should be elaborated;
84. Links between basic energy statistics and air emission inventories should be identified and included in the chapter, but it should not cover methodological detail;
85. The importance of compilation data on energy prices and energy efficiency should be included in the chapter;