

ISWGNA Management Group Meeting

24 February 2021

Minutes

Participants: Mariana Kotzeva (Eurostat); Louis Marc Ducharme (IMF); Peter van de Ven (OECD); Stefan Schweinfest (Chair), Ivo Havinga, Herman Smith and Benson Sim (UNSD); Haishan Fu, Nada Hamed and Catherine van Rompaey (World Bank)

1. Progress on 2008 SNA update programme

1. The ISWGNA:MG

- Welcomed the progress on the preparation and elaboration of guidance on the relevant issues for the update of the 2008 SNA,
- Appreciated the close cooperation between the national accounts and balance of payments task teams, but stressed that the different timelines for resolving the SNA and BPM update issues should be addressed; and
- Recognised that the experimentation and testing of the new guidance would be challenging and that it would require careful planning to manage expectations.

2. Introduction of the ISWGNA report to the 52nd session of the Statistical Commission

2. The ISWGNA:MG took note of the draft introduction of the ISWGNA report to the 52nd session of the Statistical Commission and agreed to provide comments in writing by Monday 1 March.

3. Draft notes on the SNA update programme

3. The ISWGNA:MG discussed the following draft notes on the SNA update programme:

a. Strategy for experimentation and testing of recommendations for the update of the 2008 SNA.

The ISWGNA:MG agreed that experimentation and testing could facilitate the early implementation of the new recommendations, but expressed concerns that it may delay the update process and stressed that further consideration should be given to the following:

- The development of a detailed timeline of a well-defined, cost effective and sustainable programme for the experimentation and testing of the guidance notes.
- Considering how regional commissions and other existing regional capacity development programmes could facilitate experimentation and testing.
- A communication strategy for the programme to ensure that countries are well informed as to what is expected.

b. Editorial process for the update of the 2008 SNA

The ISWGNA:MG agreed that the editor will be responsible for the drafting of the SNA update and coordinating with the editor for the BPM update on common issues, while an assessment of how the other editorial team members will contribute to the finalization of the respective guidance notes for publication should be made. In the regards the ISWGNA:MG requested that further consideration should be given to the following:

- A term of reference for the editor and other editorial team members taking into consideration the principle of neutrality, and the need for reporting progress.
- The division of work between the editorial teams and subject matter task teams to minimize delays to the update process.
- The contractual and working arrangements for the editorial team.

c. Funding strategy for the update of the 2008 SNA

The ISWGNA:MG agreed that more information, including alternative scenarios, for each of the proposed budget lines should be provided to allow for a discussion on how to share the burden of the expenses. To reduce the budget, an opportunistic approach involving the use of existing approved resources for technical assistance missions for experimentation and testing should be considered, where appropriate.

d. Monitoring the progress of the project on the update of the 2008 SNA and BPM6

The ISWGNA:MG took note of the arrangements to report progress of the project on the update of the 2008 SNA and BPM6.

4. The ISWGNA:MG agreed to meet after the Statistical Commission meeting to further discuss the project management arrangements for the SNA update programme.
5. UNSD will amend the notes to reflect the decisions of the meeting and will recirculate them in due course.

4. Frequency of AEG and ISWGNA meetings

The ISWGNA:MG took note that the frequency of the AEG and ISWGNA meetings would be increased to facilitate the monitoring of progress on the SNA update process.

5. Next meeting

The date for the next meeting will be decided in due course.