

# ISWGNA Management Group meeting

17 September 2021

## Minutes

### Participants:

Stefan Schweinfest (chair), Ivo Havinga, Herman Smith, Michael Stanger, Sabine Warschburger, Benson Sim, Jonathan Gessendorfer (UNSD), Gallo Gueye (Eurostat), Louis Marc Ducharme, Carlos Munoz Sanchez (IMF), Paul Schreyer, Sarah Barahona (OECD), Haishan Fu, Nada Hamadeh, Catherine Van Rompaey (World Bank)

## 1. Status of progress of the SNA and BPM update project

### a) Progress report

- Welcomed the joint progress report of the SNA and BPM update project.
- Congratulated all Task Teams on the progress achieved so far.
- Recognized the need to discuss prioritization criteria for guidance notes, which will become relevant if the timeline of the update process is at risk. Scheduled a discussion on the prioritization criteria for the next ISWGNA Management Group meeting. Noted that, among other criteria, joint guidance notes should be prioritized to facilitate the alignment between the SNA and BPM.
- Welcomed the stronger alignment between the BPM and SNA update processes.
- Highlighted the importance of the established mechanisms to resolve divergences of opinion on recommendations in controversial guidance notes between and within the AEG/ISWGNA and BPTT/BOPCOM.

### b) Outreach and Experimental Estimates

- Welcomed the update and recognized the progress made on the outreach efforts, baseline assessment tool, and the experimental estimates/early implementation efforts and appreciated the proposed upcoming series of thematic webinars.

### c) Digital standards

- Welcomed the proposed work on the collective authoring platform, which will facilitate the joint drafting of the BPM and SNA updates and their digitization, and the underlying semantic technology; and the goal to have a proof of concept of the technology by early 2022.
- Recognized the necessity to employ consultants for different parts of the development and welcomed the start-up funding provided by UNSD.

## 2. Funding

- Welcomed the overview of budget for the update project of the 2008 SNA and confirmed their financial commitments are appropriately summarized.

- Agreed to develop a joint strategy for bilateral fund-raising. The World Bank will coordinate the bilateral funding efforts and contact the regional development banks for funding. UNSD will contact non-EU countries, and Eurostat the EU countries.
- Welcomed the update by the World Bank on the Global Data Facility, its preparedness to receive funding for the project on the update of the 2008 SNA, and progress in arranging formal financial agreement with Eurostat and IMF to receive their committed funding

### **3. Terms of Reference of the Project Manager and Editor**

- Agreed with the Terms of References for the project manager and editor, including their reporting to the ISWGNA: MG.
- Agreed the contractual arrangements for the project manager and editor are based on the HR policies of the World Bank.
- Agreed to proceed with the recruitment of the project manager and editor in early October with a short application period, immediately followed by the selection process led by ISWGNA:MG, and the expected recruitment by the World Bank in November.
- Agreed to advertise the posts of the project manager and editor on the World Bank website with cross-referencing the advertisements on the websites of the other members of the ISWGNA.
- Agreed to adopt a simple but transparent selection process based on a limited short-list of preferred candidates following the evaluation of the applicants.

### **4. Any other Business**

- Congratulated Ivo Havinga on his upcoming retirement and outstanding contribution to the international programme on economic statistics (including national accounts, environmental economic accounting, international classifications, business and trade statistics) since early 2000.
- The next meeting of the ISWGNA Management Group is scheduled for the second half of October to review the short list of preferred candidates and select the project manager and editor.