

United Nations Secretariat

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Statistics Division

2022 Meeting of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (EG-TUS)

9-11 May 2022 – virtual meeting

Summary of discussion and conclusions*

Prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics

* This document has not been formally edited.

Discussion and conclusions of the 2022 virtual meeting of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (EG-TUS)

I. Background, objectives, and organization of the meeting

1. The Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (EG-TUS),¹ initiated its work in June 2018 with the overall objective of taking stock and reviewing country practices in time-use surveys (TUS) and providing technical guidance and recommendations to improve the collection and use of time use data, in line with international standards and in support of SDGs implementation. In particular, the Group was established to develop methodological guidelines on how to operationalize ICATUS 2016 and produce time-use statistics using the latest technologies, as requested by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session in 2017 in its decision 48/109.

2. Experts welcomed the organization of the virtual meeting of the EG-TUS to resume the discussion started in 2018 on the revision of the 2005 “UN Guide to producing statistics on time-use: measuring paid and unpaid work”² (2005 UN Guide).

3. The members of the EG-TUS virtually convened for their meeting (EGM) on 9,10, and 11 May 2022 between 9-11am (NY time). The meeting was organized by the Social and Gender Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Secretariat of the Group. The specific objectives of the virtual meeting were:

- a. To take stock of and review inputs and feedback received prior to the meeting from EG-TUS members on the outline of the UN Guide prepared by UNSD, in order to agree on the specific implementation steps for changes / edits / amendments of components of the 2005 publication.
- b. To discuss the annotated and detailed outline and specific components of the revised UN guidelines to be published in 2024 (UN Guidelines 2024);
- c. To brainstorm and agree on how to integrate the minimum harmonized instrument for time-use data collection³, quality considerations for time-use surveys⁴, and options to modernize time-use data production⁵ as the core components of the revised UN Guidelines, as endorsed by the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission (decision 53/111b);
- d. To discuss available resources and members’ contributions to the development of new parts/chapters and revisions of existing chapters of the 2005 publication.

¹ Current members of the Group include the National Statistical Offices of 15 countries, namely, Australia, Canada (Chair), China, Colombia, Finland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, and the following organizations: Eurostat, International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Women, International Association for Time Use Research (IATUR), and experts. Website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/index-draft#eg>

² https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesF/SeriesF_93E.pdf

³ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-TimeUseStats-rev2-E.pdf>

⁴ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-Quality_UN_EG_TUS2021_FINAL_SENT_rev-E.pdf

⁵ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-Modernization_UN_EG_TUS2021_FINAL_SENT_rev-E.pdf

- e. To inform EG-TUS members and to agree on the feedback process on the Guidance note on Unpaid Household Service Work received by ISWGNA Sub-group on Well-being and Sustainability;
To update EG-TUS members on ongoing work including the implementation / piloting of the proposed methods as endorsed by the Commission and other initiatives implemented by members of the group, plan for future work; and to agree on milestones and timelines of the EG-TUS workplan.

4. The meeting brought together 22 national, regional, and international experts working in the area of time-use statistics. Participants included experts from 8 national statistical offices (Australia, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, US), 6 international, supranational and regional entities (ECLAC, EUROSTAT ILO, UNICEF, UN Women, UNSD), the International Association for Time-use Research IATUR and 1 independent expert. (See Annex for the full list of participants).

5. The meeting was held virtually and in accordance with the sequence listed on the agenda (see Annex), and it was facilitated by UNSD and the EG-TUS chair Patricia Houle, Time Use Survey Manager - Statistics Canada, who also delivered opening and closing remarks.

II. Summary of discussion and related action points

Latest developments and available materials for the revised UN Guide (2024)

6. The 32nd session of the Statistical Commission in 2001 endorsed the preparation of a guide for producing statistics on measuring paid and unpaid work. On that occasion, the value of TUS was noted, “not only for issues related to gender but also more broadly for quality-of-life concerns, social accounting, care of the elderly, estimates of the workforce and total work accounts”. The Guide was published in 2005⁶, with the following objectives: a) act as a reference tool for countries interested in conducting TUS, b) facilitate the harmonization of methods and practices in collecting, processing and disseminating TUS; c) solicit comments and suggestions on the trial International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS). The expert group agreed that objectives a and b are still relevant for the upcoming revision of the publication (2024).

7. The Group reviewed materials adopted by the Statistical Commission for integration into the revised Guidelines (2024) as well as other relevant available materials serving as references for the development of the revised publication. Materials and references include, but are not limited to:

- Minimum Harmonized Instrument for the Production of Time-Use Statistics⁷
- Modernization of the Production of TUS⁸
- Quality considerations for Time-use Surveys⁹
- Time-Use Instrument during Crises including a background questionnaire¹⁰
- International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016), which was endorsed in 2017 by the Statistical Commission¹¹

⁶ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesf/seriesf_93e.pdf

⁷ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-TimeUseStats-rev2-E.pdf>

⁸ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-Modernization_UN_EG_TUS2021_FINAL_SENT_rev-E.pdf

⁹ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-Quality_UN_EG_TUS2021_FINAL_SENT_rev-E.pdf

¹⁰ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/time-use-expert-group/Background-domains-questionnaire-for-TU-during-crises-final.pdf>

¹¹ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/timeuse/23012019%20ICATUS.pdf>

- Guidelines for Harmonising Time Use Surveys (2013) prepared by the UNECE Task Force on Time Use Surveys¹²

Format and references of the revised UN Guidelines (2024)

8. The Group discussed on the format of the revised UN Guide and concluded that the product will be a technical document providing the core elements to guide the production of TUS focusing on the essence and minimum information for producers of TUS in National Statistical Offices (NSOs). The Group further agreed that the technical document will be accompanied by a comprehensive hub for materials on TUS in a form of a portal, which will be developed as a one-stop-shop for available materials on TUS, including countries' examples and tools for data collection. The portal will be frequently updated with new available materials on TUS and will be kept live to reflect the newest developments in TUS. The technical document will reference to resources in the hub / portal and will create necessary linkages to guide the user to additionally available materials compiled in the hub.

9. The Group highlighted the importance of advocacy for TUS to ensure production of data in TUS at the national level. The Group revisited available materials on advocacy for TUS on "Policy relevance: Making the case for time-use data collections in support of SDGs monitoring"¹³, developed as a background document for the 51st session of the Statistical Commission in 2020. It was agreed that the technical Guide (which audience are TUS data producers) will reference to advocacy pieces (which audience are decision makers on budget, planning, and work priorities) that will be made available in the hub to underline the importance and use of TUS.

10. The Group discussed to integrate and blend in the existing materials on modernization of TUS production throughout the document in its relevant parts instead of developing a stand-alone chapter dedicated to modernization. The group highlighted to take into account different development stages and country practices in the production of TUS throughout the Guide (2024) when integrating the modernization journey, related digitalization, and the shift from face-to-face interviews on CAPI to a mixed mode data collection approach.

11. The Group agreed to replace Part Five on "Classification of activities for TUS" of the current UN Guide (2005) with an overview of ICATUS 2016 and a reference to the publication on ICATUS 2016 and its translated versions in Arabic, French, and Spanish made available in the hub. The revised Guide will also touch on the relationship with other classifications to provide linkages and further reference to HETUS, and the minimum set of activities (light diary), as well as other relevant materials compiled in the hub.

12. The Group agreed to reference the materials on "Time-use during crisis - rapid instrument"¹⁴ and available material without creating a dedicated chapter or section in the revised UN Guide (2024).

Outline of the revised UN Guidelines (2024) (see Annex for full outline)

13. The Group discussed details of the outline of the revised UN Guide (2024) based on the outline of the current guide (2005) and an introductory presentation by UNSD Discussions and outcomes of the

¹² https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2013/TimeUseSurvey_Guidelines.pdf

¹³ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3m-PolicyRelevance-E.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/time-use-expert-group/Background-domains-questionnaire-for-TU-during-crises-final.pdf>

EGM in 2018, related to the revised UN Guide, were reflected and taken into account in the overview of suggested chapters and outline.

14. On *“Part One: Planning and organizing for producing statistics on time use”* of the existing guide (2005), the Group agreed the following:

- a. To rename the original title of chapter I. “Rationale for producing time-use statistics” to address “users’ information needs” to justify the production of TUS. The new proposed title for chapter I is “Users’ information needs for time-use statistics”, including TUS policy relevance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- b. To remove sub-chapters on “Overview of data-collection methods on time use” and “Overview of issues in planning and conducting time use surveys” of the original Guide of (2005) by moving them to following chapters.
- c. To include a short reference to the 2030 Agenda, while making further information and resources available in the hub. The proposal is to extract the suggested new chapter from “The importance of time use data in the context of the SDGs framework”, presented at the UN Statistical Commission in 2020, as a sub-chapter under Chapter I and reference to further available materials including on policy relevance. The Group agreed to highlight broad objectives of TUS data production and collection, while keeping reference to policy data needs and the 2030 Agenda to a minimum, and to touch on the discussion on the limitations of TUS, when developing the revised chapter I.
- d. To add a box with an overview of quality consideration for TUS in part I and integrate quality elements throughout the document. A suggested idea was to introduce a colour-coding or mark parts specific to quality in an aligned way throughout the entire document to make the user aware of quality considerations for each component of the data production journey. The box in the first Part is to introduce the user to the quality parts following in the document and to set the stage for the importance of quality consideration in TUS data production. Australia, as the lead author of the document on Quality considerations for Time-use Surveys¹⁵ volunteered to draft the box and provide inputs on quality throughout the revision of the UN Guide (2024).

15. On *“Part Two: Key design specification for time-use surveys”* of the existing guide (2005), the Group agreed the following:

- a. To utilize and build on existing country examples and publications of EG-TUS members as well as other materials, which will be shared in the hub, when revising the part on key design specifications. UN Women offered to provide inputs to the subchapter on secondary and simultaneous activities and provide links to existing country examples for the hub. Italy mentioned their experience on contextual information to be used for the update of the dedicated sub-chapter. Further details of Italy’s experience will be provided in the hub to which the technical document will make a reference.
- b. To include a new sub-chapter on the “use of TUS classifications (ICATUS with reference/mapping to HETUS)” under chapter I “Scope and coverage of time-use data”. This new sub-chapter will be introduced to make a link to the publication on ICATUS 2016, and to replace Part Five of the original version of the UN Guide (2005). To guide the user, the sub-chapter will introduce ICATUS, provide an overview of its characteristics and relation to HETUS. Detailed information on the classification will be

¹⁵ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-Quality_UN_EG_TUS2021_FINAL_SENT_rev-E.pdf

available in the hub and referenced in the technical document to allow users to find further information if needed.

- c. To introduce a box on TUS for children under Part two to cover this topic as a new component in the revised UN Guide. UNICEF volunteered to lead the development of this section with support from other members of EG-TUS including Italy and Eurostat. Eurostat informed the group that, additionally to Italy, pilots on children diary were conducted in Romania and Bulgaria. References in the technical document will lead users to the hub where further materials and country experiences on TUS for children will be linked.
 - d. To add a box on cognitive testing and pre-testing at the beginning of chapter III. "Survey instruments for collecting time-use data", instead of introducing a dedicated chapter as proposed at the EGM in 2018. UN Women agreed to provide inputs to the development of this box and update other parts of the document to make a link to cognitive testing and pre-testing in the hub, including country examples and reference to further material and experts on this topic. The box will focus in particular on the cognitive testing of the meaning/understanding of "responsibilities" as well as the proposed minimum list of activities in different national contexts.
 - e. To expand the narrative on stylized questionnaires in all relevant subchapters of part Two, and to include a discussion on the comparison between diaries and question, while integrating key components of the minimum harmonized instruments report. Mexico and ECLAC expressed interest in contribution to the expanded narrative on the sub-chapters discussing the use of stylized questionnaires under chapter III. Survey instruments for collecting time-use data". UN Women offered their support to address "Harmonization efforts in TUS" by bringing in practical experience.
 - f. ILO agreed to contribute on the modular/other integration approaches to collect time-use data when not using a stand-alone/dedicated household survey, in chapter IV. "Survey framework for collecting time-use data".
16. On "*Part Three: Collection and processing time-use data*" of the existing guide (2005), the Group agreed the following:
- a. To remove emphasis on left behind diary in chapter VIII. "Enumeration procedures for time-use surveys", and to include the use of new tools in the management of fieldwork. Eurostat proposed to contribute by sharing national experiences in TUS, including on collection mode(s), while emphasizing modern methods.
 - b. To remove the chapter on "Behavioral science techniques", as proposed in the EGM in 2018 and instead cover the "measurement of subjective well-being and intrahousehold time-use" in Part I (location tbd) and "cognitive testing", in a new box at the beginning of chapter III in part two.
 - c. To develop a box on incentives to increase response rates to address TUS specific outreach activities and to link to examples from countries and agencies as well as other materials on the topic provided in the hub. IATUR, Australia, and Canada will provide inputs to the development of the box by touching on incentive creation and practical examples of outreach activities on the national level.
 - d. To update chapters XI, XII and XIII (especially XIII c on "Statistical estimation software") towards the use of digital approaches to align with the shift towards modernization and digitalization. The Group also agreed to tailor sub-chapters toward TUS-specific concepts to avoid generalization.

17. On “*Part Four: Review and dissemination of time-use data*” of the existing guide (2005), the Group agreed the following:
- a. To avoid overlap of sections on quality when integrating the quality document to the revised version the UN Guide (2024). The Group discussed to focus the quality components to unique consideration for the production of TUS data and to provide practical approaches in form of a checklist to navigate users. Further examples including country experiences and application of quality assurance will be provided in the hub and will be linked accordingly in the technical document. Specific recommendations on quality on the design specification on time-use surveys as well as collecting and processing of time-use data will be directly provided in relevant parts of the revised document by marking them in a consistent manner throughout the document. Australia offered to lead these efforts.
 - b. To update XI “Dissemination of time-use data” by including developments of past 20 years including modern digital options instead of paper-type documentations.

18. It was agreed that the progress on the revision of the UN Guideline (2024) will be assessed at the next meeting of the Group planned in August 2022 in Montreal, which will be organized in combination with the International Association for Time Use Research (IATUR) workshop (16 August 2023) and conference (17-19 August 2023).

19. The Group set further milestones in finalizing the draft version of the revised UN Guide by Q3 of 2023 and to finish the revision of the UN Guide by the end of 2023. The revised UN Guide will be presented at the 55th UN Statistical Commission in Q1 of 2024.

Other matters

20. UN Women informed the Group about the high demand for TUS work, including a request from Indonesia to pilot a modular approach, for which UN Women will join forces with ILO. The Group was also informed that UN Women concluded a cognitive testing on supervisory care in Mexico. Results may be presented in a meeting for those interested in the outcome of the work. Further countries including Kenya and Indonesia as well as another country in Africa are in the pipeline to conduct similar work on cognitive testing. UN Women will liaise with UNSD for the implementation of the piloting work under Development Account project T12 on “Time Use Data for better policies in African, Western Asian and Latin American countries”. UNSD will plan a technical meeting to discuss details of the piloting work with EG-TUS.

21. ILO informed the Group about requests for technical assistance in household surveys. For piloting of modern modules, ILO developed four modules, which are currently undergoing revisions on qualitative testing. Two randomized surveys are in currently planned with one focusing on two diary modules; and the other comparing a light diary with a stylized questionnaire. Publications on the results are planned for Q1 of 2023.

22. UNICEF informed the Group in the chat about field testing the children's time use diary developed with Zimbabwe this summer. The survey will be administered to adolescents and primary caregivers with the aim to look at discrepancies in reporting based on respondent selection.

23. Some countries informed the group on their next TUS data collection.
- Canada mentioned that the next data collection on TUS will start in July 2022.

- Australia is wrapping up the 2021 Covid-time use data collection based on a small sample survey. Australia is planning a wider, main TUS data collection in July 2022 over a 12-months period.
- Italy will conduct the data collection on TUS as planned, starting from October / November 2022. Italy is also preparing a pilot on the pre-coded light diary to evaluate the reliability of the estimates with the same technique (PAPI), which will take place in the second quarter of the survey.
- Mexico informed the Group that the last collection was conducted in 2019. Mexico is planning to run next collection in 2024.
- Colombia informed the Group that the last collection on TUS was conducted in 2020-21. The next survey is planned for 2024, as collection on TUS in Colombia are undertaken every 3 years.
- IATUR informed the Group that Belgium started TUS data collection in May 2022. The survey is online and is based on an app using MOTUS. Similarly, Germany also started collection using MOTUS in early 2022.
- Finland reported that the 2021-22 data collection is ongoing. A publication is planned for November 2022, which assesses the use of time during the pandemic.
- USA informed the Group that 2021 American Time Use Survey data and a supplementary Well-being public use data set will be released this coming summer. ATUS pandemic data were released last July.¹⁶
- ECLAC informed the Group that in the LAC region Argentina, Dominican Republic and Uruguay are finishing their latest data collection. EL Salvador will also soon start data collection on TUS.

24. Eurostat informed the Group about the completion of an overview on TUS around Europe. Eurostat offered to give a presentation on the outcome and details of the work including fieldwork period, modes of collection, sample size, innovative tools use, etc.

25. UNSD informed the Group about the implementation process of the piloting of proposed modern TUS methods, as the 53rd Statistical Commission noted and welcomed the interest expressed by many countries in contributing to the guidelines and in using and further validating the proposed instruments and methods.

26. UNSD informed the Group about the requested feedback on the *Guidance note on Unpaid Household Service Work* by the ISWGNA Sub-group on Well-being and Sustainability. The Group discussed and agreed on the feedback process on this work, which is to provide comments by 3 June and submit them to UNSD, for compilation and submission to the ISWGNA Sub-group, on behalf of the EG-TUS.

27. UNSD informed the Group about the hiring of a consultant who will support UNSD and EG-TUS in the development and drafting of the revision of the UN Guide (2024). UNSD also informed the Group about the human resources situation in the Secretariat – in particular about the vacant P3, whose responsibility is to i.a. assist in the work of EG-TUS. UNSD mentioned that the process of filling the vacancy is ongoing and the Group will be informed upon updates.

III. Summary of agreed activities:

¹⁶ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/atus.pdf>

1. *All experts of EG-TUS* to contribute to the revision of the guidelines by sharing their knowledge, resources and national experience including on the implementation/piloting of the methods and instruments proposed by the Expert Group and adopted by the Statistical Commission (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/> Background documents under agenda item 3(h): Gender Statistics).
2. *All experts of EG-TUS* to indicate areas of contribution based on their expertise and interest in certain topic areas for the revision of the UN Guide and provide inputs to materials to be included in the hub.
3. *All experts of EG-TUS* to provide feedback and comments on the Guidance note on Unpaid Household Service Work by ISWGNA Sub-group on Well-being and Sustainability by 3 June 2022. *UNSD* to collect all feedbacks and get back to the ISWGNA Sub-group with compiled feedback from EG-TUS.
4. *UNSD* to hire a consultant who will support *UNSD* and EG-TUS in the compilation of inputs on the revision of the UN Guide as well as drafting of the revised UN Guide (2024) to be completed by December 2023.
5. *UNSD* to consider and plan technical meetings/sessions to discuss further details of the piloting work under the Development Account project T12 on “Time Use Data for better policies in African, Western Asian and Latin American countries” as well as on the use of MOTUS and apps with EG-TUS.
6. *UNSD* to prepare a summary report, containing the salient aspects of the EG-TUS discussions and agreements at its virtual meeting in May 2022, including the draft outline of the revised UN Guide on the production of TUS (2024). EG-TUS to provide feedback by **15 June 2022**.
7. *UNSD* in collaboration with the chair of the Group, to work out details, announce dates, and organize the next meeting of the Group planned in August 2022 in Montreal to review progress on the work on the revision of the UN Guide.

Annex 1: Agenda

Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (EG-TUS)

Meeting Agenda

9-11 May 2022 – 9-11am (NY time) – virtual meeting

EG-TUS Chair: Ms. Patricia Houle, Time Use Survey Manager, Statistics Canada

- 1. Opening remarks and objectives of the meeting**
- 2. Setting the stage for the revision of the United Nations Guidelines for Producing Time-use statistics**
 - Objective: To agree on broad tasks for the Group and related timeline.
 - Presentation on the overview of: (a) the current Guidelines (2005); (b) material already finalized and adopted by the Statistical Commission for integration into the revised Guidelines (2024); (c) other relevant available material.
- 3. Summary of feedback received by EG-TUS on the OUTLINE of the revised Guidelines (2024)**
 - Objective: To take stock of and review inputs and feedback from EG-TUS members on the outline of the Guideline prepared by UNSD in order to agree on the specific implementation steps for changes / edits / amendments of parts.
 - Presentation on the results of survey
- 4. Discussion on PARTS & annexes (and references) requiring revision based on feedback received from EG-TUS)**
 - Objective: To take stock of and review inputs and feedback from EG-TUS members on the content of parts of the Guidelines in order to agree on the specific implementation steps for changes / edits in parts of the revised Guidelines
- 5. Other matters**
 - Updates from EG-TUS members
 - Discuss the implementation / piloting of the proposed methods
 - Discuss the feedback process on the Guidance note on Unpaid Household Service Work by SWGNA Sub-group on Well-being and Sustainability
 - Support on revision of guideline and HR situation
- 6. Way forward for the EG-TUS members and conclusions of the EG-TUS Meeting**
 - Summary of work priorities and assignments
 - Concluding remarks

Annex 2: Draft outline for revised United Nations Guidelines for Producing Time-use statistics

| Components of the revised Guide | Priority | Inputs provided by |
|--|----------|---|
| Part One. Planning and organizing for producing statistics on time | | |
| I. Users' information needs for time-use statistics | | ECLAC, Expert (Margarita Guerrero, review of draft) |
| a) What are time-use statistics? | | |
| b) Why produce time-use statistics? | | |
| c) The importance of time use data in the context of the SDGs framework | | ECLAC |
| <i>Box: Quality consideration for TUS</i> | | Australia, Expert |
| Part Two. Key design specifications for time-use surveys | | |
| II. Scope and coverage of time-use data | | |
| a) Activity and time | | |
| b) Secondary/simultaneous activities | | UN Women |
| c) Contextual information | | Italy, Expert |
| d) Background (covariate) information | | |
| e) Survey population | | |
| f) Use of existing classifications of TUS (ICATUS, HETUS) | | Expert |
| <i>Box: TUS for children</i> | | UNICEF, Italy, Eurostat |
| III. Survey instruments for collecting time-use data | | Expert |
| <i>Box: Cognitive testing and pre-testing</i> | | UN Women |
| a) Survey instruments based on a 24-hour diary | | |
| b) Survey instruments based on stylized questions | | Mexico, ECLAC |
| c) Stylized questionnaire versus 24-hour diaries | | Mexico, ECLAC |
| d) Background questionnaires | | |
| e) Harmonization effort in TUS | | UN Women |
| IV. Survey framework for collecting time-use data | | ILO |
| a) Type of household survey | | |
| b) Mode of data collection | | Eurostat |
| c) Survey frames: illustrative examples | | |
| V. Sample designs for time-use surveys | | Expert |
| a) Standard considerations in sample design for time-use surveys | | |
| b) Sample design issues related to the population of inference of time-use surveys | | |
| c) Analytical and operational considerations in sampling for time-use surveys | | |
| d) Technical considerations specific to sampling for time use surveys | | |

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|--|--|--|
| e) Sampling for time-use data collection in multi-purpose surveys | | |
| Part Three. Collecting and processing time-use data | | |
| VI. Enumeration procedures for time-use surveys | | |
| a) Main considerations in designing and implementing field procedures | | Expert (review and input) |
| b) Managing fieldwork: some specific issues | | |
| <i>Box: Response rates (incl. touching on incentive creation, outreach activities etc)</i> | | Ignace, Australia, Canada, Expert (review and input) |
| VII. Processing of time-use survey data | | |
| a) Editing of diaries | | |
| b) Imputation | | |
| c) Data preparation and management | | |
| VIII. Weighting and estimation for time-use surveys | | |
| a) Issues in weighting and estimating of time-use statistics | | Expert |
| b) Weighting | | Expert (review) |
| c) Imputation versus non-response adjustments | | Expert (review) |
| IX. Preparation of survey outputs | | |
| a) Key survey outputs | | |
| b) Computation of sampling variances | | |
| c) Statistical estimation software | | Expert (review and input) |
| Part Four. Review and dissemination of time-use data | | |
| X. Ensuring quality of time-use data and surveys | | |
| a) Unique quality considerations for TUS – a check list | | Australia, Expert |
| b) Assurance of data quality of time-use survey results | | Australia, Expert |
| XI. Dissemination of time-use data | | |
| a) Modes of dissemination | | |
| b) Issues in dissemination of time-use data | | |

Annex 3: List of participants

| Country | Name |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Australia | Lisa Scanlon |
| Canada | Patricia Houle |
| Colombia | Karen Andrea Garcia Rojas |
| Finland | Juha Haaramo |
| Italy | Tania Cappadozzi |
| Mexico | Adriana Oropeza Lliteras |
| | Laura Luz Barbosa Castañeda |
| | Naghielli Angelica Alvarez Chombo |
| | Selene Abril Montoya Alcala |
| South Africa | Dihlolelo Phoshoko |
| | Rabelani Shandukani |
| US | Jay Stewart |
| | Rachel Krantz-Kent |

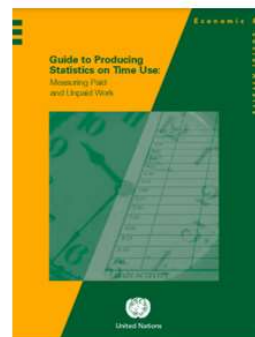
| Agency | Name |
|----------|------------------------------|
| ECLAC | Iliana Vaca Trigo |
| EUROSTAT | Paul Camenzind |
| | Anne Clemenceau |
| | Eniel Ninka |
| Expert | Margarita Guerrero |
| IATUR | Ignace Glorieux |
| ILO | Samantha Watson |
| UNICEF | Lauren Pandolfelli |
| UN Women | Cecilia Tinonin |
| UNSD | Anna Taeko Casals Fernandez |
| | Francesca Grum |
| | Lingyan Hu |
| | Margaret Mbogoni |
| | Maria Isabel Cobos Hernandez |
| | Yuki Mitsuka |

Setting the stage for the revision of the United Nations Guidelines for Producing Time-use statistics

United Nations Statistics Division

Meeting of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (EG-TUS)

Guide to Producing TUS: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work (2005)



Purpose of the current Guide (2005)

- The 32nd Statistical Commission in 2001 endorsed the preparation of a guide for producing statistics on measuring paid and unpaid work.
- On that occasion, the value of TUS was noted, “not only for issues related to gender but also more broadly for quality-of-life concerns, social accounting, care of the elderly, estimates of the workforce and total work accounts”.
- The present Guide is intended as a response to the interest expressed by many countries in the development of methods and concepts in TUS

- Reference tool for countries interested in conducting TUS
- Facilitating the harmonization of methods and practices in collecting, processing and disseminating TUS
- Solicit comments and suggestions on the trial International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS)

53rd Statistical Commission in 2022 Decision 53/111 (b)



<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/2022-41-FinalReport-E.pdf>

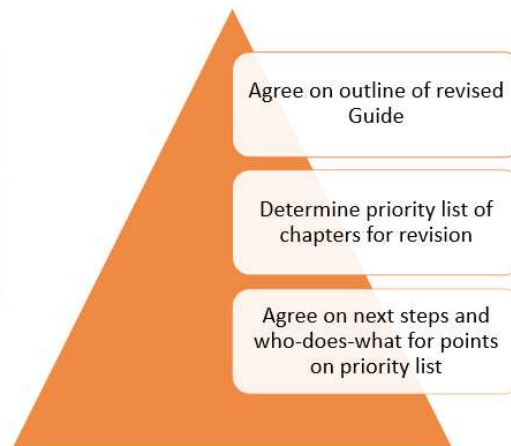
The Statistical Commission *endorsed* the work of UNSD and EG-TUS, including the

- minimum harmonized instrument for time-use data collection;
 - quality considerations for time-use surveys and
 - options to modernize time-use data production,
- as the **core components of the upcoming revision of the United Nations guidelines for producing time-use statistics.**

Objectives



Expected Outputs



Material already finalized and adopted by the Statistical Commission for integration into the revised Guidelines (2024)

Minimum Harmonized Instrument for the Production of Time-Use Statistics



- Proposes a **minimum set of background questions** and a **minimum list of 25 daily activities** covering 24h, including for the measurement of SDG indicator 5.4.1.
- In line with ICATUS 2016 and other international **standards**.
- Proposed Instrument is aiming to **harmonize** TUS across countries based on **minimum set of requirements** for TUS.
- For use by national statistical offices in the proposed format, or for consideration as the basis for the design of a more detailed time-use data collection using either **diaries or stylized questions**.
- The Instrument has been designed for **digital data collection**.

Modernization of the Production of TUS



Modes of collection:

- Guide to improving critical data collection across countries and over time
- Describes various considerations to help assess if a modernization approach is feasible
- Why modernize?
 - TUS are resource-intensive processes for the institutions collecting the data
 - Respondent burden
 - Need to produce and disseminate TUS in timely manner
 - Differing modes have various issues associated

| | Mode | Representativeness |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|
| Traditional collection methods | Paper | Higher (due to fewer access issues) |
| | Telephone | Lower |
| | Online | Higher (due to additional functionality to help) |
| Modernized methods | Mobile app | Lower |
| | Mixed | Higher |

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-Modernization_UN_EG_TUS2021_FINAL_SENT_rev-E.pdf

Quality considerations for Time-use Surveys



- Presents **key quality considerations** for the production of time-use statistics and once finalized
- There are **existing models and frameworks** such as the UN Statistical Quality Assurance Framework and Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)
 - Use the minimum activity list to collect primary activities, either in diary or stylized questions format, or a list that can be aggregated to correspond to the minimum list.
 - A target population is defined and the sample is representative of the target
 - Select at least one person in household using probability sampling
 - Allocated reference days are representative of the days of the week
 - Where possible the survey is conducted across a 12 month period.
 - Instrument covers at least one 24-hour period
 - Instrument includes at least 12 hours of activities, excluding activity not specified
 - Diary instrument includes at least 3 activity episodes, excluding activity not specified
 - When using diaries, contextual information includes location, with whom, for whom and use of ICT.
 - When using diaries, if possible, collect secondary activity, as outlined in section 6.4
 - Activity checks must be performed to make sure no essential activities have been omitted, for example "eating"
 - When using a stylized questionnaire, interviewer checks or automated calculation must ensure the total number of hours reported does not go over 24 daily hours or 168 weekly hours.

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-Quality_UN_EG_TUS2021_FINAL_SENT_rev-E.pdf

Other relevant available material

Time-Use Instrument during Crises



Background questionnaire collects a comprehensive set of information designed to support the analytical objectives of a rapid assessment of time use:

- Assess the distribution of unpaid care and household work between sex and for certain subgroups of the population during a crisis;
- Better understand changes in daily activities caused by a crisis;
- Better understand the relationship between the effects of the crisis on daily activities based on economic and other social characteristics.



ICATUS 2016



- In 2017, the Statistical Commission **endorsed** the 2016 International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016)
- The 3-level hierarchical classification of all possible **activities** undertaken by the general population during the 24h in a day provides a framework to produce meaningful and comparable statistics on time use across countries and over time.
- ICATUS provides a framework with **standardized concepts and definitions** for the systematic dissemination of internationally comparable time-use statistics. ICATUS can be further used to **guide the collection of time-use data** or adapted into countries' classifications to reflect the national context and needs.
- Serves as an important **input for monitoring progress** made towards the achievement of the SDG **target 5.4** to "*recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate*" and the related **indicator 5.4.1** on the *proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location*.

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/timeuse/23012019%20ICATUS.pdf>



Guidelines for Harmonising Time Use Surveys (2013)



- Prepared by the **UNECE Task Force on Time Use Surveys**
- **Objectives of these Guidelines:**
 - Help statisticians and policymakers understand the importance of TUS,
 - Provide guidance in the design and implementation of time-use surveys, and
 - Improve the international comparability of their results
- **Response to the need** for the exchange of good practice and for coordination in defining the concepts, methodology and ways of aggregation of the results.
- Help countries in carrying out **reliable TUS** that can answer the pertinent policy questions and be comparable across countries
- The Guidelines include **recommendations** of preferred or best practice

https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2013/TimeUseSurvey_Guidelines.pdf



Outline of the 2024 Guide

The Guide as a core technical document to produce TUS

| Publication (revised Guide on TUS 2024) | Hub / portal for TUS |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Technical document with core elements to guide the production of TUS- Audience: producers of TUS (in NSOs)- Focus on essence and minimum information to produce TUS with key information for decision making- Reference to materials on hub and portal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- One-stop-shop for TUS- Overview of all available material for TUS and its production- Materials on the portal could include: publications on TUS (incl. ICATUS, ECE 2013), R / STATA codes for TUS production, country examples, link to Gender Data Portal, SDG data on TUS, links to other resources...- Fluid portal, where new resources can be added / adjusted |

Components of the Guide

Part 1

- Planning and organizing for producing statistics on time

Part 2

- Key design specifications for time-use surveys

Part 3

- Collecting and processing time-use data

Part 4

- Review and dissemination of time-use data

Part One. Planning and organizing for producing statistics on time

I. Rationale for producing time-use statistics

- a) What are time-use statistics? ■
- b) Why produce time-use statistics? ■
- c) Overview of issues in planning and conducting TUS ■
- d) Overview of data-collection methods on time use ■

II. The importance of time use data in the context of the SDGs framework

- a) TUS in the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda ■
- b) Analysis of time use data and indicators linked to policy needs ■

Some suggestions & comments on Part I

- For I c): Overview of issues in planning and conducting TUS
Decrease emphasis on the face-to-face mode and paper diary
- For I c): Overview of issues in planning and conducting TUS
Add consequences of new tools & data sources
- Suggestion to move section c) Overview planning & conducting TUS and d) Overview of data-collection methods after Section II to enhance flow (e.g., relevance of TUS, SDGs, 2030 agenda, data uses, etc. grouped together and presented first) followed by the section on Planning
- For II b) Analysis of time use data and indicators linked to policy needs
Build on material on 'Policy relevance' for this new part II.

Part Two. Key design specifications for time-use surveys

III. Scope and coverage of time-use data

- a) Activity and time ■
- b) Secondary/simultaneous activities ■
- c) Contextual information ■
- d) Background (covariate) information ■
- e) Survey population ■

IV. Survey instruments for collecting time-use data

- a) Survey instruments based on a 24-hour diary ■
- b) Survey instruments based on stylized questions ■
- c) Stylized **analogues** versus 24-hour diaries ■
- d) Background questionnaires ■
- e) **The Minimum Harmonized Instrument** ■

Part Two. Key design specifications for time-use surveys

V. Survey framework for collecting time-use data

- a) Type of household survey ■
- b) Mode of data collection ■
- c) Survey frames: illustrative examples ■

VI. Options to modernize time-use data production (based on final EG's report adopted by the SC in 2022)

- a) Country practices ■
- b) possible options/scenarios to collect data ■

VII. Sample designs for time-use surveys

- a) Standard considerations in sample design for time-use surveys ■
- b) Sample design issues related to the population of inference of time-use surveys ■
- c) Analytical and operational considerations in sampling for time-use surveys ■
- d) Technical considerations specific to sampling for time use surveys ■
- e) Sampling for time-use data collection in multi-purpose surveys ■

Some suggestions & comments on Part II

- For IV c) Stylized analogues versus 24-hour diaries
Build on information from UNSD paper on 'MHI for the Production of Time-Use Statistics', parts on 'Stylized questions'
- For VI a) Country practices
Suggestion to build on experiences to be reported from countries participating in Eurostat Task Force on Innovative Tools & Sources in TUS and HBS
- For VII b) Sample design issues related to the population of inference of TUS
Update based on new (online) tools for TUS

Part Two. Key design specifications for time-use surveys

III. Scope and coverage of time-use data

- a) Activity and time ■
- b) Secondary/simultaneous activities ■
- c) Contextual information ■
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- e) **The Minimum Harmonized Instrument** ■

V. Survey framework for collecting time-use data

- a) Type of household survey ■
- b) Mode of data collection ■
- c) Survey frames: illustrative examples ■

VI. Options to modernize time-use data production

- a) Country practices ■
- b) possible options/scenarios to collect data ■

VII. Sample designs for time-use surveys

- a) Standard considerations in sample design ■
- b) Sample design issues related to the population of inference ■
- c) Analytical and operational considerations in sampling ■
- d) Technical considerations specific to sampling ■
- e) Sampling for time-use data collection in multi-purpose surveys ■

Key agreements of the EGM – Day 1

Format of UN Guide 2024

- The revised UN Guide on TUS (2024) shall be a technical document (in form of a “skinny” handbook) with core elements to guide the production of TUS focusing on the essence and minimum information for producers of TUS (in NSOs)
- A comprehensive hub / portal of TUS will be developed as a **live** one-stop-shop for available materials on TUS, including countries’ examples
- The technical document will reference the resources in the hub / portal

Part One: Planning and organizing for producing statistics on time use

- Consider renaming the title of I. “Rationale...” to address “users’ information needs” justifying the production of TUS.
- Include a short reference to the 2030 Agenda and the importance of TUS into I., instead of a new chapter II. “The importance of time use data in the context of the SDGs framework”.
- Highlight broad objectives, while keeping reference to policy data needs and the 2030 Agenda to a minimum; and discuss limitations of TUS;
- Consider utilization of the hub / portal to create linkages to further materials on advocacy on TUS and further materials on TUS relevance for SDGs
- Move I. c) “Overview of issues in planning and conducting TUS” and I. d) “Overview of data-collection methods on time use” to following parts of the document
- Take into account different development stages and country practices in the production of TUS when revising the Guide to include the modernization journey, related digitalization, and the shift from face-to-face interviews on CAPI to a mixed mode data collection approach

Part Two: Key design specification for TUS

- Use existing **country examples** and publications of EG-TUS members as well as other materials; share them in the hub.
- Expand on the narrative on **stylized questionnaires** in all relevant subchapters of part Two; include a discussion on the comparison between diaries and questions; and integrate key components of the MHI report.
- **TBD**: how to include the material on modernization of TUS production:
 - either as a stand-alone chapter in VI) "Options to modernize TUS data production"
 - or blend in the idea of modernization throughout the book in existing chapters
- **Eurostat** will contribute by sharing national experiences in TUS, including on mode(s) used
- **ILO** will contribute on the modular/other integration approaches to collect time-use data when not using a stand-alone/dedicated HHS
- **Mexico** will contribute to the expanded narrative on the use of stylized questionnaires

Part Three: Collection and processing (to be completed)

- Adapt this part to **stylized questionnaires** too.
- Clarify the content and need of Chapter XI on the use of behavioral science
 - Move/refer to measurement of subjective wellbeing in Part I (rationale/objectives);
 - Move/refer to cognitive testing in Part II (before field work/data collection);
 - **TBD**: Decide what to do with the title...do we want to cover behavioral science? Delete sub-chapters?

Part Three. Collecting and processing time-use data

VIII. Enumeration procedures for time-use surveys

- a) Main considerations in designing and implementing field procedures ■
- b) Managing fieldwork: some specific issues ■

IX. Use of behavioural science techniques

- a) Measurement of subjective well-being and intrahousehold time-use ■
- b) Cognitive testing ■

X. Improvement in response rates

- a) Incentive creation for respondents ■
- b) Training of interviewers ■
- c) Outreach to respondents ■

Some suggestions & comments on Part III

- *For VIII) Enumeration procedures for time-use surveys*
Remove emphasis from left behind diary and adjust to the use of new tools in the management of fieldwork
- *For IX) Use of behavioural science techniques*
Merge with other chapter / is there a need for a stand-alone chapter?
- *For X a) Incentive creation for respondents*
Remove as this is not only relevant for TUS and it also depends on NSOs
- *For X b) Cognitive testing*
Remove part on coding if move to digitalization

Part Three. Collecting and processing time-use data

XI. Processing of time-use survey data

- a) Editing of diaries ■
- b) Imputation ■
- c) Data preparation and management ■

XII. Weighting and estimation for time-use surveys

- a) Issues in weighting and estimating of time-use statistics ■
- b) Weighting ■
- c) Imputation versus non-response adjustments ■
- d) Generating estimates of time use ■

XIII. Preparation of survey outputs

- a) Key survey outputs ■
- b) Computation of sampling variances ■
- c) Statistical estimation software ■

Some suggestions & comments on Part III

- *For XI) Processing of time-use survey data
Focus and update towards digital approach*
- *For XII) Weighting and estimation for time-use surveys
Tailor towards TUS-specific concepts and avoid general parts*
- *For XII) Weighting and estimation for time-use surveys
include some key determinants of time use*
- *For XIII c) Statistical estimation software
Delete by ensuring estimation tool is used and new software integrated*

Part Three. Collecting and processing time-use data

VIII. Enumeration procedures for time-use surveys

- a) Main considerations in designing and implementing field procedures ■
- b) Managing fieldwork ■

IX. Use of behavioural science techniques

- a) Measurement of subjective well-being and intrahousehold time-use ■
- b) Cognitive testing ■

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XIII. Preparation of survey outputs

- a) Key survey outputs ■
- b) Computation of sampling variances ■
- c) Statistical estimation software ■

Key agreements of the EGM – Day 2

Part Three : Collection and processing (cont.)

- Delete current sub-chapter on “**Behavioral science techniques**”
- Embed “**Measurement of subjective well-being and intrahousehold time-use**” & “**Cognitive testing**” in existing previous chapters and provide links to further documents in hub
 - Move/refer to measurement of subjective wellbeing in Part I (rationale/objectives); Provide country examples (link in hub?) of collection of data on subjective wellbeing
 - Integrate intra-HH lens throughout the Guide, where relevant (objectives, sampling, analysis,..)
 - “**Cognitive testing**” to go in part which describes **pre-testing of field procedures in Part II**; include focus on the meaning/understanding of “responsibilities” as well as the proposed min list of activities in different contexts, for national adaptation
 - Link to dedicated part in hub on available materials on cognitive testing, including country examples, and consider also reference to further material and experts on this topic
- Develop **box(es) on incentives to increase response rates** to address TUS specific outreach activities; provide examples from countries and agencies in hub on response rates and accordingly link materials in box

Other agreements on day 2

- Reference **skinny technical Guide** (audience: technical practitioners) to advocacy pieces (audience: decision makers on budget + planning + work priority of NSOs and directors) available in hub to underline importance and use of TUS
- Cover **TUS for children** (UNICEF to deliver inputs and lead, plus further material to be provided in the hub)
- Reference to publication **ICATUS 2016** by keeping the objective and the rationale of the classification, the relationship with other classifications (HETUS), the minimum set of activities (light diary)
- Reference to “**Time-use during crisis - rapid instrument**” and available material without creating a dedicated chapter / section

Part Four. Review and dissemination of time-use data

- Update XVI “Dissemination of time-use data” by including developments of past 20 years including modern digital options and by including the trend towards modernized tools (instead of focus on paper-type documentations)
 - Visualizations, tabulations (?)
- **TBD**: Agree on how to incorporate recent report on **quality considerations**
 - Summary of quality considerations criteria/framework plus examples/applications of quality assurance?
 - Link to existing country examples to be provided in hub?
 - Include focus on ways to allocate diary days?

Part Four. Review and dissemination of time-use data

XIV. Quality review of time-use data

- a) Elements of a quality review of time-use survey results ■
- b) Using results of data quality review ■

XV. Quality considerations for time-use surveys

- a) Quality assurance framework identifying a set of minimum acceptable standards/requirements ■
- b) Definitions and methods to calculate response rates ■

XVI. Dissemination of time-use data

- a) Modes of dissemination ■
- b) Issues in dissemination of time-use data ■

Some suggestions & comments on Part IV

- For XIV & XV & XVI) Avoid overlap of these sections when new chapter on quality is added
- For XVI) Dissemination of time-use data include the developments in dissemination of (statistical) information in the last 20 years
- For XVI a) Modes of dissemination remove parts on paper type documentations

Part Five. Classification of activities for time-use statistics

VXII. Proposed International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics

- a) Purpose and nature of the classification
- b) Concepts and definitions
- c) Principles used for constructing the classification
- d) Structure and coding system of the classification
- e) Application of the classification
- f) Relationship to the Eurostat Activity Coding List

- The 2005 UN Guide on TUS included Part Five on "Classification of activities for TUS" is now replaced by the publication ICATUS 2016.
- A proposal by UNSD is to have a reference to accompanying materials.

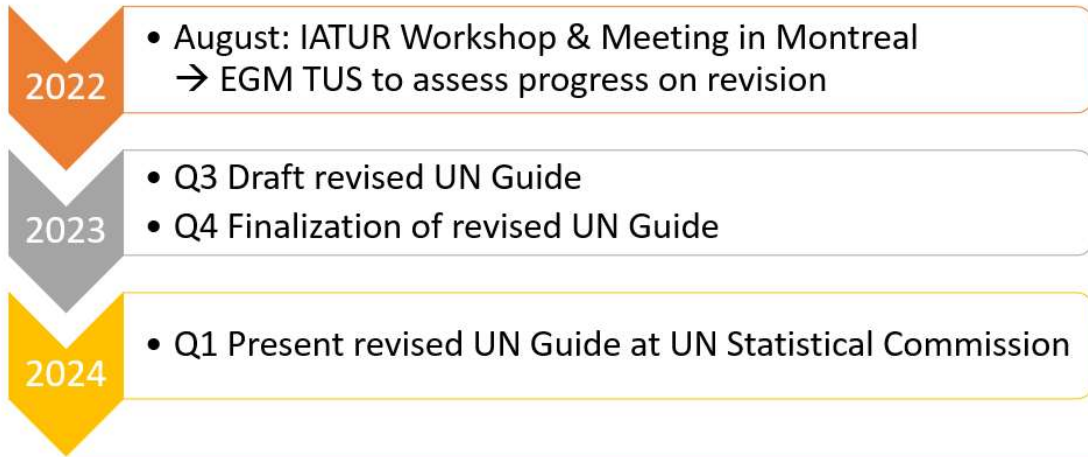
Some suggestions & comments on reference to ICATUS

- Keep the objective and the rationale of ICATUS, the relationship with other classifications (HETUS), the minimum set of activities (light diary)
- Include in annex ICATUS vs HETUS and maybe promote the use of tree like classification referring to ICATUS.
- Keep short high-level presentation of ICATUS 2016 (e.g., its structure, alignment with 19th ICLS, etc.) may help draw clear linkages with the MHI activity list and the scope of SDG 5.4.1.
- Reference to ICATUS 2016 and the light diary activity list; possibility to include this in chapter discussing activity coding

Some suggestions & comments on reference to other materials

- Quick reference to “Time-use during crisis - rapid instrument” and available material, but no dedicated chapter / section needed for this as material is focused on COVID-19
- Guidelines on Harmonised European Time Use Surveys (HETUS) 2000, 2010, 2020 (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/time-use-surveys/methodology>)
- Example of digital diary MHI if available, MHI Stylized questionnaire
- Reference to available country cases

Timeline & Milestones for revised Guide



 **DESA** | Statistics Division

Thank you!



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics