Session 3: Classifications in energy statistics

Vladimir Markhonko

International Workshop on Energy Statistics,
Aguascalientes, 2-5 Dec. 2008

Importance of classifications

- **Classification organizes a universe of objects into a hierarchical system by establishing the relationships between their various groups in accordance with the agreed classification scheme (**that is definitions of particular groups, rules of groups aggregation …**)**
- **Classification provides a common "language" for a specific field of statistics and a common coding system for data processing thus ensuring data consistency and comparability**

Role of standard international classifications

Standard international classifications **are adopted by the UN Statistical Commission** and are **used as the basis for national and regional classifications**, e.g.:

International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities

The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

Central Product Classification

Importance of int. classification for energy statistics

An internationally adopted classification in energy statistics would:

- ☺ Enhance the consistency and comparability of energy statistics; provide a uniform coding system for data processing
- ☺ Facilitate the links with other international classifications
- ☺ Serve as a reference for countries developing an energy statistics programme

Background

In the past, the need for an international classification in energy statistics was acknowledged during the UN Statistical Commission

- 1976 – Preparation of an int. classification of energy as part of the development of a global system of integrated energy statistics
- 1987 – Call for the development of a standard international energy classification

Classifications in energy statistics

There are 3 dimensions in energy statistics where internationally agreed classifications might be considered:

- Energy products
- Energy flows
- Energy related activities

SIEC

It is suggested that the Standard International Energy Classification (SIEC) **is developed as a part of IRES preparation process and is focusing first on classification of products**;

It would consist in a hierarchical structure of agreed definitions of energy products;

It would contain a correspondence between the basic headings in SIEC, HS and CPC.

SIEC may contain annexes (or part II and III with classifications of flows and energy related activities (production, transformation, consumption); this is to be further discussed)

SIEC correspondence with other international classifications

Ensuring SIEC correspondence with other international classifications is of paramount importance as it will:

- ☺ Facilitate the compilation of statistics on all types of products transactions
- ☺ Reduce response burden
- ☺ Allow for integrated analysis

Points for discussion

- Is there a classification for energy statistics in your country?
- What that is in scope of that classification? Is there a correspondence with HS, CPC, ISIC/NACE or other national classifications of products and economic activities?
- What problems have been encountered in the use of a energy classification (s)?
- What do you think about the scope and role of the proposed SIEC?

Thank you very mach for your attention!