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Progress report from the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics 2011-2012
(for information)

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The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics is a city group created by the UN Statistical Commission to address methodological issues related to energy statistics and contribute to improved international standards and improved methods for official energy statistics.

Activities in 2011

The International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES) was adopted by the Statistical Commission during its Forty-second session. The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics is now focusing its activities on the preparation of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM) which is intended to provide practical guidance in the implementation of the international recommendations for energy statistics (IRES) and the forthcoming physical flows portion of SEEA-Energy. The 6th meeting of the Oslo Group, 2-5 May 2011, Canberra, Australia, was dedicated to the preparation of the ESCM. In particular, the meeting agreed on a three-stage work plan: (1) Collection of country practices and textual inputs for the ESCM, (2) Consolidation of the material into a complete draft ESCM, (3) Consultation and review of the draft. The timeline presented at the meeting envisaged finalization of the ESCM in 2013.

In relation to stage (1), the Oslo Group secretariat, in cooperation with the UNSD and selected Oslo Group members, prepared a draft template for writing country practices. The purpose of the template is to collect and share country experiences in the compilation of energy statistics and to give structured input to ESCM. The draft template was circulated to Oslo Group and London Group members for comments in November 2011 and was circulated to countries by UNSD in February 2012.

Activities in 2012 and onwards

The main activities of the Oslo Group in 2012 are related to the collection of country practices and drafting of chapters for the ESCM (see process and outline for the ESCM at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/ESCM_April2011_OG6.pdf). The Oslo Group and the London Group, together with the UNSD, started the year by encouraging countries to submit country practices on topics related to energy statistics and accounts. Over 40 countries have submitted country practices. These are now available at the UN Country Practice Template website¹. The ESCM will draw heavily on country practices using them as a basis for the drafting of the text.

The preparation of the ESCM requires contributions from both the Oslo Group and the London Group members as the manual is intended to give practical guidance on both the IRES and the SEEA-Energy. A survey was sent out to the Oslo and the London Group members to encourage countries to contribute to the writing of the ESCM. Main coordinators (National Statistics Institutes and International organisations) for each of the ESCM-chapters have been established, and they are now taking the responsibility for coordinating working groups for the chapters (see table 1). The aim is to have textual input ready for discussion at the 7th Oslo Group meeting that will be held in Helsinki, Finland 23rd-26th October. The expected outcome of the 7th Oslo Group-meeting should be clear directions that will guide the subsequent revisions and drafting of each of the chapters. The meeting will also focus on cooperation with other groups, such as the London Group, and future activities for the Oslo Group after the completion of the ESCM.

¹ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/template.htm>

Table 1: Main coordinators for the draft chapters of the ESCM

Chapter outline of the ESCM:	Main coordinators
Chapter 1: Conceptual framework	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Chapter 2: Legal foundation and institutional arrangements	Statistics Mexico
Chapter 3: Classification	UNSD
Chapter 4: Data sources and data collection	Statistics Austria
Chapter 5: Compilation of energy balances	Statistics Norway
Chapter 6: Compilation of energy accounts	To be determined
Chapter 7: Energy indicators and Greenhouse gas emissions	Statistics Ireland
Chapter 8: Data quality and metadata	Statistics Canada
Chapter 9: Data dissemination	Statistics South Africa