

DZ.7 Improving the Visibility of Artificial Intelligence in the National Accounts

Instructions

For each question, please provide the answer by clicking the relevant check box or by typing in the framed textboxes, which will automatically expand to fit the text.

Please note that the survey may reach one or more contacts in your agency; however, only one response is expected. A printable version of the questionnaire and the guidance note are available at the SNA Consultations webpage of the United Nations Statistics Division. If you have any questions, please contact: nicola.massarelli@ec.europa.eu and sna@un.org.

We look forward to and highly appreciate your collaboration.

Sincerely,
Digitalization Task Team

Please provide your information below:

Country _____
Institution/Organization _____
Name _____
Position/Title _____
Email _____

1A. Is this topic of relevance for your country?

- High relevance
- Medium relevance
- Low relevance
- Not relevant

1B. Please elaborate.

(End of Page 1)

Introduction

Over the last twenty years, there has been marked technological progress in computer hardware and software as well as the storage and use of vast amounts of data that have increased the prevalence and range of applications of artificial intelligence in the economy.

AI applications are particularly noticeable in the consumer electronics market. AI tools are also used by Internet publishers, digital content subscription services, and social media networks. AI can identify and recommend content that an individual user is most likely to be interested in. Autonomous vehicles are another important application of AI. AI applications are used by businesses to guide decision-making in a wide array of sectors. In agriculture, AI tools absorb a wide array of data streams collected from sensors, cameras, and historical records to make recommendations on crop-planting, soil management, and pesticide use. Manufacturers use AI to improve the performance of industrial robots and to monitor and recommend improvements in production processes. Healthcare providers use AI tools to evaluate diagnostic images. In finance, AI tools are used to support lending decisions and to algorithmically generate personalized investment portfolios based on user-submitted data (i.e. robo-advisors).

The current version of the SNA does not make any reference to Artificial Intelligence. This guidance note provides recommendations that aim to increase the visibility of AI in the national accounts.

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2A. Do you agree to update the definition of Intellectual Property Products to *“the result of research, development, investigation, or innovation leading to knowledge or the creation of intelligent systems that the developers can market or use to their own benefit in production because use of the knowledge or system is restricted by means of legal or other protection”*?

- Yes
- No

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (2A = Yes)

2B. If no, please explain what changes are required to the proposed definition.

3A. Do you agree that the updated SNA include the following definition of AI: *“AI is a computer program operating a system capable of recognition and reasoning consistent with human recognition and reasoning”*?

- Yes
- No

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (3A = Yes)

3B. If no, please explain what changes are required to the proposed definition.

4A. Do you agree that Artificial Intelligence should be explicitly mentioned in the asset classification in a new class called “Computer Software and Artificial Intelligence”? This class would be derived from the current “Computer Software and Databases” class by separating Databases, which would be merged with Data in a separate class. In this new class, Artificial Intelligence would appear with an “of which” category.

- Yes
- No

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (4A = Yes)

4B. If no, please elaborate.

5A. Do you agree that the value of the cost of producing training datasets should be excluded from the value of own-account AI and included instead in the value of Data assets?

- Yes
- No

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (5A = Yes)

5B. If no, please elaborate.

6A. Do you agree that the value of the cost of data services required by an AI should be excluded from the value of AI and recorded as intermediate consumption?

- Yes
- No

This Question is Conditionally Shown if: (6A = No)

6B. If no, please elaborate.

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In the ongoing review of the ISIC classification, the application of robotics and artificial intelligence is not considered as a new activity but as a new technology providing existing services/activities more efficiently and effectively. Therefore, no structural change is proposed in ISIC and the explanatory notes of the existing categories in the new ISIC will be adjusted to make reference to robotic/AI when relevant. In the context of the review of the CPC, it will be considered whether changes have to be made to the classification to reflect the explanatory notes in the new ISIC.

7A. Do you agree that the updated CPC include specific classes for AI and that this guidance note serves as the SNA drafting recommendations?

- Yes
- No

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (7A = Yes)

7B. If no, please elaborate.

8A. Do you agree that the updated ISIC should include no structural change for AI or do you think that separate ISIC classes for AI should be established?

- Agree with ISIC proposal
- Separate ISIC classes for AI should be established

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (8A = Agree with ISIC proposal)

8B. Please elaborate.

(End of Page 4)

9A. Would your institution be interested in participating in an experimental estimate exercise?

- Yes
- No

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (9A = No)

9B. If yes, what technical assistance, if any, would you need?

10. Do you have any other comments on this guidance note?

11. In order to maximize transparency, we would like to publish responses to global consultations.

Do you give consent that your response to this questionnaire can be published?

- Yes
- No

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