

**7th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,
23-25 April 2012, New York**

Agenda item: VI

*Joint development of DSDs for National Accounts
ECB, Eurostat and OECD*



*Joint development of DSDs for National Accounts
between ECB, Eurostat and OECD*

Project Description and Governance

Luxembourg, 08/11/2011

Background

The SDMX sponsors (BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, United Nations and World Bank) mandated ECB, Eurostat and OECD to propose Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) in order to implement SDMX in National Accounts according to SNA 2008; this comprises in particular the definition of SDMX Data Structures for exchanging data from reporting countries to international organisations and between the organisations and possibly beyond as well as to maintain the DSDs over time, in accordance with the procedures agreed upon by the SDMX Working Groups.

Project Steering Group

ECB:

Andreas Hake, Head of Division/Statistical Information Services (S/SIS)

Tjeerd Jellema, Head of Section/Euro Area and Public Finance Accounts (S/EAA/EAPA)

Eurostat:

August Götzfried, Head of Unit/Management of statistical data and metadata

Silke Stapel, Head of Unit/National accounts – production

OECD:

Peter van de Ven, Head of Division/NAD

David Barraclough, Head of IT/STD

Project Coordination (Eurostat):

Daniel Suranyi, Project Officer/IT and standards for data and metadata exchange

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Overview

This document describes the framework for the joint development of SNA2008 DSDs for global use and to establish a way forward.

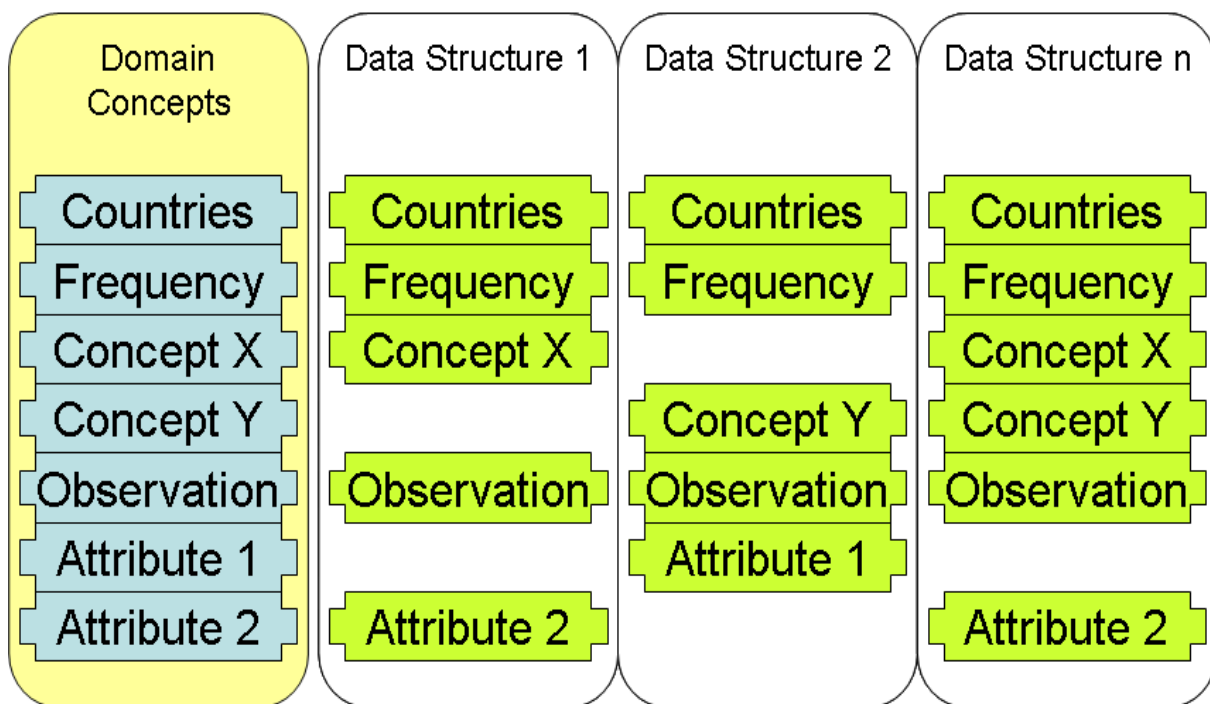
1. The Steering Group agreed that the vital key for the project success is to setup a clearly defined project governance structure to respond to the mandate given by the SDMX sponsors for proposing DSDs in order to implement and maintain SDMX in National Accounts. The governance structure will comprise a Steering Group (SG) with up to two representatives each from the ECB, Eurostat and OECD covering National Accounts and SDMX competencies (i.e. the steering group may consist of up to six representatives). The steering group will further define the governance of the development e.g. by establishing guiding principles, and may mandate one or more technical groups for conducting the development of SDMX artefacts. A project coordinator is appointed by the Steering Group to coordinate and drive the joint development. This person reports to the Steering Group and provides the secretariat for it.
2. The main objective is to deliver SDMX Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) for global use allowing for the starting of data exchanges by mid-2014. The focus of the joint development is on the exchange of data at supra- and international level. The development shall ensure that the SNA2008 core set of needs (in particular of the SDMX sponsors) is satisfied and that extended needs (e.g. for ESA2010, and data transmissions under ECB guidelines and regulations) can be accomplished in time by building on this set of commonly agreed SDMX artefacts. The project should also provide principles and agreements for future governance and maintenance to facilitate wide acceptance also beyond the SDMX sponsors. A second objective could be to provide a framework for production and dissemination to end users of reference metadata to be shared among the organisations. This will be looked into by the steering group.
3. It has been agreed that the three organisations will ensure a common and consistent communication on this joint undertaking to their constituencies and other stakeholders.
4. With regard to the roadmap, a common understanding has been reached that the development needs to be basically completed by end-2012. This will allow NSIs, CBs, etc. sufficient time for implementation such that data exchanges in the context of the introduction of the new standards (SNA2008 and ESA2010) can start as planned in mid-2014. Other DSDs, such as those for Government Finance Statistics (GFS), Insurance Corporations and Pension Funds (ICPFs) and Securities Statistics (issues and holdings) should build, where possible, on the SNA SDMX artefacts (e.g. the code list for the institutional sectors).
5. The mandate for the steering group and a high-level roadmap was approved by the SDMX sponsors at the SDMX sponsors meeting on 12 September. Both documents are attached to this note.

Approach

It was agreed to start with the definition of the “Domain Concepts” as a fully comprehensive set of SDMX artefacts to describe the National Accounts domain (“SNA2008 Domain Concepts”). It was underlined that many of the concepts and associated code lists already exist; however, they need to be partly revised and improved in line with SNA2008. This includes, in a second step, a review of the existing data flows between countries and international organisations and among international organisations,. Particular attention should be paid to concepts common with other areas of statistics such as BOP.

Those artefacts will not build an SDMX DSD as such, but work as inventory of cross-domain as well as specific concepts and associated code lists from which the National Accounts DSDs linked to specific data flows can be derived, using each a subset of concepts. The overall aim is to create (a) as few DSDs as possible and (b) share them among the organisations as broadly as possible. The DSDs should however describe the data flows that they are used for accurately. This approach combines maximum harmonisation of the “SNA2008 Domain Concepts” with the flexibility to address all sponsors needs and the needs of other (non Sponsor) organisations.

The general approach is visualised below:



Project Organisation

The following project organisation has been agreed:

1. **The SDMX Sponsors** gave the mandate to ECB, Eurostat and OECD to jointly propose SDMX DSDs for global use for SNA2008.

2. **A Steering Group**, with up to two representatives each from the ECB, Eurostat and OECD covering NA and SDMX competencies (i.e. the Steering Group may consist of up to six representatives). The Steering Group will further define the governance of the development e.g. by establishing guiding principles, and mandate one or more technical groups for conducting the development of SDMX artefacts. A project coordinator will be appointed by the Steering Group to coordinate and drive the joint development. This person will report to the Steering Group and provide the secretariat for it. The Steering Group reports via the SDMX Secretariat to the SDMX Sponsors and reports to the OECD Statistical Committee (C-Stat). It can mandate technical groups to address technical questions and to progress the implementation.
3. **Project Coordinator**, 1 person responsible for the overall schedule and deliverables to ensure project implementation, seen also as the link between the Steering Group and the technical working groups; this person should be acting as the Steering Group secretary; he/she reports to the Steering Group and participates in Steering Group meetings. Eurostat volunteered to provide the Project Coordinator ensuring also the secretariat of the Steering Group.
4. **Technical Groups** consisting of NA, statistical and SDMX experts to be handled in a flexible manner in accordance to the needs arising; these groups are mandated by and report (via the Project Coordinator) to the Steering Group.

It was agreed to use joint templates (with the logos of ECB, Eurostat and OECD in alphabetical order) and to set up an approval workflow involving all three organisations for communication to Working Groups, Committees or other addressees; an online IT system (Wiki) was set up by Eurostat to facilitate communication and the organisation of the project. It includes version control and access shall only be granted to named members of the project groups.

Annex

1 - Mandate for the Steering Group

2 - High-level roadmap

Annex 1 - Mandate of the Steering Group

Project: Introduction of SDMX for National Accounts (SDMX-NA)

Objective:

The objective of the project SDMX-NA is the implementation of SDMX in National Accounts according to SNA 2008 and the development, implementation and maintenance of the respective Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) for global use by mid- 2013. This includes the production, implementation and continuous sharing of reference metadata.

Members of the SDMX-NA Steering Group (SDMX-NA SG):

The SDMX-NA SG is formed by one subject matter and one technical representative of each of the three organisations: ECB, Eurostat and OECD. The members are nominated by their organisations. This Steering Group regularly reports to the SDMX Secretariat/Sponsors, the OECD Statistical Committee (C-Stat) and the IAG.

Project Coordinator:

A Project Coordinator shall be responsible for the project implementation. His/Her main tasks include detailed planning, coordination of implementation activities, creation of a communication plan and coordination of communication. The project coordinator co-ordinates the work by the (different) technical groups so as to meet the deliverables and timeline specified in the roadmap

The Project Coordinator reports to the SDMX-NA SG and provides the secretariat to the SG. He/She attends the SG meetings.

Eurostat volunteered to name the Project Coordinator and thereby ensure the SDMX-NA SG secretariat.

Tasks of the SDMX-NA SG:

The SG has to ensure the following task:

1. Clarification of governance principles, resources, organisation and finance;
2. Development of a detailed roadmap for the implementation of SDMX in NA with the aim of being ready for implementation by mid-2013 (to be fully operational by mid-2014);
3. Development of detailed annual work plans in line with the roadmap;
4. Ensuring a timely follow-up of the roadmap and plans and development of recovery plans, if necessary;
5. Clarification of the scope of development of reference metadata;
6. Development of a maintenance agreement, structure, organisation and timetable to be followed as of 2014;
7. Regular reporting to the SDMX sponsors via the SDMX Secretariat;
8. Ensuring good documentation;

9. Development and follow-up of a communication strategy to all stakeholders and respective plans for bodies to be consulted (stakeholders working groups and committees);
10. Ensuring good and consistent communication to all stakeholders;
11. Mandating and follow-up of technical working groups;
12. Organising pilot implementations of relevant SNA2008 DSD's.

Annex 2 - Draft high-level roadmap for implementing SDMX in National Accounts

Mile stone		Process/ event	Date	Description
1	Prepa-ration	1 Kick-off	17/08/2011	Initial meeting of ECB, Eurostat and ECB
		2 SDMX Sponsors	12/09/2011	Comments on the high level roadmap and the mandate for the Steering Group by the SDMX sponsors
		3 Organisation	End-Sep 2011	Appointment of Steering Group members and of the project coordinator
		4 Detailed planning	Q4 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of governance principles, resources and finance for development and implementation. Preparation of a detailed roadmap and the detailed work plan 2012; detailed plan of consultations
		5 Stakeholders needs	Q1 2012	Analysis of envisaged data flows in cooperation with the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics and gathering of specific needs of sponsors (including validation)
2	Develop-ment	1 SDMX artefacts	Q4 2011 – Q3 2012	Development of SNA 2008 statistical concepts and associated code lists
		2 SDMX technical questions	Q4 2011	Clarification of SDMX version and dialect
		3 DSDs	Q2 –Q3 2012	Development of SNA2008 DSDs for global use
		4 Fine tuning	Q4 2012 – Q2 2013	Fine tuning based on the feedback from the consultation and pilot projects
		5 Preparation of production and maintenance	Q3 2012 – Q1 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of maintenance agreement including governance, principles, organisations, high-level processes set-up of support and maintenance organisation

3	Consultations and acceptance	SDMX Working Groups	Q3 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for compliance with SDMX content oriented guidelines and technical standards • Extract possible improvements / enhancements to the content oriented guidelines
		NA expert groups and bodies	Q3-Q4 2012	Consultation of NA expert groups coordinated by sponsoring organisations
		SDMX Sponsors	Q1 2013	Acceptance of development and maintenance arrangements by SDMX Sponsors
4	Implementation	1 Pilot projects	Q4 2012 – Q2 2013	Testing of the DSDs and the technical set-up of data flows with pilot countries and between pilot organisations
		2 Release	Q3 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability in SDMX registry and on SDMX web site • Support and maintenance arrangements and organisation in place
		2 Adaptation of the production systems	Q3 2013 – Q2 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation of the production systems in the reporting countries and the receiving organisations; • Derivation of reporting templates as fall-back for countries not using SDMX
5	Production and maintenance	1 Maintenance	Q1 2013	Agreement on global maintenance governance, finance and schedule
		2 Regular production	Sept. 2014	Start of regular data transmission in the EU