

**11th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,  
5-7 December 2017, New York, USA**

**Agenda item: 8.1**

**Manuals and handbooks**

Introduction

The ISWGNA continues its efforts to develop compilation guidance on national accounts and supporting statistics to strengthen the statistical capacity for compiling national accounts. This session will provide an overview of the progress on the manuals, handbooks and other guidance prepared by international/regional organizations as well as on the development of satellite accounts.

A paper on: - Overview of manuals and Handbooks

Main issues to be discussed

The AEG is requested to provide guidance on the compilation of manuals and handbooks



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**The compilation of manuals and handbooks**

1. This note provides an update on the progress made regarding the compilation of manuals, handbooks and guidance notes—initiated by the ISWGNA—to strengthen the statistical capacity for compiling national accounts, in accordance with the implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. The list comprises three categories i) completed publications, ii) publications in progress, and iii) planned publications. A short description of the publications is provided in this note.

**a. Completed publications in 2017**

- i. Handbook on Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables with Extensions and Applications (UN)

The “Handbook on Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables with Extensions and Applications” elaborates on the changes in the underlying international accounting standards and classifications and provide practical compilation guidance for countries for the compilation of Supply and Use tables (SUTs) and Input-Output tables (IOTs). The Handbook contributes to advancing the 2008 SNA implementation. The Handbook builds on existing material such as the Eurostat Manual of Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables (2008).

- ii. Handbook on Satellite Account on Nonprofit and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work (update, UN)

The “Handbook on non-profit institutions in the SNA” was issued in 2003 and is being revised mainly to incorporate changes in the underlying international economic accounting standards (notably the 2008 SNA) and classifications (ISIC Rev 4), and the experiences/country practices in implementing the UN NPI Handbook. The Center for Civil Society Studies at Johns Hopkins University is again leading this revision.

- iii. Quarterly National Accounts Manual (update, IMF)

The IMF released a prepublication draft of the Quarterly National Accounts Manual - 2017 Edition (2017 QNA Manual). The new edition offers a comprehensive review of the data sources, statistical methods, and compilation techniques to derive quarterly GDP and is consistent with the 2008 SNA. The 2017 QNA Manual improves and expands the content of the 2001 edition based on recent methodological advances, best country practices, and suggestions received from quarterly national accounts compilers and experts. The 2017 QNA Manual also benefits from technical assistance missions and training courses conducted by the IMF in well over 100 countries since 2001.

- iv. Overview of GDP flash estimation methods (Eurostat)

The document provides a general overview of methods that are used in Member States for compiling GDP flash estimates at 30 days after the quarter-end. It guides the compiler in the estimation process by following a step-by-step approach. The document discusses preliminary analysis of available data, model strategies, and methods for forecasting missing data including

the extensions to multivariate setups and the analysis of results. Links to available software and references to literature are included as well. For more information, see <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3888793/7242392/KS-TC-16-006-EN-N.pdf/9fe035e2-4a09-4ced-8db1-4cba4163576a>.

v. Understanding Financial Accounts (OECD)

As a follow-up to the successful publication “Understanding National Accounts”, for which a second and revised edition has been published in 2014, it has been decided to also have a similar publication on financial accounts and balance sheets. This decision was also triggered by the 2008 economic and financial crisis which showed the importance of having high quality and timely data on risks and vulnerabilities related to financial developments. The main goal of the publication is to explain the design, the compilation, and the potential use of financial accounts and balance sheets in an understandable and easily accessible way. The publication is being drafted with the cooperation of various international organizations and countries.

vi. Compilation Guide on Inventories (Eurostat and OECD)

The “Compilation Guide on Inventories” is part of a longer-term project to provide more guidance on the measurement of land and other non-financial assets. After having finalized the guidance on land, this new Guide has the objective to provide a better understanding of the methods that countries employ to estimate annual stocks of inventories on the balance sheet, to identify best practices, and to come up with concrete recommendations on a number of more problematic areas. The Guide will also discuss issues related to the estimation of changes in inventories.

vii. Compilation Guide to Analyze Natural Resources in the National Accounts (IMF)

The “Compilation Guide to Analyze Natural Resource in the National Accounts” will include compilation methods for measuring national accounts aggregates related to the extraction of natural resource wealth. It will identify key analytical uses of the macroeconomic statistics on natural resources, presenting transactions and other flows related to the natural resources industries and the products they produce. The guide will contain a set of template tables to show statistics on natural resources in a standard presentation. The tables will cover macroeconomic aggregates and a set of accounts for natural resources that will report on assets, production, income and international transactions and provide relevant information for analytical purposes. The compilation methods and tables will be based on the 2008 SNA and cover production, income and capital account variables. The guide will also reflect issues of concern to balance of payments and the government finance statistics. It is designed for those countries where extraction industries are “macro-critical.” Partnerships include the UN working groups – Oslo and Ulaanbaatar Groups, and the project receives financing from the Managing Natural Resource Wealth - Topical Trust Fund.

viii. Handbook on Rapid Estimates (Eurostat and UN)

The “Handbook on Rapid Estimates” outlines practical and suitable compilation methods for the compilation of rapid estimates. It draws on a wide range of experience and expertise, and benefits from recent theoretical and practical developments in the area. The handbook is intended to assist those producing rapid estimates e.g. in the area of key short term macroeconomic indicators. It is also intended to assist countries that plan to set up a more comprehensive system of estimates by providing both methodological foundations for the compilation of rapid estimates, and by giving practical guidance on individual steps and elements of the compilation process, in a comparable manner, using best international practices.

ix. Handbook on Cyclical Composite Indicators (Eurostat and UN)

The “Handbook on Cyclical Composite Indicators” provides statistical and econometric guidance on harmonized principles and methods for the compilation, monitoring and dissemination of cyclical composite indicators. This handbook contributes to improved cross-country comparisons of economic performance using international agreed methodology based on international best practices. This handbook is written for both producers and users of cyclical composite indicators. National statistical offices and other national producers that are considering a system of cyclical composite indicators will find sound methodological and practical guidance in setting up their production process. It provides recommendations on the choice of the reference cycle and on many other appropriate methodologies to be used.

**b. Publications in progress**

i. Handbook on National Accounting Backcasting Methodology (UN)

The “Handbook on National Accounting Backcasting Methodology” will provide national statistical offices with appropriate guidelines and advice on backcasting. With the adoption of new accounting and classification standards, there is a high demand for methodological guidance in applying backcasting techniques to maintain coherent timeseries. As a comprehensive manual, this handbook will touch upon both the technical and the planning and management aspects of a backcasting project. The handbook will discuss in detail the need for backcasted national accounts data, the design and management of a backcasting process, different methodological approaches for backcasting, quality assurance, and communication issues.

ii. Compilation of European annual and quarterly accounts including flash estimates (Eurostat)

The publication on “Compilation of European annual and quarterly accounts including flash estimates” presents an update of the estimation methodology of the GDP flash estimates for the European Union (EU) and for the euro area (EA). Firstly it discusses more generally the compilation methodology of annual and quarterly European national accounts. After that the flash t+45 estimation methodology is delineated and linked to the compilation of later regular European national accounts. The paper shortly addresses the work on advancing the GDP flash estimates for the euro area and the EU to 30 days after the end of the quarter.

iii. Handbook on the recording of illegal economic activities in national accounts and balance of payments statistics (Eurostat)

The “Handbook on the recording of illegal economic activities (IEAs) in national accounts and balance of payments statistics” will provide conceptual and practical guidance to national compilers concerning the preparation of estimates for IEAs. The IEAs discussed in the Handbook include next to those covered by the recommendations of the GNI Committee (drugs, prostitution, smuggling of alcohol and tobacco) also other IEAs like money laundering, fencing, bribery, illegal transportation of migrants, trafficking in firearms, infringements of intellectual property right to be included in the accounting frameworks. An Annex to this Handbook will contain country studies from Member States of the European Union and countries outside Europe.

- iv. Accounting for global value chains: a system of extended national accounts and integrated business statistics (UN)

The handbook “Accounting for global value chains: a system of extended national accounts and integrated business statistics” will focus on major issues related to the concepts, accounting rules, classifications and accounts which facilitate the compilation of a set of regional (multi-economic territory) or global accounts. The issues to be addressed are drawn from reports and papers on the measurement of globalization by the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the OECD, Eurostat, the IMF, the Bank for International Settlements, country statistical offices, and researchers.

- v. Handbook on Culture satellite accounts (UNESCO)

There is an ever increasing interest in the measurement of the contribution of culture and cultural industries to economic activity and wellbeing. The handbook on Culture satellite accounts will provide guidance on measuring the economic dimension of culture using the 2008 SNA as overarching framework. Compiling culture satellite accounts will enable policy makers to develop and monitor progress of evidence based policies regarding culture and cultural industries. The lead on developing the guidance on the Culture satellite accounts will be undertaken by UNESCO.

- vi. Aviation Satellite Accounts (ICAO)

There is an increasing need for more information to assess the important role of aviation in national economies worldwide. The need for reliable data using standardized concepts, definitions and methodologies to measure the economic impact of aviation is needed by governments, policy makers and industry. The Aviation Satellite Accounts will provide guidance on measuring the impact of the aviation industry on the economy, including aviation's contribution to GDP, the number of jobs created by aviation, taxes and charges generated and impact of aviation on balance of payments, using the 2008 SNA as overarching framework. The lead on developing the guidance on the Aviation satellite accounts will be undertaken by the International Civil Aviation Organization. For more information see <http://www.icao.int/sustainability/Satellite/Pages/default.aspx>.

### **c. Planned publications**

- i. Manual on the Compilation of Information on the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Saving Across Households Consistent with National Accounts (OECD)

The OECD Expert Group on Household Distributional Information on Income, Consumption and Saving within the SNA (EG DNA) has the objective to link results from micro-surveys to the relevant national accounts aggregates. The “Manual on the Compilation of Information on the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Saving Across Households Consistent with National Accounts” will discuss methodologies to adjust household data from national accounts to bring the population in line with the micro-surveys, the preferable breakdown and alignment of transactions in micro-surveys and national accounts, and methodologies to gross up the results from micro-surveys or to impute values in case of transactions that typically are not (well) captured in micro-data. It will also deal with the various subgroupings of households, and with extrapolation methods to arrive at more timely data. Finally, some examples of potential uses for policy analysis will be shown and discussed.

ii. Satellite Account for Education and Training (UNECE)

The Guide on Measuring Human Capital recommended that as a first step in elaborating human capital estimates, countries should develop a satellite account on education and training. In addition to providing estimate of the total expenditure on education and training, the objective of such a satellite account is also to distinguish the various expenditures, including the identification of the financing arrangements for these expenditures. It extends the production boundary of the SNA only slightly by recognizing the output from the internal expenditures on education and training by employers. In 2017 the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) established a Task Force on Satellite Accounts for Education and Training to develop a framework and coordinate the pilot testing of satellite accounts on education and training in countries with different economic circumstances and data availability. Based on the pilot testing, the Task Force aims to develop a compilation guide that will help countries construct internationally comparable satellite accounts on education and training, which will lead to improved cost-based measurement of human capital.