A Guide to Sharing Economic Data

UNECE Task Force on the Exchange and Sharing of Economic Data

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Outline

- Background
- Vision for data sharing
- Structure of the Guide
- First steps for National Statistical Offices
- First steps for International Statistical Organizations
- Way forward
UNECE Task Force on the Exchange and Sharing of Economic Data:

- Established in 2017.
- Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Poland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, ECB, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UNECE and UNSD.
- Focused on identifying the barriers and enablers to overcome them.
- Focused developing feasible and achievable solutions ranging from cultural to communication issues.

AEG has discussed work of the Task Force:

- 11th Meeting on 3-5 December 2017: objectives and progress.
- 12th Meeting on 27-29 November 2018: first outcomes of the work and plans for finalizing the Guide.
Vision for data sharing

- If we had all the data needed
  - We could reconcile MNE data globally
  - We could produce economic statistics without asymmetries
  - Same data only collected once from MNEs covering several countries
  - Research and decisions based on more accurate statistics
  - Rich and better analysis of economic globalisation

- To get there we need to answer questions like:
  - Where would the MNE data reside – in a global data base?
  - How would the data end up there – secure data exchange platform?
  - Who would collect and validate data – single or multiple points?
  - Who would have access – certified statistical authorities, international organisations’ statistical branches?
Structure of the Guide

Executive Summary
I. Introduction
II. Current landscape - Status of data sharing in statistics
III. Enabling increased data sharing - obstacles and enablers of data sharing
IV. Prerequisites for better data reconciliation
V. Communication and engagement with multinational enterprises
VI. Guidance and principles for data sharing
VII. Way forward
Annexes
First steps for National Statistical Offices

- Review national conditions for MNE data exchange: the statistical law and statistical framework, interpretation of legislation and confidentiality procedures and rules.

- Prepare the national set-up for MNE data sharing: allocate resources, prepare tools, engage with MNEs and organize activities as appropriate for the country.
  - Countries where significant presence of MNEs exist – need to develop LCUs type structures or appropriate mechanisms.

- Engage in international collaboration and work to address national challenges in measuring MNEs through international collaboration and data exchange.
Handling MNE Groups

**International Business Unit?**
Focus on MNE groups
*Piloting 'some' parts over 12 months*
(would like 25-50 staff in time?)
(Use of VAT returns, turnover data, FDI, etc. to help develop prioritisation)

- **Single contact for each business** (account manager)
- **Improve registers and links to registers**
- **Collect AND process ALL data the business can provide** (no surveys / tailored MNE surveys)
- **Analyses dimension** (links to data scientists and economists)
- **Profile the company using “national” structures**
- **Data links to VAT and admin. data sources**
- **Single data collection point for all data for each business**

**Data sources**
Business surveys, administrative data, VAT data and other sources.

**National accounts**
Outputs (GVA, GDP, GNI, FDI, BoP, FA, RA, EA, etc.)

Engage and help develop “international” data sharing, data exchange and data reconciliation via a “network” linking NSOs and NCBs supported by all the international organisations: UNSD, UNECE, IMF, EU, OECD and the World Bank.

Compiled by Sanjiv Mahajan
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First steps for International Statistical Organizations

- Set up and coordinate an international network of experts on MNE Groups - contact points for exchange of information.
- Create and maintain a register of the largest MNEs as well as platforms to facilitate analyses of asymmetries.
- Develop guidance and training to build national capacities to exchange and reconcile MNE Group data.
- Facilitate secure data exchange building on existing initiatives.
- Engage with MNE Groups, accountants and law makers to improve the basis for future data collection.
Considerations for a global infra-structure handling MNE Groups

Need to improve the QUALITY of the measurement of MNE Groups
[Comparability, Coherency and Consistency]

Need a modern International Statistical Data Infrastructure
An internationally coordinated and managed MNE Group Data Network?

Examples of functions and issues to be covered:
- Facilitate data collection initiatives? (major reduction on burden on business, etc.)
- Facilitate data sharing, data exchange and data reconciliation initiatives
- Early warning signal mechanism on “restructurings” in place
- Conceptual and practical training and guidance
- Develop links with all large MNE Groups, NSOs / NCBs, etc.

Principles of operation:
- Confidentiality
- Information sharing
- Cooperation
- Timeliness
- Collaboration
- Coordination

Countries with MNE Groups develop an International Business Unit

Foundation:
Legal confidential agreement and memorandum of understanding covering all data and those countries’ NSOs / NCBs and the international institutions involved.
Way Forward

- CES Bureau will review the Guide on 16-17 October 2019.

- Electronic consultation of the Guide:
  - Integrate the results of the CMFB Task Force.
  - Please, provide your views.

- Adoption of the Guide by the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2020.

- Implementation of the recommendations.
  - To be driven by all actors of the Global Statistical System.
Task Force now invites AEG to:

- Review the main recommendations of the draft “Guide to Sharing Economic Data”.
- Discuss the vision for data sharing, the strategic recommendations and the Way Forward.
- Suggest additional examples of data sharing among countries.
Any questions?

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