

Workshop on the implementation plans for the 2008 SNA in Central Asia and Eastern European countries

Kiev, 29 November – 2 December 2011

The main conclusions of the Workshop

Participants of the Workshop:

1. Reaffirmed that the Implementation strategy for the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA), supported by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2009, is the overarching framework for formulating their national and regional implementation programmes for the 2008 SNA.
2. Recognised that the efficient implementation of the 2008 SNA and its supporting economic statistics requires close cooperation between the national statistical offices, central banks and other statistical stakeholders, especially when the responsibility for collection of basic economic statistics and compilation of national accounts is shared between such institutions.
3. Recognised that some of the new concepts and recommendations in the 2008 SNA provides unique challenges for the collection of appropriate source data, and that appropriate supporting statistics, including short term economic indicators, will be important for the capacity of countries in the region to produce national accounts in accordance with 2008 SNA.
4. Agreed that the plan for implementation of the 2008 SNA and the development of supporting statistics should be incorporated in the strategic and working programme of the national statistical offices.
5. Recognized that not all countries have fully implemented the SNA: In the majority of countries 2008 SNA will have to be implemented while the national statistical offices are still developing the full system of national accounts.
6. Recognized that countries are at different stages of progress in their implementation of the 2008 SNA: A few countries have already implementation plans in place and have taken the first steps in the changeover to 2008 SNA, some are in the process of developing implementation plans and some still need to initiate work.
7. Welcomed the initiative of the UNECE to develop a regional implementation plan within the frame of the global implementation programme, based on the national implementation plans, and recognised that the UNECE will support and advise the development and monitoring of progress in the implementation of the 2008 SNA in the region.
8. Agreed to complete the 2008 SNA Implementation Plan Table provided by the UNECE (available from the workshop's website: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.20/2011/Item_7c_-_Questions_and_table.pdf) by February 2012 to be discussed at the special session for transition economies at the meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts in May 2012, and to have a second follow-up meeting in conjunction with the meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts in 2014.

9. Welcomed the initiative by UNECE to assist countries to carry out a global assessment of the statistical system of countries that request such an assessment and the proposed implementation tools: the Statistical System Information sheet, the Self Assessment Diagnostic Tool and others.

10. Agreed that the UNECE in its work should cooperate with countries, other regional partners, e.g. CIS-STAT, and other international organisations (e.g. Eurostat, EFTA) to ensure coordination of activities. The participants welcomed the initiative to organise follow-up activities in the form of technical assistance, workshops, methodological guidance and study visits, based on the needs of the countries in the region, and recommended that ministries of finance, central banks and other stake holders be involved when this is found useful.

11. Welcomed the initiative by the UNSD for establishing a dedicated website to track and support the implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, as well as the Knowledge Base for economic statistics and macroeconomic standards, and agreed to provide material on country practises to be housed in this Knowledge Base.

12. Welcomed the update of the SNA implementation milestones, data sets and quality assessment framework, which together with the UN National Accounts regular questionnaire could be used for monitoring the scope and detail and quality of national accounts compilation at the country level.

13. Welcomed the draft translation of the 2008 SNA in Russian and expressed their appreciation towards Rosstat and CIS-STAT for completing this important task. The participants also agreed to inform UNSD of any discrepancies found in the Russian version.

14. Welcomed the development of compilation guidance such as the handbooks on measuring capital and intellectual property products and the drafting of handbook on Financial production, stocks and flows in the SNA, and requested that these and other relevant materials be made available in Russian.

15. Identified a number of issues where there is a need for technical assistance and support, including the following:

- Improvements of primary statistics, including use of administrative sources
- Prices and volume measures
- The exhaustiveness of the national accounts
- Integrated accounts and tables
- Financial statistics
- Institutional sector accounts
- Classifications
- Software
- Back casting