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Report of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Supplement to the report of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Prepared by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Supplement to the report of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts

I. Introduction

1. The aim with this Supplement to the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts is to elaborate further on the issues that were raised in the main report. Section II of the supplement provides detail on the research agenda of the 2008 SNA. An update on the publications supporting the implementation of the 2008 SNA is presented in Section III. A summary of activities, during 2015 and expected activities in 2016, related to economic statistics and national accounts carried out by the member organizations of the ISWGNA and the regional commissions is provided in Section IV. Section V provides further information on the reporting of annual national accounts data.

II. List of SNA research issues

2. The list includes issues, which are currently considered by the ISWGNA and the AEG. The SNA research agenda is reflected on the SNA research agenda website, hosted by the Statistics Division, available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/research.asp>

Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured

3. Research continues to further develop the conceptual arguments to either include or exclude credit default risk in the calculation of Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measure (FISIM) and methods for measuring volume and price changes of FISIM. In the case of excluding credit default risk, this includes the development of methods and data that could support its possible exclusion in the future. The long-term research agenda on FISIM includes: (a) Further development of the “costs of funds” approach to determine the reference rate and of possible alternative approaches (vintage reference rate); (b) Consideration of the financial instruments and units scope of FISIM; (c) Connection between the recommendations on implementing FISIM and the definition of income.

Accounting for pensions

4. Further clarification is needed in the delineation and measurement of pension entitlements and the articulation of when to record the transactions, other flows and positions of defined benefit pension schemes in the core accounts in line with the 2008 SNA recommendations. Furthermore as part of explaining the explicit recording of imputed property income on the liabilities between a pension manager and a defined benefit pension fund the AEG is deliberating on the classification of the imputed property income. The nature of investment income (holding gains and losses) related to pension funds and investment funds will be further investigated under the broader issue of the concept of income.

Table on household retirement resources

5. Funding retirement incomes with an aging population, increasing debt concerns and the sustainability of consumption patterns are issues that are being addressed by the Advisory Expert

Group (AEG). In this regard the AEG is reviewing the development of a table on household retirement resources which is intended to provide extensive and detailed information on the various household resources for retirement, including the scope of assets and cross border transactions. Further work is required regarding the delineation of social assistance benefits and the possible inclusion of assets such as owner occupied dwellings.

Global production

6. More evidence and practical experience from countries on the transactions of Factoryless Good Producers (FGPs) are needed in order to develop guidance on their classification and treatment. FGPs are companies that have outsourced all aspects of material transformation of the good but own the intellectual property products (IPP). Typically they concentrate on innovation, marketing and supply service inputs to the production process in the form of technology, know-how, and product design, but do not supply the material inputs to the contract manufacturer. The research will be advanced in order to arrive at more concrete recommendations on the detection of such companies, which will allow to collect practical evidence from countries on the transactions of FGPs so that further guidance on their treatment could be developed. More extended research on emerging types of global production arrangements, particularly in the area of services, will also be addressed.

Treatment of the output of international financial institutions

7. The characterization and compilation of the output of international financial institutions and the use of that output by their member countries require elaboration under the current SNA guidelines, taking into consideration the cost of funds approach and the valuation at cost (possibly including the full cost of capital) for the non-market part of output.

Capital income of insurer's own funds

8. In the 2008 SNA, the calculation of the output and value added of insurance corporations excludes the capital income derived from the investment of the own funds of these corporations. However, the insurance industry regards all capital income is part of the production process of insurance protection. It may therefore be useful to assess the implications of reconsidering the role of investment income (or some part thereof) on insurers' own funds in measuring insurance service output and how it would affect the recording of transactions and other flows in national accounts.

The valuation of natural resources

9. The calculation of the value of natural resources poses measurement issues that need to be addressed in order to ensure international comparability.

The treatment of statistical units in supply and use tables and institutional sector accounts

10. The rapidly changing nature of production and in particular the ways in which producers produce goods and services has cast a spotlight on the SNA's preference for the use of the

establishment unit to compile industrial statistics, and in particular, supply and use tables. One of the primary motivations for this preference reflected the view that establishments classified to the same industrial classification grouping shared similar characteristics in their production functions, and, so, were considered broadly ‘homogeneous’. However the increasing international fragmentation of production, coupled with the growing emergence of new types of producers has weakened underlying assumptions of homogeneity.

11. A Task Force on Statistical Units (TFSU) has been established to take stock of the 2008 SNA recommendations on statistical units (including institutional units), and to reflect on whether or not the recommendations on statistical units need to be adjusted in the future. The task force is expected to provide a clear view of what needs to be measured in the economy in order to identify ways to improve the definitions, if necessary, and taking into consideration: current country practices; regional accounts as well as productivity measurement; and consult with a broad community of experts, including business register experts, survey specialists and classification experts.

Capital services of assets not contributing to production

12. The change of ownership basis of recording capital formation creates capital service measurement problems where production of an asset takes place over a number of accounting periods. While a building, structure or other significant asset may not be contributing to production, the SNA recommends that gross fixed capital formation be recorded progressively as production of the asset takes place. The question is the nature of capital services provided by assets not contributing to production. In addition, the treatment of progressive change of ownership to buildings and structures needs clarification to be consistent with the treatment of other assets which have the same characteristics of buildings and structures.

III. List of manuals and handbooks on national accounts

13. Below is an update on the progress made regarding the compilation of manuals, handbooks and guidance notes, as 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, namely, completed publications, publications in progress and planned publications.

Completed publications

(a). Guide on measuring global production (ECE)

14. The “Guide on Measuring Global Production”, which follows on a previous publication entitled The “Impact of Globalization on National Accounts”, was finalized and published by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in 2015. The new Guide provides comprehensive recommendations to compilers of national accounts, balance of payments and related economic statistics on the collection, production and analysis of data related to global production arrangements. It presents the experience of different countries in producing statistics on global production and also

identifies a number of unresolved conceptual challenges and emerging globalization phenomena that have to be addressed in future.

(b). Guide on statistical business registers (ECE)

15. The “Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers” (SBR), published by ECE in 2015, provide practical guidance and recommendations on the establishment and maintenance of statistical business registers. The Guidelines consist of 12 chapters – an introductory chapter followed by substantive chapters dealing with the roles of the SBR; coverage; statistical units and their characteristics; data sources; maintenance; frame methodology; dissemination; quality; organizational, database and other IT issues; and topics for further work and research. The Guidelines include also a number of annexes on methodological issues and country examples, and an extensive glossary.

(c). Handbook on Tendency Surveys (UN)

16. The “Handbook on Tendency Surveys” aims to provide best practices and harmonized principles on tendency survey sample selection, questionnaire design, survey questions, survey execution, data processing and the use of composite tendency indicators. These surveys provide qualitative information that cannot be collected using other quantitative statistical methods. They also serve as an integral part of an early warning system because they provide information about the occurrence and timing of upturns and downturns of the economy.

(d). Handbook on data template and metadata for short-term statistics (UN)

17. The “Handbook on data template and metadata for short-term statistics” elaborates methodological descriptions and the use of individual short-term statistics. It explains the statistical and analytical properties of short-term statistics, why they are relevant in explaining economic activity and how they relate to an integrated set of short-term statistics of quarterly national accounts and component data. The Handbook is intended to serve both the compiler and the user of the statistics. It contains useful links to reference material offering more in-depth expositions.

(e). Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual and Compilation Guide (IMF)

18. The “Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual and Compilation Guide” combines and updates the concepts, definitions, and recommendations contained in the 2000 Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual (MFSM) and the 2008 Monetary and Financial Statistics Compilation Guide (MFS Guide), to align it with the 2008 SNA, the sixth edition of Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), and the Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014 (GFSM 2014). The Manual offers a set of tools for identifying, classifying, and recording stocks and flows of financial assets and liabilities. At the same time, it assists compilers responsible for monetary data collection at the national level with practical recommendations on the classification, valuation, and sectoring of financial assets and liabilities for monetary statistics purposes, with special emphasis on borderline cases.

(f). Compilation Guide on Land Estimation (Eurostat and OECD)

19. The “Compilation Guide on Land Estimation” provides conceptual and practical guidance to statisticians concerning the estimation and valuation of land and to increase international comparability. The guide clarifies theoretical concepts and proposes a breakdown of land into categories so that international comparisons can be more easily made. It also discusses possible data sources, elaborates direct and indirect estimation methods and addresses several special estimation cases. The guide presents (an elaboration of) the information that is available on this topic in the 2008 SNA and in the European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010) in a systematic and accessible way.

(g). Foreign trade reported by non-residents: Recommendations for compilers of national accounts and balance of payments statistics (Eurostat and OECD)

20. The principle of the change of economic ownership required by 2008 SNA / ESA 2010 and BPM6 presents particular challenges in the case of recording foreign trade reported by non-residents. Recommendations for compilers of national accounts and balance of payments statistics were elaborated, with a focus on practical steps to identify and measure the different possible cases. These recommendations are published in a note on Eurostat's website.

(h). External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users (IMF)

21. The “2013 External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users” (2013 EDS Guide) provides comprehensive guidance for measurement, compilation, analytical use, and presentation of external debt statistics. The 2013 EDS Guide was prepared by the IMF under the joint responsibility of the nine organizations of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (TFFS) in close consultation with national compilers of external debt, balance of payments, and international investment position statistics. The guide updates the 2003 EDS Guide to address the changes introduced by BPM6. The EDS Guide is available at <http://www.tffs.org/edsguide.htm>

Publications in progress

(a). Handbook on Rapid Estimates (Eurostat/UN)

22. The ”Handbook on Rapid Estimates” is intended to assist compilers in producing rapid estimates of key short-term macroeconomic indicators in a comparable manner, using best international practices. It is also intended to assist countries that plan to set up a more comprehensive system of estimates of key macroeconomic indicators not only by providing the methodological foundations for the compilation of rapid estimates, but also by offering practical guidance on individual steps and elements of the compilation process.

(b). Handbook on Cyclical Composite Indicators (Eurostat/UN)

23. The ”Handbook on Cyclical Composite Indicators” seeks to provide statistical guidance on harmonized principles for application in the formulation of cyclical composite indicators and

standards for their compilation and presentation. The handbook is expected to be useful not only to those agencies of national statistical systems compiling or aspiring to compile cyclical composite indicators but also to those statistical agencies that are collecting short-term economic statistics and constructing data sets, which are used as component data for the construction of composite indicators. The handbook is also expected to be equally relevant for official statisticians in developing countries.

(c). Handbook on the compilation of Supply and Use tables and Input Output tables (UN)

24. The “Handbook on the compilation of Supply and Use tables and Input Output tables” will elaborate on the changes in the underlying international accounting standards and classifications and provide practical compilation guidance for countries. The Handbook will contribute to advancing the 2008 SNA implementation. As has been good practice, the Handbook will build on existing material such as the Eurostat Manual of Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables 2008 .

(d). Handbook on non-profit institutions in the SNA (update, UN)

25. 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.

(e). Revised handbook on price and volume measures (Eurostat)

26. The “Handbook on price and volume measurement” will provide a complete discussion of the issues of measuring prices and volumes in the national accounts. It discusses the general principles as well as the deflation of individual goods and services. It is fully consistent with the principles of the European System of Accounts 2010, and is intended to elaborate on those. The handbook provides a useful tool for Member States, candidate countries and other countries to improve the price and volume measures in their national accounts in a harmonized way.

(f). Quarterly National Accounts Manual (update, IMF)

27. The Quarterly National Accounts (QNA) Manual was published by the IMF's Statistics Department in 2001. The manual is aimed particularly at compilers of QNA, and it is also of interest to advanced users of QNA data. The manual is focused primarily on the compilation of quarterly GDP. It discusses data sources for the compilation of GDP by the production approach, the expenditure approach, and the income approach. It provides guidance and recommendations on statistical techniques largely used in the QNA compilation process, such as benchmarking, seasonal adjustment and chain-linking. The manual is being updated in light of the changes introduced with the 2008 SNA. In addition, the topics covered in the manual will be reviewed according to the most recent advances in the QNA methodology and best international practices.

(g). Handbook on National Accounting Backcasting Methodology (UN)

28. 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.

Planned publications

(a). System of Extended International and Global Accounts

29. The “Handbook for a System of Extended International and Global Accounts” 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.

(b). Compilation Guide on Inventories (Eurostat and OECD)

30. 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.

(c). Handbook on the Compilation of Information on the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Savings Across Households Consistent with National Accounts (OECD)

31. The OECD Expert Group on Household Distributional Information on Income, Consumption and Savings within the SNA (EG DNA) has the objective to link results from micro-surveys to the relevant national accounts aggregates. The “Handbook on the Compilation of Information on the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Savings 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.

(d). Compilation Guide to Statistics on Natural Resource Industries (IMF)

32. The “Compilation Guide to Statistics on Natural Resource Industries” 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 and develop tables for data dissemination. 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.

(e). Guide on Measuring Human Capital (ECE)

33. Understanding human capital is of significant interest to policymakers. Statistics on human capital may help to understand the drivers of economic growth and the functioning of the labour market, as well as to assess the long-term sustainability of a country’s development path. In 2013 the CES established the Task Force on Measuring Human Capital to further pursue the conceptual development of human capital measurement, with priority to be given on developing experimental human capital satellite accounts. The” Guide on Measuring Human Capital” will discuss the concepts of human capital, methodological and implementation issues, and challenges related to valuing human capital. The Guide also proposes the setup of two satellite accounts: a Satellite Account on Education and Training and an extended Human Capital Satellite Account..

(f). Handbook on Cultural satellite accounts (UNESCO)

34. 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 Cultural 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 Cultural satellite accounts will be undertaken by UNESCO.

(g). Aviation Satellite Accounts (ICAO)

35. 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> .

IV. Summary of activities during 2015 and expected activities in 2016 related to economic statistics and national accounts carried out by the member organizations of the ISWGNA and the regional commissions

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, etc.
Eurostat	There were two meetings of the National Accounts Working Group and two meetings of the Directors of Macroeconomic Statistics, where all EU and other European countries are represented. A number of Task Forces completed their work (European needs for a future SNA, GDP flash at t+30 days) or continued their ongoing work (Quarterly Sector Accounts, national accounts revisions, land and other non-financial assets, data validation, recording of illegal activities). National accounts training courses were also organised for European participants.
IMF	Training and technical assistance in national accounts and prices to over 100 countries. Training is conducted at IMF Headquarters and regional training institutes. Technical assistance is conducted by long-term and short-term experts as well as staff, and managed from IMF Headquarters as well as eight regional technical assistance centers.
	Annual meetings of Balance of Payments Committee and Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee. Annual Statistical Forum.
OECD	IARIW-OECD Conference on the Future of National Accounts, 16 – 17 April 2015
	OECD Expert Group on Household Distributional Information within the SNA, 28 – 29 May 2015
	OECD Working Parties on Financial Statistics and National Accounts, 26 – 30 October 2015
	Workshop on National Accounts, Kazakhstan, 24 – 27 November 2015
UNSD	Global Conference on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics. New York, USA, 15-16 January 2015. (see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2015/NewYork/lod.asp)

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, etc.
	Training Workshop on the Compilation of Quarterly National Accounts for Economic Cooperation Organization Member Countries. Tehran, Iran, 8-11 March 2015. (see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2015/Iran/eco.asp)
	International Workshop on Short-term Statistics. Beijing, China, 18-20 May 2015. (see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2015/Beijing/lod.asp)
	Statistics Division collaborates with the regional commissions in organizing the regional expert group meetings on national accounts: Economic Commission for Africa, May 2015; Economic Commission for Europe, July 2015; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, November 2015, and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, December 2015.
	Statistics Division collaborates with SIAP in training courses: Regional Course on 2008 SNA (Special Topics): Improving Exhaustiveness of GDP Coverage. Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 31 August-4 September, 2015 and Regional Workshop on Measuring the Informal Sector and the Non-Observed Economy. Tehran, Iran, 4-7 October 2015)
	UIS Culture Satellite Account Experts Meeting. Montreal, Canada, 4-6 November 2015. (see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2015/Montreal/lod.asp)
	Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics: Regional Conference for Africa. Libreville, Gabon, 21-22 November 2015. (see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2015/gabon/lod.asp)
	It is expected that the Statistics Division would continue its collaboration with the regional commission and SIAP during 2016 to advance the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics; convene a meeting, in the second half of 2016, to explore a coordination mechanism for a harmonized integrated statistics programme; and develop e-learning to deliver practical training on national accounts compilation and to strengthen technical and management capabilities.
World Bank	Technical assistance and financial support to countries and regional institutions aimed at improving statistical capacity. While the support mechanisms are broad-based, the facilities involved are used to address country specific (as well as regional) needs, with the aim of improving the quality of national

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, etc.
	accounts estimates (through improved estimation techniques and improved base statistics), and to implement the 2008 SNA.
	Through the framework of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), continued support for capacity-building sessions at regional workshops on compilation of expenditure based GDP.
ECA	<p>Being Secretariat of the African Project on Implementation of the 2008 SNA, contributed to the monitoring, evaluation, coordination, and reporting activities of the Project. For this purpose ECA and Pan-African partners, AfDB and AUC organised an Expert Meeting of the African Group on National Accounts on the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts,; 12-15 May 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. See http://ecastats.uneca.org/acsweb/FocusAreas/AGNAAddis.aspx ,and the 4th meeting of the Continental Steering Committee on the 2008 SNA Implementation, jointly organised by ECA, AfDB and AUC; 17-18 November 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. See http://ecastats.uneca.org/acsweb/FocusAreas/ContinentalSteeringCommittee4.aspx</p> <p>ECA conducted 6 technical assistance missions to support Member States in the preparation and finalization of national action plans for implementing the 2008 SNA: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Mauritania, Namibia, Senegal, Sudan</p> <p>ECA conducted a needs assessment survey and report to implement the 2008 SNA among Member States between December 2014 and March 2015. ECA has completed a follow-up partner’s survey and report on the provision of technical, training and financial assistance. The Survey and Report on Needs Assessment (technical, training, and financial assistance) of Member States was completed in March 2015, and the Partner Report in September 2015.</p> <p>ECA launched a “community of practice” on the compilation of supply and use tables as well as the use of administrative data in national accounts.</p> <p>ECA is working to developing operational guidance for African countries on the <i>Use of Administrative Data, Informal Sector and Supply and Use Tables</i>.</p> <p>AfDB conducted several technical assistance meetings to implement the 2008 SNA and prepare 2015 ICP-Africa activities.</p> <p>In 2016 it is expected that ECA and its Pan-African partners will continue to support Members States to advance the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics to ensure the sustainability for further development of national accounts in Africa. To achieve it, three main stages of interventions are identified: (i) strengthening the institutional capacity of the National Statistical Office (NSO); (ii) building the statistical capacities for national accounts compilation; and (iii) implementing the 2008 SNA and developing national accounts; ensuring the sustainability of the project.</p>

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, etc.
ECE	<p>Joint EFTA/UNECE Workshop on the implementation of the 2008 SNA in EECCA countries and linkages with the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth edition and the Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014, 6 – 8 May 2015, Istanbul The workshop was organized in cooperation with the ECB, Eurostat, IMF and Turkish Statistical Office. For more information see http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38312#/</p>
	<p>Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Group of Experts on National Accounts: Measuring Global Production, 7 - 9 July 2015, Geneva (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37893#/)</p>
	<p>Joint UNECE/OECD Seminar on the Implementation of SEEA, 14 - 15 October 2015, Geneva. The seminar identified a number of follow up activities including drafting a regional implementation strategy for SEEA. (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37910#/)</p>
	<p>10th SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics (PWGS), 1 - 3 December 2015, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan The event, jointly organized by UNECE, EFTA and National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan, aimed to support the implementation of Global Assessments recommendations in the field of modernisation of statistical production. (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37889#/)</p>
	<p>In 2015 a number of ECE task forces completed and published methodological guides or continued their work on developing conceptual and practical guidelines. Technical assistance, national workshops and expert missions to enhance the capacity of EECCA countries in producing economic statistics. The assistance was provided in collaboration with partner organizations such as EFTA, Eurostat, CIS-Stat, etc.</p>
	<p>Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Group of Experts on Business Registers, 21 - 23 September 2015, Brussels (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37896#/)</p>
	<p>Seminar on the Role of National Statistical Offices in the production of Leading, Composite and Sentiment Indicators, 8 - 10 December 2015, Geneva (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40282#/)</p>
	<p>In 2016 ECE will continue to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA</p>

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, etc.
	through the organization of expert meetings for sharing experience (such as the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Group of Experts on National Accounts and the Special Session for EECCA and SEE countries), the development of methodological guidance and provision of technical assistance to EECCA and SEE countries.
ECLAC	Seminar-Training on Annual National Accounts (with IMF, Brazil, March 2015)
	National Accounts Seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Implementation of the National Accounts System and the Satellite Account (Santiago of Chile, December 2015)
	Meeting for Pilot Countries of the Development Account, 9th Tranche on “Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia Pacific countries” (Santiago of Chile, December 2015)
	Technical assistance was provided during 2015 to the following countries: Bolivia, Costa Rica (with CAPTAC-DR), Curacao and Uruguay
	Assessment missions to Brazil, Colombia, Curacao, Paraguay and Uruguay, in the framework of the Development Account, 9th Tranche on “Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia Pacific countries”
	An annual Expert Group Meeting on National Accounts for Latin America and Caribbean countries is planned in the last quarter of 2016. During 2016, activities will continue with six pilot countries concerning the Development Account project, 9th Tranche, on implementation of SNA 2008 and SEEA 2012. Furthermore, activities in the framework of the International Comparison Programme for inter/benchmark years will start, with a focus mainly on National Accounts data requirements. On demand by member countries, ECLAC will continue providing technical assistance services on National Accounts issues through the Regional Programme for Technical Cooperation.
ESCWA`	Regional Workshop on the Compilation of Trade in Services Statistics, WTO, AMF, UNSD,ESCWA, 25-28 January 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
	Expert Group Meeting on Financial Services and Business Register 24 to 25 November, 2015, Istanbul, Turkey

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, etc.
	<p>Periodic technical assistance missions to ESCWA member countries on 2008 SNA focusing on supply and use tables, quarterly national accounts and constant prices.</p> <p>Fact –finding missions for needs assessment and reports on the status and needs for short-term indicators (STI) in 7 countries within the context of a development account project on capacity building to produce based on the UNSD template and a study done by ESCWA in 2013 “Study on Selected Methodological Issue in Economic Statistics: Short-Term Economic Indicators for The Arab Region E/ESCWA/SD/2013/10”</p> <p>National accounts studies of the Arab region E/ESCWA/SD/2015/1</p> <p>During 2016 ESCWA will continue to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA through the organization of expert meetings and technical assistance to countries</p>
ESCAP and SIAP	<p>Regional workshop on “Supporting Developing Countries Measure Progress Towards Achieving a Green Economy” (co-organized with UNSD), Bangkok, Thailand, 20-23 January 2015. See http://esango.un.org/irene/desa.html?page=viewContent&nr=25427&type=8</p> <p>Regional Course on Statistical Business Registers: Making a Business Case for an Operational Statistical Business Register, Perak, Malaysia, 26 – 30 January 2015. See http://www.unsiap.or.jp/e-learning/3_sna/1501_sbr_mys.html</p> <p>The implementation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (RPES) progressed through six workshops and consultations, organized by ESCAP or partners.</p> <p>Fifth Intermediate-level e-learning Course on System of National Accounts (SNA): Integrated Transaction Accounts, On-line, 1 April - 7 May 2015. See http://www.unsiap.or.jp/news_event/news/2015/1504_INT5.html.</p> <p>Second Group Training Programme on Production and Statistical Analysis of Monitoring Indicators in Support of Inclusive Development Policies [National</p>

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, etc.
	Accounts, Price Statistics, Trade and Industry Modules], Chiba, Japan, 18 May – 26 June 2015
	Seventh Basic-Level e-Learning Course on System of National Accounts (2008 SNA): Integrated Transaction Accounts, On-line, 8 June - 10 July 2015. See http://www.unsiap.or.jp/news_event/news/2015/1506_BC7.html
	Regional Course on Statistics on Informality: Informal economy, work and employment, Chiba, Japan, 6 July 2015
	Regional Course on SNA 2008 (Special Topics): Improving Exhaustiveness of GDP Coverage, Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 31 August - 4 Sep 2015. See http://www.unsiap.or.jp/e-learning/3_sna/1508_GDP_KOR.html
	Regional Workshop on Measuring the Informal Sector and the Non-Observed Economy, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 4-7 October 2015. See http://www.unsiap.or.jp/e-learning/3_sna/1510_NOE_IRN.html
	Eighth Basic-level e-learning Course on System of National Accounts (2008 SNA): Integrated Transaction Accounts, On-line, October-November 2015
	Sixth Intermediate-level e-learning Course on System of National Accounts (2008 SNA): Integrated Transaction Accounts, On-line, November-December 2015
	During 2016 ESCAP and SIAP will continue to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA through the SIAP training programme and the organization of expert meetings and technical assistance to countries in accordance with Asia-Pacific Regional Programme on Economic Statistics

V. Reporting of annual national accounts data

36. In accordance with the request of the Statistical Commission, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations regularly evaluates the availability and scope of official annual national accounts data reported by Member States and their conceptual compliance with the recommendations of the System of National Accounts (SNA).

37. An assessment of this kind is presented in the present section and is based on replies to the United Nations National Accounts Questionnaire for the last five reporting periods, i.e., from 2010 to 2014. The data are either reported directly to the Statistics Division, or through the ECE, the OECD or the secretariat of the Caribbean Community.

38. Considering the responses in any of the last five reporting periods (2010-2014), 95 per cent of Member States (183 countries) reported national accounts data to the Statistics Division. An analysis of the reporting by developing countries, at the regional level, shows that 97 per cent of Asian, 92 per cent of Caribbean and all of Latin American countries reported national accounts data. In Africa and Oceania, the level of reporting of national accounts data was somewhat lower, at 93 per cent and 83 per cent, respectively.

39. The number of Member States reporting national accounts data in the 2014 reporting period increased slightly with respect to the 2013 reporting period. In the 2014 cycle, there were 166 submissions (representing 86 per cent of the total number of countries). The timeliness of data is evaluated in terms of the number of countries that are able to submit data for the same year as the reporting period, e.g., the number able to submit data in the 2014 reporting period for the year 2014. 119 countries (62 per cent) submitted data for the year 2014 in the 2014 reporting period, compared with 107 countries that submitted data for the year 2013 in the 2013 reporting period and 111 countries that submitted data for the year 2012 in the 2012 reporting period.

40. An analysis of the national accounts data — up to the 2014 reporting period — shows that 170 of the 193 Member States (88 per cent) have implemented the 1993 SNA or the 2008 SNA. Nearly all developed and all Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian (EECCA) economies have reported national accounts data according to the 2008 or 1993 SNA methodology. Additionally, 114 of the 137 developing countries (83 per cent) have reported national accounts data to the Statistics Division following the 1993 SNA or the 2008 SNA. Specifically, 43 African countries (80 per cent), 29 Latin American and Caribbean countries (88 per cent), 32 Asian countries (84 per cent), and 10 countries of Oceania (83 per cent) have implemented the 1993 SNA or the 2008 SNA. The rates of implementation by the least developed countries and small island developing States (SIDS) have been progressing significantly, with, respectively, 75 per cent and 86 per cent of countries and areas having implemented the 1993 SNA or the 2008 SNA.

41. The scope of national accounts data reported to the Statistics Division is evaluated against a standard “minimum requirement data set”,¹ adopted by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-second session in 2001 (see [E/2001/24](#), chap. III), and against the “milestone”² measure, adopted by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session in 1997 (see [E/1997/24](#), para. 46). The evaluation shows that 131 countries (68 per cent) provide six or more tables of the minimum requirement data set and 101 countries (52 per cent) provide seven tables of the minimum required data set. According to the milestone measure of the scope of national accounts data, a large majority of developed countries, EECCA countries and developing countries in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean compile national accounts according to milestone two, compared with a 67 per cent of the African countries.

¹ The minimum requirement data set is defined in the reports of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to the Statistical Commission (see [E/CN.3/2001/8](#) and [E/CN.3/2011/6](#)).

² The milestone methodology is described in the reports of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to the Statistical Commission (see [E/CN.3/1997/12](#) and [E/CN.3/2011/6](#)).

42. The 1993 SNA or the 2008 SNA have been implemented in 88 per cent of Member States: there were 63 Member States who reported switching to the 1993 SNA or to the 2008 SNA in the 2013 or the 2014 reporting cycle; a majority of these countries are the EU Member States that implemented the 2008 SNA in October 2014. Furthermore, these figures include countries that have implemented the 2008 SNA without necessarily having implemented the 1993 SNA. There still remain 23 developing countries (12 per cent) that do not compile their national accounts according to either the 1993 SNA or the 2008 SNA.

43. It should be noted that a number of Member States may have introduced only some of the 2008 SNA changes, mainly owing to resource constraints. For example, some Member States have chosen a gradual approach to implementing the 2008 SNA. They have concentrated on issues affecting gross domestic product and the minimum requirement data set, including new estimates for financial intermediation services indirectly measured, output of central banks, military expenditures and more comprehensive estimates of the non-observed economy.