



United Nations Statistics Division

# **SNA Capacity Building**

**50<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission**  
**Side event organized by the ISWGNA**  
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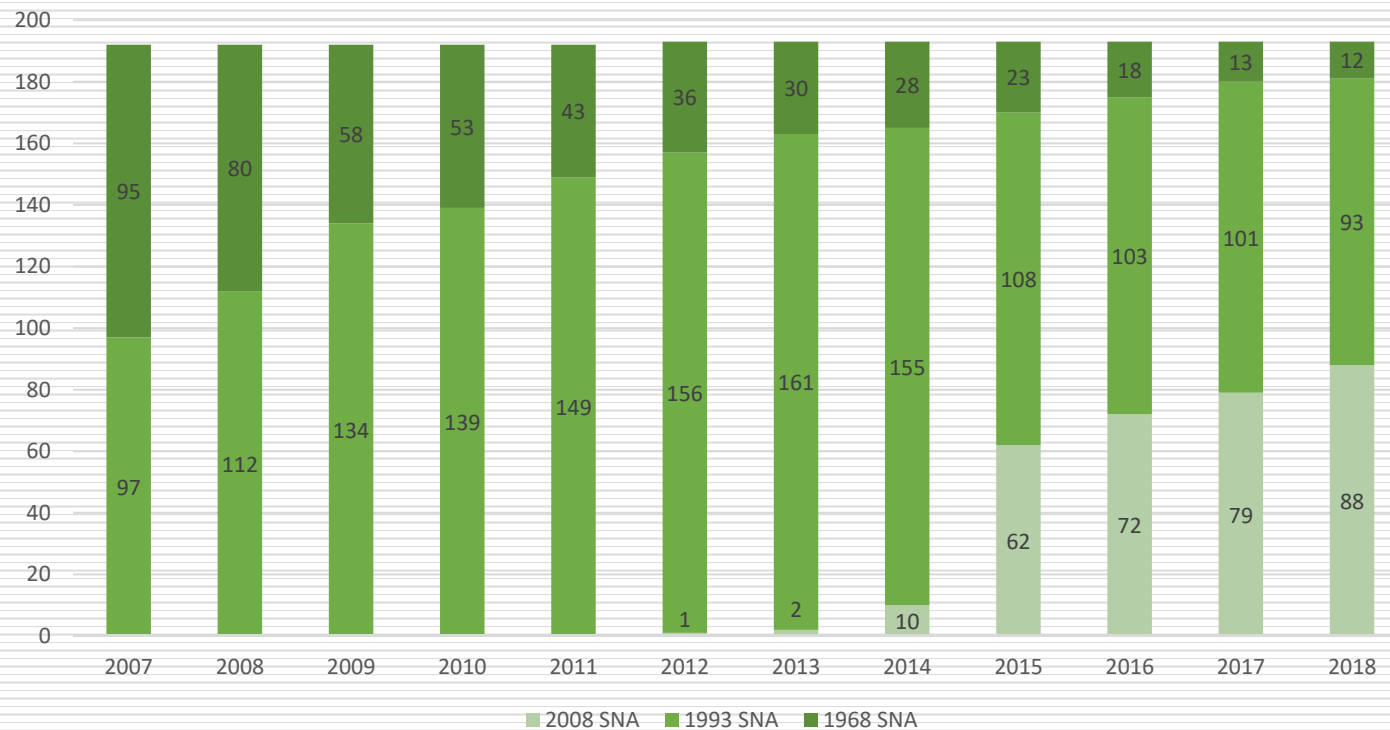


# **Current State Of National Accounts in Member States**

Based on country reporting of National Accounts data to UNSD for 2018



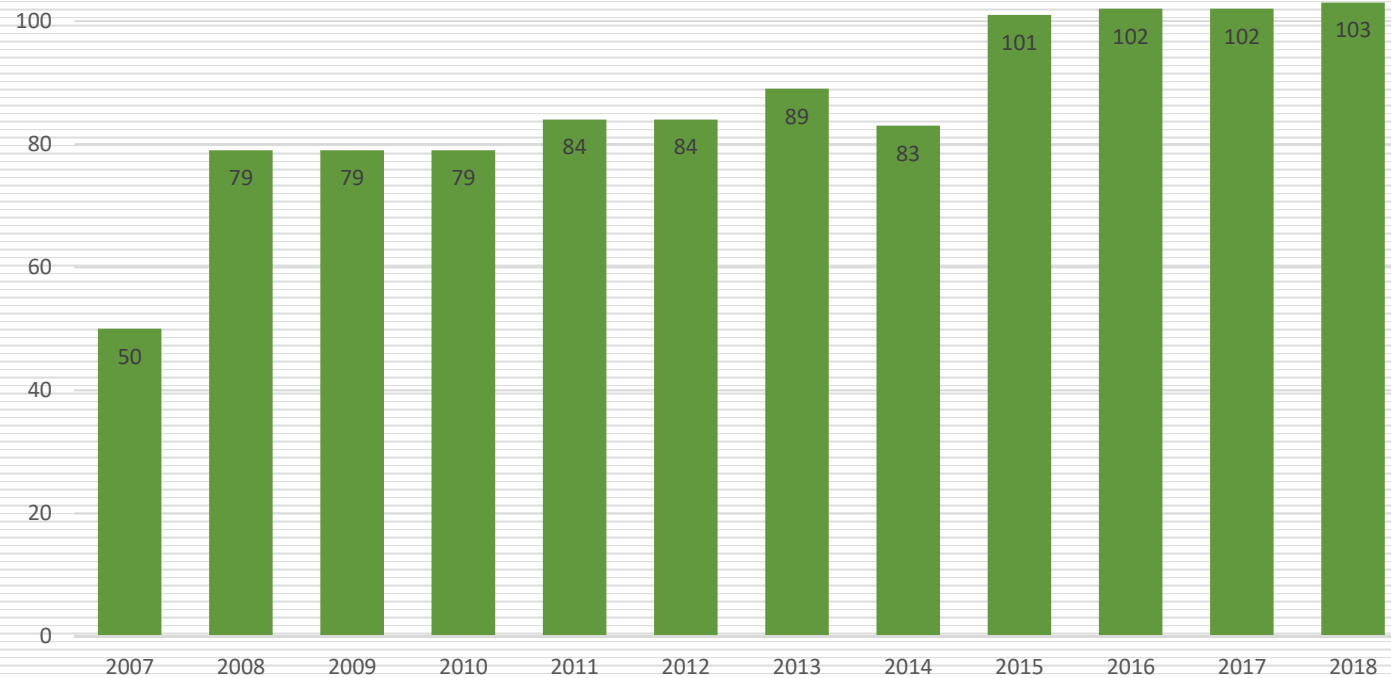
## Conceptual compliance with the SNA – All Member States



- Member States on 1993/2008 SNA: 181 ( $\approx 94\%$ ) in 2018 vs 134 ( $\approx 70\%$ ) in 2009
- Member States on 2008 SNA: 88 ( $\approx 46\%$ ) in 2018



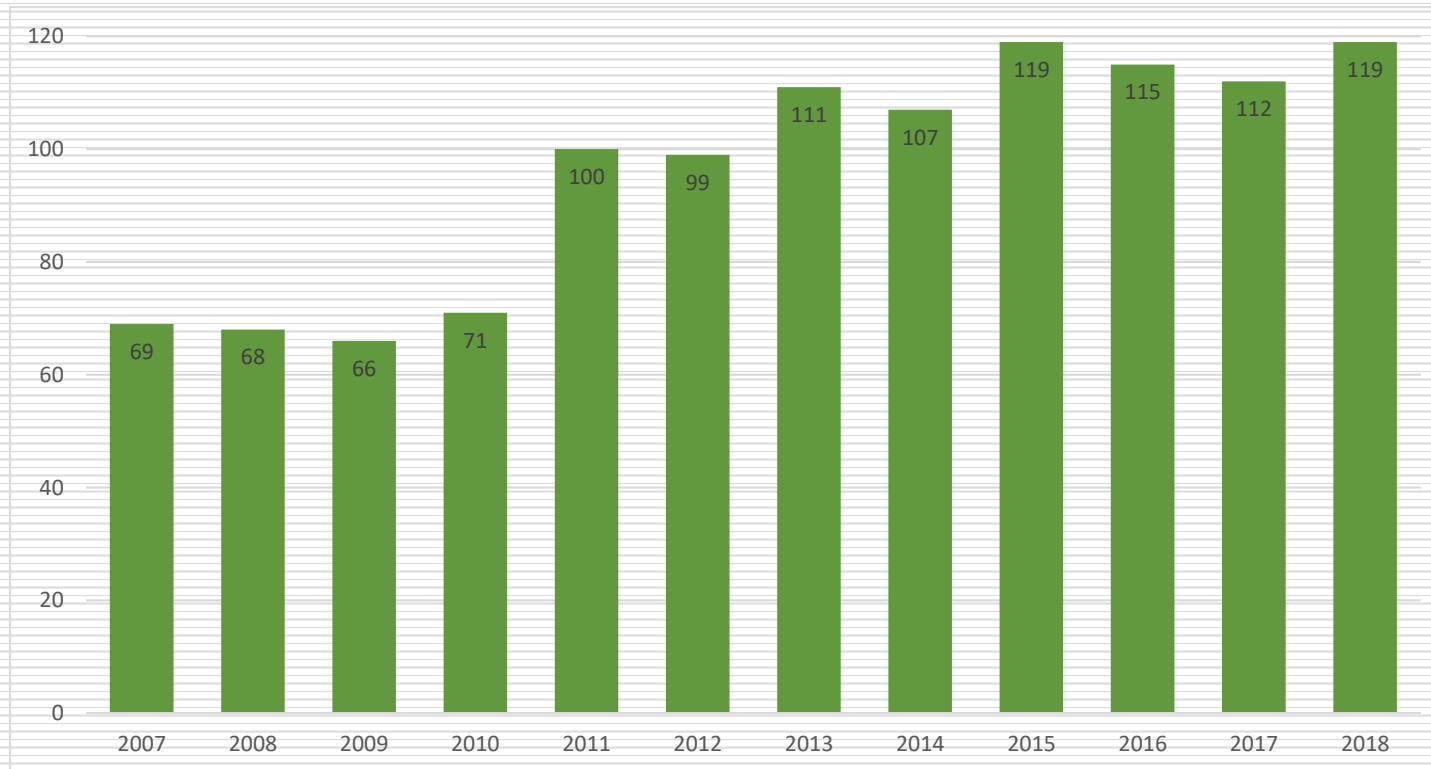
## Member States satisfying MRDS



- Member states satisfying the Minimum Required Data Set: 103 ( $\approx 53\%$ ) in 2018 vs 79 ( $\approx 41\%$ ) in 2009



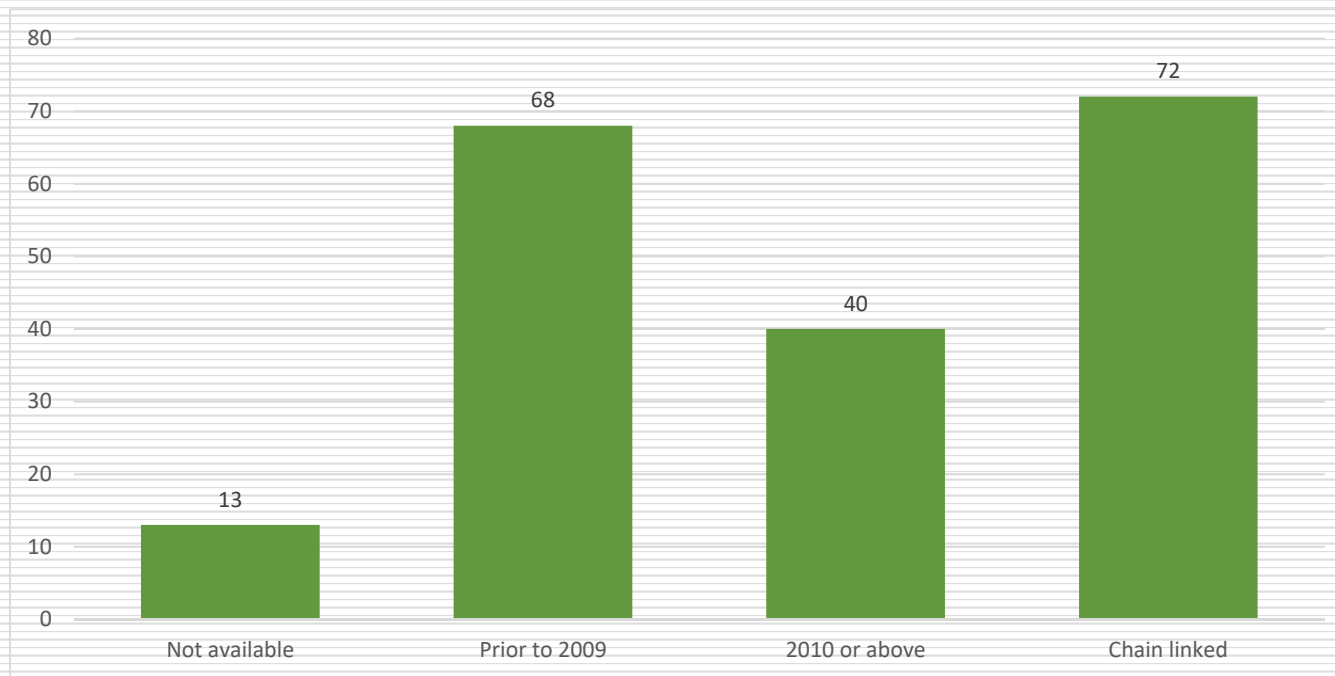
## Timeliness of reporting national accounts



- Member states submit data for the same year as the reporting period: 119 ( $\approx 62\%$ ) in 2018 vs 66 ( $\approx 34\%$ ) in 2009



## Base years of volume measures of GDP



- 112 Member States ( $\approx 58\%$ ) are compiling volume measures of GDP using base years from 2010 onwards
- Outdated base years may result in biased real GDP growth rates



## Availability of Quarterly National Accounts



- 131 Member States ( $\approx 68\%$ ) publish QNA
- Unavailability of QNA suggests policy-makers and other stakeholders do not have access to more frequent national accounts data for speedy policy monitoring and decision-making



# Capacity Development Activities





## Missions, workshops, seminars etc

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- Many institutions are active in providing training, advice, assistance, and other capacity building activities including: IMF, Eurostat, World Bank, UNSD, OECD, Regional Commissions, Regional Development Banks, National Statistical Offices
- This support takes many forms including: online training programs, regional seminars, individual in-country assistance and more
- Numerous activities are held each year in all regions of the globe



## Clarifications and Compilation guidance

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- Numerous handbooks, clarifications and compilation guides have been published by ISWGNA partners. Summary of clarifications and compilation guidance is available at:  
[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/SNA\\_Since\\_2008.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/SNA_Since_2008.pdf)
- Recently completed handbooks include:
  - *Report on Intellectual Property Products*
  - *Handbook on the Compilation of Statistics on Illegal Economic Activities in National Accounts and Balance of Payments; and*
  - *Quarterly National Accounts Manual*
- Ongoing publications and planned publications available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/BG-Item3f-2019-NationalAccounts-Supplement-v3-E.pdf>



# Compilation Systems

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- A number of international institutions and NSOs have developed compilation systems to support the production of national accounts, these include:
  - ERETES
  - SNAP
  - NADABAS
  - IMF compilation tools
  
- Private software companies are now also beginning to provide customized national accounts compilation systems



## **ISWGNA Implementation Taskforce**

- Implementation taskforce formed, this will help balance the focus of ISWGNA attention on both research & implementation issues
- Taskforce formally reports through to ISWGNA (and ultimately UNSC). And engages with AEG for advice and feedback
- Currently ISWGNA members are on the task force but are now seeking to expand to include regional bodies active in this work



## Elements of the work program

1. Develop an 'implementation toolbox', a discoverable and accessible set of (already existing) tools including:

- Handbooks and manuals, guidance notes etc.
- Training material, courses and timetables
- Compilation systems (including assessment of in what circumstances the systems may be most appropriate)
- Compilation environments e.g. supported cloud environments (including assessment of in what circumstances the environments may be most appropriate)

Encouraging a 'creative commons' approach to sharing tools which taskforce members have already developed.



## Elements of the work program

2. Identify missing 'tools' and cooperate to fill these gaps. Develop practical tools which are pragmatically targeted towards the least developed, the island, and the fragile states. Ideas suggested include:

- making use of already available data (tax, customs, tourist numbers, satellite, mobile phone etc.) rather than on the establishment of new surveys
- developed advice on a 'minimum viable set' of source data required to produce fit for purpose benchmarks?
- is there a need for advice on 'c' of 'd' methods to be used when best practice is not possible?



## Elements of the work program

3. Develop, test and share new ways of working in capacity development. How can we use concepts of 'just enough design' and 'iteration' to increase the pace of development. Ideas suggested include:

- making use of cloud based storage to facilitate sharing of data between participants, and to share results
- increase the use on new approaches such as sophisticated auto-balancing to enable more efficient operations
- use of 'sprints' and 'hacks' to develop immediate solutions which can later be iterated on and improved, rather than aiming for the ideal with the first attempt
- produce 'quick wins' to demonstrate the utility of statistics/statistical offices and, at a minimum, maintain the current level of resources



**Thank you**