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Report from the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

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1. Background

The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics is a city group created by the UN Statistical Commission to address methodological issues related to energy statistics and contribute to improved international standards and improved methods for official energy statistics.

The group was established in 2005 based on the issues discussed in the Report of the Programme Reviewer (Statistics Norway) on energy statistics ([E/CN.3/2005/3](#)) prepared for the 36th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (1-4 March 2005) and the recommendations of the Ad-hoc Expert Group on Energy Statistics (New York , 23-25 May 2005).

Part of the mandate of the Oslo Group is to review and contribute to the revision of the United Nations Handbooks and Manuals. In support of this revision process, an Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (InterEnerStat) was created with the objective to facilitate the institutional coordination among various organizations active in energy statistics. The mandate of the Oslo Group is available in Appendix 1.

The [International Recommendations for Energy Statistics](#) (IRES) was adopted by the Statistical Commission during its forty-second session in February 2011.

2. Activities on the Oslo Group in 2011 and 2012

2.1. Meetings of the Oslo Group

2.1.1. 1st meeting – 5th meeting

Information about the first five meetings of the Oslo Group can be found in previous reports of the Oslo Group to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth (see E/CN.3/2007/20), its fortieth (see E/CN.3/2009/5) and its forty-second (see E/CN.3/2011/9) session.

- [Report of 2007](#)
(Available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc07/2007-20e-OsloGroup.pdf>)
- [Report of 2009](#)
(Available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc09/2009-5-Energy-OsloGroup-E.pdf>)
- [Report of 2010](#)
(Available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc11/2011-9-OsloGroup-E.pdf>)

2.1.2. 6th meeting of the Oslo Group: Canberra, May 2011

The sixth meeting of the Oslo Group was hosted by Australian Bureau of Statistics and it was held in Canberra, Australia 2-5 May 2011. The meeting was dedicated to the preparation of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM). In particular, the meeting agreed on a three-stage work plan: (1) Collection of country practices and textual inputs for the ESCM, (2) Consolidation of the material into a complete draft ESCM, (3) Consultation and review of the draft. The timeline presented at the meeting envisaged finalization of the ESCM in 2013.

2.1.3. 7th meeting of the Oslo Group: Helsinki, October 2012

The seventh meeting of the Oslo Group was hosted by Statistics Finland and held in Helsinki, 23-26 October 2012. The meeting was and gathered 37 representatives from 19 countries and 4 international organizations (UNSD, IEA, IAEA, Eurostat). The meeting was dedicated to the review of the draft chapters for the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM), as well as the sharing of country experiences with the purpose of agreeing on the contents of the chapters. The meeting agreed to: (1) have a virtual meeting before the next Oslo Group meeting where new revised chapters are discussed (preferably before March 2013), (2) have the next Oslo group meeting before the summer 2013 and (3) finalise the ESCM by end of 2013.

2.2. Drafting of the ESCM

With the adoption of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES) by the Statistical Commission during its Forty-second session, the Oslo Group has in 2011 and 2012 focused its activities on the drafting of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM) which is intended to provide practical guidance in the implementation of the international recommendations for energy statistics (IRES) and the forthcoming SEEA-Energy.

The purpose of the ESCM is to provide information and examples on actual problems and methods for improvements based on experiences from practical work in the field of energy statistics. The target users for ESCM are statisticians that are involved in the process of establishing, strengthening or improving their energy statistics, as well as statisticians who regularly collect and compile energy statistics, but are interested in learning about other ways/techniques to compile the information needed. The ESCM will also be helpful for users of energy statistics, by giving them better insight in possible strengths and weaknesses of the statistics. ESCM is planned as a forward looking document with respect to the development and implementation of the multipurpose approach to compilation of basic statistics. This will enable countries to collect data once and use them many times for various purposes.

Main coordinators and drafting teams for each of the ESCM chapters was established during the spring 2012. The main responsibility for the coordinators has been reviewing relevant submitted country practices, coordinating textual inputs, obtaining comments from the other countries that have volunteered to the drafting of the chapters. With exception of the chapter related to energy accounts, a first draft version of the chapters were presented to the Oslo Group at the 7th meeting in Helsinki.

2.3. Country practices

The identification and collection of country practices are part of the Oslo Group mandate. The ESCM will draw heavily on country practices since they will serve the purpose of illustrating how countries – under different circumstances – deal with specific issues. The sections for country practices in the ESCM will elaborate on issues such as institutional arrangements, data compilation, construction of energy indicators, quality assurance programmes etc.

The Oslo Group secretariat, in cooperation with the UNSD and selected Oslo Group members, prepared in 2011 a draft template for writing country practices. The template provides a common format for countries to report and share their practices in the

collection, compilation and dissemination of energy statistics. The use of a common format is expected to facilitate the review and the comparisons of country practices and will feed into the preparation of the ESCM. The template was circulated to countries by UNSD in February 2012. Around 90 country practices from over 45 countries have now been published on the [UN Country Practice webpage](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/template.htm) (available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/template.htm>).

The collection of country practices should be a continuous process. The practices on compilation of energy statistics is constantly evolving and new energy products put an extra demand for up to date energy statistics. The electronic version of the ESCM will be periodically updated (in-between formal revisions of the hard copy version of the manual) to reflect the new methodological developments and to keep compilers abreast with country practices.

3. Coordination with other Groups

3.1. London Group

The Oslo group and the London group has recognized the importance of a strong cooperation and consultation between these two groups with regard to the preparation of the chapter on energy accounts in ESCM since relevant expertise lies in both groups.

The inclusion of a chapter about energy accounts in the ESCM was recognised at the Oslo group meeting in Helsinki as important in order for the ESCM to reflect the multipurpose approach promoted in IRES and the fact that a number of data items in IRES were included in support of the energy accounts.

The next step in the drafting of the energy account chapter in the ESCM would be to identify a chapter coordinator and a group of countries willing to contribute to the drafting of the chapter and to discuss the scope of the chapter in order to provide a first draft of this chapter to the planned Virtual meeting of the Oslo group at the end of 1st Q2013. This Virtual meeting will be an important moment to review the available material and further discuss the scope of this chapter and relation to the rest of the ESCM.

The Oslo group considered particularly important that the ESCM is finalized by 2013. If the chapter on energy accounts in ESCM cannot be prepared in time, the Oslo Group suggested that this chapter will contain a brief general discussion on the energy accounts.

3.2. UNCEEA

The Chair of the Oslo Group participates in United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA). A progress report of the activities in the Oslo Group is usually prepared for the meeting.

3.3. InterEnerStat

InterEnerStat is working towards common definitions, units and conversion factors for energy amongst international organisations. The InterEnerStat, together with the Oslo Group, has been a key content provider to IRES in accordance with the mandate given to

them by the Commission. The Chair of the Oslo Group attends the InterEnerStat-meetings.

3.4. Other Groups

The Chair of the Oslo Group has participated at some meetings with the Expert Group on Resource Classification (UNECE).

4. Future activity of the Oslo Group

4.1. Finalisation of the ESCM

The main activity for the Oslo Group in 2013 will be the drafting and the finalisation of the ESCM. The Oslo Group is planning to have a virtual meeting before the next Oslo Group meeting where new revised chapters of the ESCM will be discussed.

The practice on compilation of energy statistics is constantly evolving, therefore, in addition to the publication of ESCM as a hard copy, an electronic version of the document will be developed and periodically updated to reflect the new methodological developments, keep the compilers abreast with country practices and channel to them any new technical information.

The ESCM is not a normative document (unlike for example IRES), it does not have to go through an official adoption process by the United Nations Statistical Commission. However, depending on the agenda of the Commission, it may be submitted for information as part of the progress report on energy statistics.

4.2. New Chair and Secretariat of the Oslo Group

Statistics Norway has highly appreciated taking the lead in the work with IRES and the ESCM since the Oslo Group got its mandate from the UN Statistical Commission in 2005. The time has now come to pass it on. Mr. Olav Ljones will function as chair until the 44th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (26 February to 1 March 2013). Mr. Andy Kohut from Statistics Canada was elected new chair during the 7th Oslo Group meeting in Helsinki. Statistics Norway will provide Statistics Canada with reports and historical archives from the activities in the Oslo Group and the Oslo Group secretariat, and Statistics Norway will continue to be involved as a member-country in the future work of the Oslo Group.

4.3. 8th meeting of the Oslo Group: Baku, Azerbaijan 2013

The 8th meeting of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics will be hosted by The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku in June 2013. The meeting will be dedicated to the review of the first complete draft of the ESCM. The draft will be prepared by drafting teams consisting of representatives of Oslo Group member countries and the United Nations Statistics Division.

Annexes

Annex 1: Mandate of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics is:

“To address issues related to energy statistics and contribute to improved international standards and improved methods for official energy statistics by pooling expertise in the energy community.

Actions:

- To identify users' needs
- To define scope of official energy statistics
- To identify and collect national and international best practices
- To review and contribute to the updating of UNSD handbooks and manuals on energy statistics
- To identify gaps in coverage (e.g. fuel types, flows) and to develop methodology to cover gaps
- To adopt link or develop bridges to international standard concepts and classifications in economic/environment statistics to facilitate the integration and interface of energy statistics with other statistical systems
- To recommend a core set of tables as minimum requirement at national and international level to satisfy major user needs.”

Annex 2: Members of the Oslo Group

At the meetings of the Oslo Group, a total of 34 countries and 5 international organisations have attended and expressed their interest at participating in the work of the Group:

Countries:

Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greenland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA and Yemen

Organisations:

Eurostat, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Monetary Fund (IMF) statistical departments and the United Nation Statistical Division (UNSD).

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