

Worldwide consultation on the annotated outline of the Compilers Guide for the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010

22 June 2012

This worldwide consultation is addressed in the first place to those who collect, compile and disseminate statistics of international trade in services in all relevant national institutes. In addition, we also invite views from the users of such data in national institutes as well as in international agencies.

Please send the views of your organisation by **17 August 2012** to our mailbox: tradeserv@un.org

Introduction

The international recommendations in the statistical area of trade in services are contained in MSITS 2010, which covers the international supply of services under the four modes of GATS including the resident – non-resident trade in services transactions based on Balance of Payments (BOP) principles and the services supplied through foreign affiliates.

At the time of the adoption of MSITS 2010 by the Statistical Commission, Commission members also requested that compilation guidance be provided. For this particular purpose a UN Expert Group on the compilation of SITS was created at the beginning of 2012. Its main purpose is the development of a Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010 (CG MSITS 2010). This guide should provide sound practical advice, good country examples and pitfalls to be avoided.

The first (virtual) meeting of the UN Expert Group took place between 12 and 25 March 2012 and was devoted to the scope, structure and broad content of the compilers guide. The experts commented on a proposed draft outline of the guide. On the basis of these comments, the outline was further refined by the Task Force on SITS in its special session on 28, 29 and 30 March 2012. The resulting detailed annotated outline of the compilers guide for MSITS 2010 is herewith presented for your information and comments.

The annotated outline of the Compilers Guide

The presented annotated outline consists of 5 main parts with a further division into a total of 25 chapters. The main parts are “general frameworks” about the conceptual, legal and institutional background, “data collection” about the various data sources, “data compilation”, “data dissemination” and “cross-cutting issues”. We believe that the current structure provides a logical basis for the data production work within a national statistical system. Please find the full annotated outline in the attached document.

Country experience

The CG MSITS 2010 will try to be as practical and specific as possible. It intends to use many country experiences. If you have any supporting documentations on statistics of international trade in services, the implementation process, or the statistical process, please share those with us. Materials will not be published without prior consultation and consent.

Thank you for your support!

Questionnaire

Issues and questions for the outline of CG MSITS 2010

1. Question

Do you agree with the overall structure of the Compilers Guide (the five parts: General framework, Data collection, Data compilation, Data dissemination and Cross-cutting issues)?

Yes

No

Comments

Issues and questions for Part I General Framework

2. Question

The chapter on conceptual framework clarifies the umbrella function of the modes of supply framework for the recommendations contained in MSITS 2010. The legal framework and institutional arrangements are the other parts of the basis for the compilers guide.

Do you agree with the three chapters, their suggested content and the order in which they are presented?

Yes

No

Comments

Issues and questions for Part II Data collection

3. Question

This part gives an overview of all available data sources. It presents the registers, surveys and administrative records. Do you agree with the eight chapters and their suggested content?

Yes

No

Comments

Issues and questions for Part III Data compilation

4. Question

The part on Data Compilation treats the general issue of data integration and the specific compilation issues of resident - non-resident trade in services, FATS and Modes of Supply. Do you agree with the six chapters and their suggested content?

Yes

No

Comments

Issues and questions for Part IV Data dissemination

5. Question

Do you agree with the suggested two chapters for this part and their content?

Yes

No

Comments

Issues and questions for Part V Cross-cutting issues

6. Question

A few issues were difficult to put in just one part since they are of importance in all parts of the compilation process, namely quality management, meta data and use of information technology. Do you agree with the suggested three chapters and their content?

Yes

No

Comments

Issues and questions for the Annexes

7. Question

Issues which are not key to the compilation process have been moved as items for information to the Annex of the compilers guide. Do you agree with the suggested four annexes?

Yes

No

Comments

General issues and questions

8. Question

Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the proposed parts, chapters and annexes (please be as specific as possible)?