

Report on the World-Wide Consultation on the Annotated Outline of the CG MSITS 2010 August 2012

National statistical offices, central banks, line ministries who are involved in compiling statistics of international trade in services received a letter from the Director of UN Statistics Division on 5 July requesting them to comment the scope, structure and content of the detailed annotated outline of the Compilers Guide by completing the questionnaire.

Fifty-one total responses were received, including 34 from national statistical offices, 16 from central banks, and one response from an internal ministry.

Generally, countries welcomed the initiative and expressed their interest for a Compilers Guide which is to support the implementation of the manual (MSITS 2010). Countries expressed their agreement with the suggested structure: parts, chapters, annexes but made several comments that could facilitate an even better design of the parts and chapters content.

The following provides an overview of the comments received with the general comments listed first, including comments which involve more chapters or overarching issues, and then a summary of the individual comments by the individual suggested parts of the CG MSITS 2010.

Summary of the individual comments:

I. General comments:

1. Include country practices in all relevant chapters.
2. Emphasize the importance of consistency between statistics on international trade in services and the national accounts of other countries, as well as internal consistency with business statistics, international merchandise trade statistics, national accounts, balance of payment statistics, particularly the current account, and primary and secondary data sources.
3. Include glossary of statistical terms.
4. Provide a dynamic version of the Compilers Guide on the web that can also serve as an exchange of country best practices.
5. Include recommendations on data comparability across different geographic levels or regions.

II. Specific comments Regarding Part 1: General Framework:

6. Describe volume measurement and transfer prices in chapter 1 under “Valuation of Services.”

7. Further clarify and promote arrangements for exchanging data between countries.
8. The legal framework should also include supranational arrangements.

III. Specific comments Regarding Part II: Data Collection:

9. Describe survey techniques, particularly:
 - i. design of survey questionnaire;
 - ii. interview methods;
 - iii. how to reduce response burden;
 - iv. eliminating double-counting;
 - v. handling non response
10. Encourage central banks that do not maintain their own business registers to coordinate with the statistical offices.
11. Provide an overview of direct reporting, indirect reporting, primary data collection, and secondary data collection in chapter 4.
12. Provide guidance on incorporating special purpose entities into the sampling frame.
13. Include unit of collection, contribution of profiling groups, and use of tax sources in chapter 6 on “Enterprise and establishment surveys.”
14. Describe how to design survey questions relating to intellectual property products.
15. Integrate chapters 5 and 6 into one chapter because business records and establishment surveys are very interrelated.
16. Describe the possible use of other statistics as a data source.
17. Address how other business statistics can be used to compile sales, employment, and production data on services industries engaged in international trade.
18. Move the discussion of financial statements from chapter 10: “Other Data Sources” to chapter 9: “Administrative Data.”

IV. Specific comments Regarding Part III: Data Compilation:

19. Describe how different vintages of data can be used to release advance, preliminary, and final statistics.
20. Address the compilation of services data by economic sector or by industrial classification, as well as by country of origin.

21. In chapter 14, include detailed descriptions of some specific EBOPS items, like mining, agricultural statistics, industrial services, environmental services, manufacturing services on inputs owned by others, repair services, e-commerce, etc.
22. Provide guidance on determining the “reference” rate for measuring FISIM.
23. Address possible under- or overestimation of services due to inconsistent direct reporting on the costs of some items, such as software.
24. Guide how can FATS revenue be subtracted from GDP in chapter 15.
25. Elaborate the data requirement for inward and outward FATS.

V. Specific comments Regarding Part IV: Data Dissemination:

26. Address the lag time between the collection of data from enterprise surveys and the deadlines for data dissemination.
27. Include sections on interpretability and accessibility in chapter 19.
28. Include a recommendation for a standard data dissemination format.

VI. Specific comments Regarding the Annexes:

29. Move the discussion of seasonal adjustment to part IV on “Data Dissemination.”
30. Move the discussion of the relationship between statistics on international trade in services and international merchandise trade statistics to part III on “Data Compilation.”
31. Include the discussion on the relationship between travel and tourism from the MSITS 2010 (box III.5 and its annexes) in the Compilers Guide.
32. Include a correspondence table between MSITS 2010 and BPM6.
33. Include the complete EBOPS 2010 nomenclature and a correspondence table to EBOPS 2002.
34. Include an annex on Data Analysis, including
 - i. analysis of international trade in services by institutional sector (public sector, private sector, foreign private sector, private sector joint, cooperative sector, etc.);
 - ii. analysis of international trade in services by industrial activity; and
 - iii. analysis of FDI data.