

**Report of the meeting of the Extended Task Force on Statistics of International
Trade in Services (TFSITS)
16-18 October 2013, OECD, Paris**

Agenda item: 13	Review of the draft chapters of the compiler's guide	Presenter:	UNSD
Presentation:			
<p>1. The UNSD representative took the lead to guide the group through the comments of the editor.</p> <p>General remarks:</p> <p>2. The editor has done a very good job to streamline the content and make it more coherent (also cut of repetition). More country experiences are needed (mainly in the electronic edition).</p> <p>3. Make sure that the exact name of the referred materials is used.</p> <p>4. We are still in a position to make changes (structure and texts) after it is presented to the Statistical Commission. Changes to the electronic version can be made on-line at any time. The structure of the online version, as a complement to the print version, needs still to be discussed and clarified.</p> <p>5. While the draft is advanced, more guidance on how to resolve issues should be taken into consideration in all chapters. The use of country examples in the print vis-à-vis the online version needs to be clarified to avoid repetition. Also, should country experiences be structured according to certain criteria? Would it be useful to arrange them in a standard format? One possibility could be to summarize them and have on-line more details available.</p> <p>6. References to existing frameworks including the respective links should be made in order to avoid repetition of texts in the Compilers Guide.</p> <p>7. Consistency should be guaranteed with the compilers guide currently drafted on tourism statistics.</p> <p>8. The question for designing model questions or surveys as opposed to country examples was raised.</p> <p>9. Glossary needs to be added</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>10. Will need to be reviewed once the draft of the guide is further advanced.</p> <p>11. The link between trade in services statistics and supply of services should be emphasized.</p> <p>Chapter 1</p> <p>12. Need further streamline of the text (e.g., moving FATS discussion to Chapter 15).</p> <p>13. Cut conceptual issues. Make more reference to existing materials (e.g., MSITS 2010 for GATS and legal texts). For example, para. 5 onwards is a repetition of the MSITS, could be just referenced.</p> <p>14. More elaboration of the difference between the GATS concepts and the SNA/BOP concept of residence (see e.g., para 1.54, 1.72 - 1.76).</p> <p>15. The proposed text for GATS and mode 4 is too complex and should be simplified to the minimum required for understanding of what is required from compilers. Only appropriate references to GATS should be made and the text of sections A and D streamlined (in particular remove unnecessary legal references).</p> <p>16. Para 1.42, Partner attribution part II and III requires further elaboration.</p> <p><i>Suggested moves:</i></p> <p>17. Para 3.23 – 3.25 shall be moved to Chapter 1. A box on TIVA as well as that of TEC and STEC will be prepared by OECD.</p> <p>18. 3.25 can be shortened as it refers mainly to EU regulations. Replace "FATS compilation guide" by "FATS recommendations manual".</p>			

19. Paragraph 1.23 to 1.26--definition should come before principles. 1.17, 1.18.

Chapter 2

20. Make a better balance between SITS and FATS.

21. Make more reference to BoP statistics and legal frameworks, and link to SITS.

Suggested moves:

22. Change the order of part B and C.

23. Section E: need for examples of FATS and legal frameworks.

Chapter 3

24. Some further streamlining of the chapter is needed, including country examples.

25. Diagram to visualize the centralized and decentralized statistical systems is needed.

Suggested moves:

26. Para 3.23 – 3.25 shall be moved to Chapter 1.

Suggested changes:

27. Additional discussion/amending and endorsement of paragraphs 3.13, 3.14 and 3.15. Make para 3.3 on institutional arrangements more precise.

28. Para 3.47 needs to be clarified.

Chapter 4

29. The Editor suggests that the chapter is removed.

30. The text as it currently stands is not an introduction to part II and needs to be redrafted (whether as a separate chapter or as a few paragraphs introducing part II).

31. TF suggests that the introductory text should introduce all data sources (short definitions/descriptions of data sources).

32. The text is to be re-drafted including explanation on data collection versus data compilation (the SDMX definition could be used as a starting point).

33. Need to add text from the perspective of making partner country details (the issue was discussed at the TF while discussing Chapter 14).

Chapter 5

34. The chapter is to be reviewed and streamlined focusing on the relation of business register to international trade, in particular services. A review of whether the Business register part might be overemphasized should be held during the virtual meeting.

35. More emphasis on the maintenance of business registers.

36. More references to make to existing materials on establishing and maintaining business registers.

Suggested moves:

37. Para 5.30 should be incorporated in other chapters.

Suggested changes:

38. 5.19 on establishing Structural Business surveys is not needed, as one would not establish a business register specifically for trade in services (FATS). Review paragraph 5.25 to make sure it contains all the important messages we want to convey.

Chapter 6.

39. There were suggestions that some text is to be moved/deleted.

40. Country examples or forms are to be moved back to the text.

41. Model questions or the list of items to be included in a model questionnaire to be added.
42. More reference to data collection methods are to be added.
43. Sub-section 5 (on R&D surveys) still needed.
44. UNWTO could provide country experiences on surveys on tourism industries (supply side).
45. Link to the work of Task Force on Global Production is needed as relevant.
Suggested moves:
46. 6.85, 6.86 to be moved to data compilation
47. 6.97-6.99 to be moved to data compilation.
48. 6.174 move the Austrian country example to here from Chapter 13.
49. 6.158 and box 6 should be moved to Chapter 14, but need to include material on the important point to know when it comes to data collection.
50. 6.196 onwards: something needs to be added on mode 4-intra-corporate transferees.
51. 6.249-6.260 to move to Chapter.5.
52. Computer and IT-enabled and Education services examples of India needs to be moved to end of chapter (examples of joint SITS/FDI-FATS collection).
53. Australian experience on legal services to be moved to Chapter 10.
Suggested changes:
54. Subsection 4 in Section A has to be drafted.
55. A brief description of the design of trade in services surveys is needed (para 6.34).
56. Diagrams in sub-section 3 (Manufacturing services surveys) can be made more readable (e.g., by moving some text out of diagrams into the sub-section).
Suggested deletions:
57. 6.83 first sentence
58. 6.86 last sentence
59. 6.94, reference to New Zealand needed?

Chapter 7.

60. The current text needs to be reviewed and streamlined. The EU example shall be rather generalized. Spell out the exact scope of the chapter.
61. Chapter needs a good example of travel/tourism module for use in household surveys.
62. A general description of how to use LFS for SITS purposes is needed (para 7.40), i.e. besides the perspective of mode 4 numbers.
63. Need to explain how household surveys could be used in context of mode 4 (in particular self-employed).
Suggested deletions
64. 7.12 (on face to face interviews) delete sentence about most common procedures
Suggested moves:
65. Para 16.42-16.48 on labour force surveys should be moved to chapter 7 and elaborated jointly by WTO-OECD (Eurostat?).

Chapter 8.

66. The EU – France example shall be reworded (remove unnecessary background info).
67. Review the country example of France and South Africa (as they have contradictory message).
68. More reference to BPM6 to be made.
69. Ask UN Expert Group virtual meeting participants to comment on usefulness of the pros-cons table in this chapter,
70. Japanese example on thresholds should be referred to in chapter 17.
71. Link 8.71 to comparison of data sources.
Suggested changes:

72. Add one advantage of ITRS after para 8.7 – new entrants can easily be covered if they have significant transactions.
73. Avoid references such as "world-class cost-effective reporting system...", that gives judgment which we do not want to support, do we?

Chapter 9.

74. Keep the E/D cards but be careful with the language (as the 'principal data source'). In addition streamline the text as administrative sources are complement to other data sources.

Suggested moves:

75. Text relating to data collection (but moved to Chapter 16) shall be moved back to Chapter 9.

Suggested changes:

76. Review statements in para 9.8.
77. Para 9.11 holds an obvious statement that might need to be deleted.
78. Elaborate para 9.34 on the use of work permits.
79. Section D on tax records needs an introductory text, also para. 9.38 on the use of tax records for SBR (to be moved to chapter 5.)
80. Redraft para 9.26 to match the migrant definitions (i.e., missing short-term migrants).
81. 9.33 needs to be reformulated as to the relation to mode 4. If data source not good for mode 4, to what extent is that not an issue for tourism (i.e. mode 4 is part of visitor population covered by tourism).

Chapter 10.

82. Some editing is needed (double check the Estonia's country experience, wording of the subtitles).
83. An improved introductory section A is needed.
84. Not sufficient coverage at the moment -- Ask countries of the virtual meeting whether they have some experience with the use of other data sources.
85. Some text should make reference to the experience of Australia on legal services by modes which is available in para 14.192 to 14.198 or the text should be moved here (see chapter 14), i.e. use these other sources for input in BOP. R&D surveys could also be mentioned.

Suggested moves:

86. Netherland's country experience is in the box – to be moved to the end of the chapter.
87. 10.6 to be moved to country experiences.
88. 10.31, 10.32 US experience on merchanting to be moved between 10.14 and 10.15
89. The ARIMA text is to be extended and to be moved to Chapter 17

Suggested changes:

Para 10.7 wording (recommending Big data as a longer term strategic goal) is a bit too strong since we have no experience of this.

Chapter 11.

90. Maintain the structure of the chapter that follows the non-resident-resident- FATS logic, i.e. section A Introduction, Section B non-resident-resident (of which B.1 manufacturing, B.2 transport, B.3 travel, B.4 government, B.5 Other services (other than manufacturing, transport, travel, government)), Section C FATS, Section D Mode 2 and 4 number of persons. Section E country experiences.
91. The summary table – agreed to keep the +/- rating (but explain) and raise the issue to the EG virtual forum. Review of the accuracy of the content of the table (like survey on HH and persons – timeliness, government services – survey of agencies but not enterprise surveys).
92. Make an online summary of country practices and summary table in the virtual edition (using all sources, like IMF metadata, MSQ (in 2015)) COMESA list should be in this summary table. Include

table for FATS.

93. Raise the issue of moving country experiences to the virtual edition to the EG virtual forum (or part of it). Some country examples may have a place here if we make some modifications in terms of presentation ((highlighting more why choices were made)).
94. Add concluding paragraphs in each section on what this Guide advises to do.
Suggested moves:
95. Tables 16.1 and 16.2 to move here.
96. Section E, order of other services and government service could be re-arranged.

Chapter 12.

97. Similarly to chapter 4 it is useful to have an introduction – the text is to be revised after Part III is settled.

Chapter 13.

98. There is a need to add a paragraph on compilation from a system perspective – i.e. why we need data integration (OECD is to work on it) to be placed either Chapter 13 or 12.
99. Some editing is needed (like microdata is overwhelming).
100. Need to emphasize that it has to be a compromise, that the integration needs to be manageable.
Has to come in the context of compilation
101. The definitions are to be placed in a glossary.
Suggested moves:
102. Austria country example on integrated tourism and travel to move to Chapter 6 and 14.

Chapter 14.

103. Make reference to other guides, particularly MSITS 2010 and BPM6 (streamline definitions or just make reference or in some cases elaborate more than in the guides). More references need to be made to the BPM6 CG.
104. No need to repeat definitions of EBOPS 2010 items. The guide should only include clarifications (e.g. on IP products or other business services based on EBOPS-CPC2 correspondence table, treatment of construction in relation to TA (refer to BPM6CG), work of TF on global production) as well as focus on the specificities of MSITS 2010 (i.e. freight transport on a transaction basis).
105. Spell the name of the manuals/guides correctly.
106. Add more country examples (e.g. education, FISIM)
107. The chapter is big (long) – the way of presentation is to be re-evaluated (maybe some structural changes).
108. Simplifying the text for the modes of supply simplified allocation.
109. Add text on the compilation issues to make details for the partner country breakdown, and on the complementary items. On partner country treatment some reference could also be made to the BPM6 compiler's guide where some text is also available
110. It was suggested to raise at the virtual meeting if intellectual property transactions (i.e. charges for the use of IP n.i.e., computer software, audiovisual products, outcomes of R&D) should be treated in one block (all types of licenses should a priori be drawn also from the same source).
111. The EU recommendations of the TF on Goods for processing eliminated by the Editor should be reintroduced especially if the treatment of partner country data is covered.
112. Country examples could be attributed more closely with respective chapters.
Suggested moves:
113. 14.199 (which is too short) and 14.200 (the example of Singapore on R&D) to move to 6.167.
114. 14.57 should be moved before 14.56.

115. 14.192-14.198 move to chapter 10.
116. 14.204-208 to move to travel.
117. 14.219-14.234 – shorten the text (New Zealand experience shall be split and moved).
Suggested changes:
118. Review table 14.1 (wrongly numbered 16.1)
119. 14.106-107: refer to Italian example in chapter 6.
120. 14.110 had 3 numerical examples that were removed by the Editor – suggested to place them back.
121. 14.174 need more input.
122. 14.123 reference is not correct (58. and 59. are the correct reference).
123. 14.123 the formula is copied but the order was changed – suggested to keep the original order from the reference.
124. 14.156 on FISIM need more input (country experience).
125. 14.174, 14.203: ask virtual meeting for input
126. 14.177-14.184 the Austrian country experience is too long – streamline.
127. 14.272 – 14.283 the text on the country experience of Spain is already used in Chapter 6 – to be erased from here and make a reference to the text in Chapter 6.
128. Ask Australia for experience on compiling data for education services (in context of complementary groupings).

Chapter 15.

129. The text shall be streamlined (eliminate repeating the definitions – make references and place them in the glossary).
130. The text shall be reviewed on the integrated approach to FATS-FDI.
131. Streamline the text on SPEs (remove description of the sectoral classification, and place them in the glossary).
132. No input on the possibility/experience in the compilation of the number of mode 4 persons as part of FATS/FDI surveys is provided as yet, but it is important (e.g., for Chapter 16).

Suggested changes:

133. Add text on hours worked on the employment variable for para 15.23 (OECD is to provide the text to the UNSD).
134. Output: refer to EU recommendations on production value.
135. EU recommendations and SNA 2008 shall be used as a reference on value added (i.e. needs to be elaborated).

Chapter 16.

136. Text is to be reviewed and possibly streamlined (OECD/WTO/Eurostat to work on it).
137. Text related to data collection shall be moved to Chapter 6.
138. Section titles to be reworked.
139. A good country example is needed on how data on the number of persons for mode 4 are compiled.
140. Suggested moves:
141. Tables 16.1 and 16.2 should be moved to Chapter 11.
142. Move suggestions on LFS to chapter 7.

Suggested changes:

143. 16.68 make a reference to Chapter 4.

Chapter 17.

144. Add introductory text to the beginning.
145. Rearrange text (include other types of model estimates, e.g. travel, move model estimates on mode

4 further down).

146. Add text on relation between forecasting and timeliness.

147. Need to refer to thresholds and necessity to make estimations.

Suggested moves:

148. Refer to relevant chapters from where text is to be moved.

Suggested changes:

149. Para 17.12—put a reference in 17 or 13 to make the bridge between the two issues.

Chapter 18.

150. Some review of the text needed, list of metadata items can start with BOP-DSD.

151. Country examples on FATS metadata may be needed.

152. The text on the BOP DSD to what regards trade in services para 18.27 to 18.31 should be elaborated following OECD Presentations

153. The explanatory table on services not allocated should be reintroduced after para. 18.42.

154. 18-25 could also refer to SDDS+.

Chapter 19.

155. An introduction to be added to Section D.

156. Ask the opinion of the EG virtual forum whether some text is needed on quality self assessment.

157. Consolidate table.

Suggested changes:

158. Timeliness of SITS quality reports should be discussed and agreed upon (para 19.46).

159. Restructure table 19.1 to take into account the dimension of all IOs DQAF and avoid empty cells.

160. Paragraph 19.61 on OECD quality framework needs to be reviewed.

161. UK example was submitted but it is not included (check with the Editor).

162. Spain provided text on automatic checking (modes of supply) was submitted but not included (check with the Editor).

163. Bilateral data exchange: mention confidentiality issues.

Suggested moves:

164. Para 19.80, delete or move.

Chapter 20.

165. Para 20.13 on working with the media needs review.

166. Section D on combined presentation of international merchandise and services trade statistics should be elaborated and include country experiences. Germany is to submit text on the integrated presentation of merchandise and service trade statistics.

Suggested changes:

167. Part III dealing with the compilation and should be only mentioned here. Review summary recommendations on the dissemination of SITS variables and their periodicity (para. 20.15) and timeliness (para 20.20).

168. Review the dissemination paragraphs 20.8 and 20.14 (not as much focus on SDMX). In para. 20.14 review second sentence. Experience of Australia and Russia on revision policy was submitted but not included (check with the Editor).

Chapter 21.

169. Some further refining is needed, focusing on microdata access (OECD), accessibility, visualization of data (to be prepared jointly by OECD, WTO and ITC), data warehousing (OECD).

Suggested changes:

170. Contact Statistics Austria who just introduced a statistics app.

Timeline – way forward

171. Outcome of the TF discussion on the current draft is to be revised by Eurostat – OECD, UNSD and WTO by 31 October – including text that will be moved by the coordinators of the given chapter as suggested by the TF – no rewriting is expected before the virtual forum.

172. Virtual meeting of the UN Expert Group is scheduled between 1 and 30 November.

173. Outcome of the UN Expert Group meeting is to be summarized after the conclusion of the virtual meeting by UNSD and will be sent to Eurostat, OECD and WTO .

174. UNSD will work on elaborating the suggestions of the Task Force and also the UN Expert Group virtual meeting by early January. After completion UNSD will provide to the coordinators the consolidated text for review -- please do mark your calendar as we are planning to finalize the text by end of January.

175. Draft MSITS 2010 CG is to be submitted as a background document to the Statistical Commission in March 2014.