

Updating ISCO -Progress

David Hunter

Bureau of Statistics

International Labour Office



ISCO – What is it?

- The International Standard Classification of Occupations
- Current version was adopted by the 14th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 1988
 - So it is known as ISCO-88
 - Published in English in 1990 and in French, Spanish and Russian during the 90s
 - Hierarchically structured classification comprising:
 - 10 major groups
 - 28 sub-major groups
 - 118 minor groups
 - 390 unit groups
 - Occupations arranged in to groups according to skill level and skill specialisation
 - Major break compared to ISCO-68 which it replaced

What is ISCO used for?

- ✓ International reporting, comparison and exchange of statistical and administrative data
- ✓ A model for the development of national and regional classifications of occupations
- ✓ Used directly in countries that have not developed their own national classifications
- **National Occupation Classifications are used for**
 - Statistics from censuses, household surveys, employer surveys and other sources.
 - Administrative and policy-related activities such as:
 - matching job seekers with job vacancies
 - educational planning,
 - management of employment related international migration.

Framework for Updating ISCO-88

- Mandated by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2003
- An update not a major revision
- Advice and support from expert groups in classification
 - UN Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications
 - ILO Technical Expert Group on Updating ISCO (TEG/ISCO)
- Reporting of progress to UN Statistical Commission
- Completion by end 2007 to allow for implementation in Censuses from 2010
- A Tripartite Meeting of Experts in Labour Statistics to be convened in December 2007
 - Will be asked to recommend endorsement of the ISCO-08 to the ILO Governing Body

Updating process

- Consultation with all countries through 2 questionnaires
 - December 2004
 - September 2006 - sought comments on draft structure
- Analysis of questionnaires and discussion of results with UN Expert group and TEG/ISCO
- TEG/ISCO meetings Nov 2005, July and December 2006
 - Web discussion
- large number of new problems identified in early 2006
- Consultation with relevant international agencies and interest groups (WHO, OECD, FAO, WTO, UNESCO, ITU ...)
- Circulation of draft structures for comment
 - 'close-to-final' structure released in Feb 2007 and presented to UN Statistical Commission for comment
- Final draft structure to be completed by mid 2007

Still to be done

- Resolve outstanding and emerging structural issues
- Finalise structure in English, French and Spanish (July 2007)
- Definitions in English of all categories (December 2007)
- Updated index
- Papers for Tripartite Meeting of Experts (2 months ahead of December meeting)

Support for implementation

- Publication and dissemination
- Manual on adapting ISCO for use in national and regional settings
- Provision of training on a regional basis
- Provision of technical assistance and advice directly to countries
- Assistance with and review of correspondences between national classifications and ISCO-08

Activity	Timing
1. Preparation of final draft classification structure in 3 languages	Apr – Jun 2007
1. Develop/update and validate definitions of categories in ISCO-08	Jan – Dec 2007
1. Develop ISCO-08 index of occupations (English, French and Spanish versions)	May 2007 - Jun 2008
1. ILO Tripartite Meeting of Experts to adopt ISCO-08	Dec 2007
1. Translation of updated ISCO-08 definitions into French and Spanish	Dec 2008
1. Development of Manual	Feb – Sep 2008
1. Translation of Manual .	Oct – Feb 2009
1. Conduct regional training workshops (4-5 days each)	2008-9
1. Technical Assistance - Direct response to queries - Development and updating of national classifications - Review of correspondence tables between national classifications and ISCO	2008-9 and ongoing