



ISCO-08 - Current Status and plans to support implementation

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ISCO-08 Current status

- ISCO-08 was adopted in December 2007 by a Meeting of Experts in Labour Statistics
 - Endorsed by the ILO Governing Body in March 2008
 - Presented to the sessions in 2008 of the UN Statistical Commission and the International Conference of Labour Statisticians.
- The final classification structure has been available in English, French and Spanish on the ILO Website since early 2008.
- Final draft in English of the detailed definitions of all ISCO-08 groups was released on the ILO Website in July 2009.
- Correspondence tables with ISCO-88 are available.
- Updated English index of occupational titles will be released in the near future.
- This material, together with an updated introduction, to be released as an ILO publication following formal editing.





Languages

- French and Spanish versions of the above material will be provided as quickly as possible.
- Eurostat is working with national agencies in relevant member states to produce versions of the ISCO-08 structure in other European Union languages
- Need for other language versions
 - Russian, Arabic



Strategy for implementation discussed by EG in 2007

- Priorities for these activities need further consideration in view of the imminence of the 2010 round of population censuses.
 - manual and training material on how to adapt ISCO-08 for use in national and regional settings
 - training on a regional or sub-regional basis;
 - to provide technical assistance and advice directly to countries;
 - review of correspondence tables between national classifications and ISCO-08.



Manual and training would cover:

- concept of occupation and why we need to classify statistical and administrative data by occupation;
- introduction to ISCO-08, its underlying principles and structure, and what has changed from ISCO-88;
- understanding specific national requirements for occupational data and the occupational structure of the national labour market;
- how to adapt ISCO-08 to satisfy these needs while retaining comparability with the international standard;
- collecting and processing data on occupation in surveys and censuses;
- development, use and maintenance of a national coding index for occupation;
- development of correspondence tables between old and new classifications and between national classifications and ISCO; and
- international reporting of occupation data.





Provision of technical assistance and advice directly to countries

- Limited resources and limited availability of suitable consultants
- Priority for:
 - Particularly needy and deserving countries
 - Countries that may play a leadership role in developing regional approaches
- Online database to facilitate self help on common questions



2010 Census round

- Need for urgent assistance with the collection, coding and classification of occupation data in the Census.
 - Question design, data collection, the coding of open-ended questions on occupation and the development of coding indexes.
 - Some countries have little experience or infrastructure to support coding operations.
- Similar problems for coding of industry in household based collections
 - countries that have large informal sectors and business registers may cover only a small proportion of total employment.



Alternative option

- Targeted training to statistical offices that are about to undertake a national census, or the first labour force survey in many years.
 - Workshops for relatively small groups of countries.
 - Focus on data collection and coding of both industry and occupation in household-based collections
 - Conceptual and practical elements of occupation and industry classification covered at a more general level.
 - Expand on material presented in Chapters X and XI of the Handbook on Measuring the Economically Active Population and Related Characteristics in Population Censuses, authored jointly by UNSD and ILO.



Possible way forward

- Sub-regional training to focus either on
 - development of occupation classifications
 - data collection and coding for occupation and industry in the Census and other household collectionsdepending on local needs and availability of funding
- Manual would be developed later based on the training material and experience in its use
- Direct assistance on a needs basis



Status in Employment

- International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93)
- Adopted at the Fifteenth ICLS in 1993
- Allows identification of:
 - Employees (paid employment jobs)
 - Self-employed (income depends solely on profits)
 - Employers
 - Own-account workers
 - Members of producers' cooperatives
 - Contributing family workers
- A critical variable to understand structure and functioning of labour market
- Review mandated by 18th ICLS



ICSE-93 – Optional categories, issues and problems

- Subsistence workers
- Owner managers of incorporated enterprises
- Casual and seasonal workers and other forms of precarious employment
- Outworkers
- Home-based workers
- Contractors



Questions for the Expert Group

- What should be the priorities for provision of training and manuals?
 - Practical assistance targeting 2010 Census round
 - National adaptations of ISCO
 - Direct technical support
 - Suggestions about sources of funding and availability of expertise
- To what extent does EG need to be involved in review of Status in Employment?