

Meeting of the ISWGNA and Task Team leads

04 October 2023, 7:00 – 9:30 EDT

Minutes

Participants

Sarah Barahona, Chair, Jorrit Zwijnenburg and Bram Edens (OECD); Nicola Massarelli and John Verrinder (Eurostat); Herman Smith and Benson Sim (UNSD); Eric Metreau (World Bank); Erich Strassner, Michael Stanger and Jennifer Ribarsky (IMF); Celest Giron (ECB); Sanjiv Mahajan (UK); Michael Connolly (Ireland); Amina Khaseeb (Palestine); Pete Harper (Project manager); Peter Van De Ven (Lead editor).

1. Status of progress of the SNA update project
 - 1.1. Welcomed the report by the Project Manager which covered the a) status of the last outstanding guidance notes and action items; b) outcome of the global consolidation on the consolidated list of recommendations; c) progress on drafting the chapters of the 2025 SNA; d) glossary; and e) status of early implementation and outreach. The report is available at: [Progress reports](#).
2. Outcome of the global consultation on the list of recommendations
 - 1.2. Noted the broad support from the global community for the consolidated list of recommendations.
 - 1.3. Noted the concerns about some of the recommendations and emphasized the importance of developing practical compilation handbooks and manuals to respond to the issues raised by stakeholders.
 - 1.4. Welcomed the opportunity for the lead editor and project manager to attend some of Eurostat's technical meetings on National Accounts to engage with the community on the recommendations for changes and clarification for the update of the 2008 SNA.
 - 1.5. Underscored the importance discuss key areas of concern from the global consultation such as natural capital, marketing assets and data as assets with the AEG at its October 2023 meeting.
 - 1.6. Requested the lead editor, with support from various ISWGNA Members, to draft a detailed note addressing the concerns raised during the consultation and share a revised consolidated list of recommendations after the October 2023 AEG meeting.
3. Approval process and branding of manuals and handbooks.
 - 2.1. Agreed that a global consultation would be necessary for the approval of all manuals and handbooks following the same transparency and ownership principles that have been adopted for the update of the 2008 SNA.
 - 2.2. Noted that manuals and handbooks can be endorsed by the ISWGNA and AEG since they are based on guidance in the SNA which has been endorsed by the Statistical Commission.

4. Framework for maintaining and updating international economic and environmental accounting systems and manuals.
 - 3.1. Supported the proposed framework but agreed that timing of this work should be carefully managed in order not to overlap with the timetable to update the 2008 SNA.
 - 3.2. Suggested that Member States be involved in this process and agreed that the update of international statistical classifications standards should also be incorporated in the framework.
 - 3.3. Agreed to present the proposed framework at the October 2023 AEG meeting for feedback.
5. Agenda and admin for the October 2023 AEG meeting
 - 4.1. Noted the minor observations on the proposed agenda and requested UNSD to consult relevant communities on the progress of the work to review the definitions of goods and services in CPC and to consider including the update of COFOG in the statistical classifications' presentation at the October 2023 AEG meeting.
 - 4.2. Requested UNSD to send the list of online participants to OECD for logistical arrangements.
6. Other matters
 - i. Next ISWGNA meeting*
 - 5.1. Agreed that the next ISWGNA meeting will be held in person on the margins of OECD meeting on National Accounts on 08 November 2023 during lunch time.