Minutes

Participants:

Herman Smith (Chair), Jonathan Gessendorfer (UNSD), Nicola Massarelli (Eurostat), Paul Austin, Jennifer Ribarsky (IMF), Sarah Barahona, John Mitchell (OECD), Catherine van Rompaey (World Bank), Tihomira Dimova, Rami Peltola (UN ECE), Sanjiv Mahajan (UK), Michael Connolly (Ireland), Celestino Giron (ECB), Peter van de Ven (Lead editor), and Peter Harper (Project manager).

I.   Status of progress with the SNA update project

1.   Welcomed the revised guidance note tracking tool and progress report and the efforts by the Task Teams to provide up to date information.

2.   Recognized that Task Teams can choose to report on a more granular level (in addition to the guidance note level) in the tracking tool to more specifically document testing requirements as well as impacts on standards and classifications.

3.   Expressed concern about the difference in timelines for the finalization of guidance notes by BOPCOM and AEG/ISWGNA. Guidance notes that require testing to be finalized are of particular concern.

II.   Agenda of the Joint AEG/BOPCOM meeting

4.   Noted the ambitiousness of the proposed agenda. Proposed to allocate more time for controversial guidance notes in the agenda. The decisions on uncontroversial guidance notes could be supported by the results of a written consultation in advance of the meeting.

5.   Requested that the SNA lead editor and project manager be introduced to the joint meeting.

III.   Prioritization of guidance notes for global consultation

6.   Took note of the large number of guidance notes becoming available for global consultation within the next two months and discussed how guidance notes should receive their AEG approval:
   • Already approved for global consultation: WS.5.
   • Approval via written consultation required for: F.13, F.14, DZ.3, DZ.4, DZ.6.
   • Approval requires discussion at AEG meeting: WS.6, WS.7, WS.8, WS.9, WS.10, WS.11, DZ.7, DZ.8, DZ.9.

7.   Agreed that the AEG will be consulted on their preference on the dates for a meeting.

IV.   ISIC Consultation

8.   Welcomed the project manager's review how the ISIC proposals are in agreement with the views of National Accountants.

9.   Recognized that an AEG/ISWGNA response is required on the ISIC proposals related to DZ.5 Digital Supply and Use Tables, DZ.8 Cloud Computing, and DZ.9 Digital Intermediary Platforms.

10.   Agreed that the Project Manager and UNSD will draft a joint AEG/ISWGNA response paper on the ISIC consultation and seek inputs by the AEG/ISWGNA.

V.   Report by the Project manager

11.   Took note of the report by the project manager and welcomed his plans to continue his work on the plans for the experimentation and testing as well as early implementation exercise, to start developing a consultation and communication plan, to undertake a formal risk analysis, to work on the consolidated AEG/ISWGNA response to the ISIC consultation.

12.   Welcomed the plans to develop a detailed timetable in collaboration with the BOPCOM secretariat.

VI.   Report by the Lead Editor

13.   Took note of the report by the lead editor and welcomed his plans to continue to review all guidance notes. Agreed with the Lead Editor's focus to plan the editorial work over the update period and his work on two papers on the proposed overall structure of the SNA and the main changes to the SNA respectively. Agreed that both papers will be on the agenda of the next AEG meeting.

VII.   Any other business

14.   Welcomed the proposals and upcoming invitations to two new AEG members.

15.   Welcomed the update on the global user conference in late 2022. The event is planned to take place in Brussels, if possible as a physical meeting over two days.

16.   Agreed that concise issue notes on the treatment of rent in the SNA and on the delineation between taxes and services will be prepared by Eurostat and that the lead editor and project manager will provide inputs on how the work on these cross-cutting issues should be undertaken.

17.   Took note that the ISWGNA Management Group will meet on 22 February 2022.

18.   The next meeting of the Task Team leads and ISWGNA will take place on 2 March 2022.