

ISWGNA: NA Teleconference
20 March 2013, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm CET

Participants:

Eurostat: Gallo Gueye, Leonidas Akritidis
IMF: Kimberly Zieschang
UNSD: Herman Smith, Benson Sim
UNECE: Tihomira Dimova
Worldbank: Barbro Hexeberg
OECD: Peter Van de Ven (chair), Gyorgy Gyomai (minutes)

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without comments.

2. The Outcome of the UNSC meeting (February 2013)

UNSD reported that the UN Statistical Commission was generally pleased with the work and the proposed work programme of the ISWGNA. However, the Commission noted the slow progress with implementing the SNA in developing countries. It requested UNSD, in collaboration with the ISWGNA, Regional Commissions and countries, to look at ways to scale up the implementation of the SNA and report back to the commission in 2014.

The ISWGNA took the view that the pre-meeting of the upcoming AEG meeting (referred to as *pre-meeting* in the minutes) in Luxembourg should focus on a discussion on ways to scale up the SNA implementation in developing countries and emerging economies. The ISWGNA further considered that the partners from developing countries participating in the *pre-meeting* should be asked as to what actions they can envisage to speed up implementation.

3. Preparations for the AEG, and its pre-meeting

- a. invitation letters
- b. preparation of documents
- c. pre-meeting

a. invitation letters

The ISWGNA agreed with the content of the draft invitation letters and agreed that they could be sent to the AEG members. It was also agreed that participants of the pre-meeting, who are not members of the AEG, will be invited as observers to the AEG meeting. Eurostat will circulate to participants a letter with organisational and practical information at a later stage.

b. preparation of documents for the AEG meeting

The ISWGNA agreed on the lead institutions and deadlines (between brackets) for the issue papers as follows:

- FISIM – OECD (date to be confirmed)
- Global production – UNECE (3 May)
- Head offices, holding companies and SPVs – Eurostat (3 May)
- Pension entitlements – OECD (13 May)

- Stability fees – OECD (3 May)
- Land and non-financial assets – Eurostat (13 May)
- Treatment of freight and insurance – IMF (3 May)
- SDMX – OECD (3 May)
- Compilation of manuals and handbooks – UNSD (3 May)

The ISWGNA agreed that ISWGNA consultation of any of the above issues papers should proceed with tight deadlines (2-3 days) in order to meet the 3 May general deadline.

Information items to be presented:

- Research and development (Eurostat)
- Sectoral accounts (IMF)
- Expert groups on disparities in national accounts (OECD)
- Trade in Value Added (OECD)
- IMF has a working paper in the pipeline for FISIM (offered as a background document, to be co-ordinated with OECD)

The background documents for the information items will be provided by 3 May. UNSD will post all papers on the meeting website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/aeg/2013/m8-2.asp>.

c. the pre-meeting before the AEG (1.5 days)

It was agreed that one day will be dedicated to the implementation of the SNA, and half a day to AEG related topics.

UNSD will prepare an agenda and an issues document on scaling up the implementation of the SNA at the country level. AEG-topics such as FISIM or global production will be presented in the pre-meeting as well.

Several AEG-members from developed countries expressed their interest in this meeting, and would be able to contribute with their own experiences.

Participants will be requested to contribute with presentations/slides on a number of specific questions related to the scaling up of the implementation of the SNA.

UNSD will provide a draft agenda in due course.

4. Following up the action points of the previous ISWGNA meeting

- Three of the action points will feature as issues on the AEG agenda: FISIM, the treatment of freight and insurance in the SNA, and stability fees.
- The issue raised on the possible inconsistency between BPM6 and SNA 2008 in the treatment of R&D is pending. OECD to follow-up.
- IMF is requested to ask IAG to share the minutes of its meetings with ISWGNA.
- The difference between 2008 SNA and ESA 2010 on the treatment of central bank non-market output will be explained in the next issue of the SNA News and Notes.

5. SNA News and Notes

The following topics were proposed for the next edition of the SNA News and Notes:

- Differences between 2008 SNA and ESA 2010 in the treatment of central bank non-market output (IMF and OECD)
- Outcomes of the UNSC (UNSD)
- AEG and the pre-meeting agenda (UNSD)
- Trade in Value Added (OECD)
- Short reporting on different activities related to the implementation of the SNA/ESA (all)

Contributions are expected by the end of April, with a planned release in mid May.

6. Other business

- The 2008 SNA is now available in Russian and Chinese
- The WTO question on household consumption, import and exports, addressed to UNSD, will be followed up by UNSD and escalated to ISWGNA and AEG if necessary.

Next meeting: an audio conference will be organized before the May 2013 AEG meeting.