



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

Directorate B: Methodology; Corporate statistical and IT services
Unit B-1: Methodology and corporate architecture

DIME/ITDG SG 2016

DIME/ITDG STEERING GROUP

19 OCTOBER 2016

Opinions and Actions

Version 27 October 2016 (Final)

This document summarises the opinions of the DIME/ITDG SG meeting held on 19 October 2016 in Budapest. In agreement with par 5 of the mandate of the DIME/ITDG SG, minutes are limited to statements of opinions agreed in the meeting. They are prepared by the secretariat and distributed to the members of the group no later than seven working days following the meeting. Group members should advise the secretariat of any proposed amendments to the minutes within three working days.

Agenda items with opinions and actions

Agenda DIME/ITDG Steering Group 19 October 2016 Budapest		
Item	Topic	Purpose
	Opening - Agenda Adoption	D
<u>Opinions</u> The DIME/ITDG SG agreed on the agenda.		
1	Draft agenda for the 2017 DIME/ITDG plenary meeting. <i>The members of the DIME/ITDG SG will be invited to contribute to the preparation of the agenda for the next plenary meeting to take place in February 2017 in Luxembourg.</i>	D
<u>Opinions</u> The DIME/ITDG SG discussed the draft agenda for the plenary meeting of February 2017 and suggested the following modifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on IT security/ESDEN (results of the self-assessment, next steps) • Discussion of SERV with a focus on ESS-wide deployment of services • As a seminar topic an exchange on IE case: NA in a globalised economy, involving macro-economic and business statisticians • Enlarge the item on the smart statistics business case to include information on BD strategy; Big Data centres in MS to have an exchange on good practices regarding policy, IT infrastructure etc. (ONS, CBS), debriefing of workshop with operators) • ADMIN (data access, quality issues related to data integration) • The item on QUAL would include information on the concept of experimental statistics • The following items would be removed from the agenda and – where relevant – the DIME/ITDG will be informed in writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standardisation ○ PUFs ○ Block chain technology ○ Validation ○ Enterprise Architecture • For a future (2018?) possible seminar topic new approaches to census (NZ or Stats CAN) was suggested. <p>For each item Eurostat would reflect how to best involve MS more actively, either presenting items in which they are actively involved or acting as discussant. The agenda would also include break out-sessions for selected items to allow for an in-depth discussion.</p>		
<u>Actions</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Eurostat will circulate an updated agenda for written comments, within 3 weeks, by the SG.</u> 2. <u>An invitation to MS to host the 2018 plenary meetings will be issued together with information on the logistics needed.</u> 		

2	Good practices to disseminate methodological work <i>The members of the DIME/ITDG SG will be invited to present national experiences.</i>	F
<u>Opinions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DIME-ITDG SG had an open exchange on members' practices regarding the dissemination of methodological work, including good practices (jour fixe, seminars with universities, methodological board, Q&A sessions, e-learning) and less successful approaches (charging for publications). • There was a general tendency to move away from traditional channels (working papers collections, comprehensive websites requiring multiple clicks to find topics) to interactive/engaging ways of sharing methodological developments, including videos, news articles, seminars and an increasing use of English language. • Communication of accuracy estimates was mentioned as a recurring issue for which several NSIs are struggling to find solutions. 		
3	New methodological challenges for new societal phenomena <i>CBS will present practical examples and some reflections on new sources, new modelling and processing approaches.</i>	F
<u>Opinions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the context of a partnership with Google NL, CBS carries out a project improving the measurement of the internet economy using new data sources. CBS envisages expanding a first study, employing machine learning, covering more countries and years. In its exchange the SG focused on conditions for data access and how to best integrate the findings with existing statistics. • CBS also presented the project on small area estimations for cross-border information which will be piloted with DG REGIO. DK reported on a similar project carried out in collaboration with European Commission based on administrative data. Main obstacles related to conceptual differences between administrative data. <p>Further parts of the presentation covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happiness meter providing interactive infographics, complemented by information from DK and AT on similar practices. The use of weather symbols were questioned as they convey an impression of a forecast. • Use of twitter information for sentiment information on selected topics. • Remote linking and processing of BD by the Dutch Academy of Science (Man, Molecule, Society project) combining large and privacy-sensitive datasets (block-chain and distributed ledger techniques, remote encryption, secure multi-party computing) • Crowd sourcing and citizen science project to use sensors • Ways to visualise uncertainty measures <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <u>Reflections on how to enhance the current ESS research portfolio, e.g. in the area of small area estimation, will continue in the framework of the ESS Vision 2020 and the AWP 2018.</u> 		

4	<p>A register based statistical system integrating administrative archives, statistical surveys, and population sizes estimation. <i>ISTAT will present ideas from the project of harmonization of the Italian permanent census with demographic and social statistics.</i></p>	F
<p><u>Opinions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on ISTAT`s rich presentation the discussion focused on weighting schemes, an interest in cross-country comparisons on coverage issues and collaboration with owners of administrative sources (regarding quality, sustainability). <p><u>Actions</u></p> <p>4. <u>As a follow-up of the discussion, members were invited to screen the ADMIN project deliverables to identify possible gaps to be addressed in the future.</u></p>		
5	<p>Establishment of integrated systems to receive and prepare administrative datasets for statistical purposes – lessons learnt <i>HCSO has implemented the new KARÁT and ADAMES systems to receive and prepare datasets from administrative sources, for statistical purposes. The presentation will provide an overview on how they work and their value added.</i></p>	F
<p><u>Opinions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The discussion on the HSCO's relevant presentation, which was considered a priority for all members, included following-up of the performance indicators, benefits of the system in terms of quality/savings and collaboration with owners of administrative data sources. The standardisation system was considered good practice. 		
AoB	DIME/ITDG Next Meetings	D
<p><u>Opinions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In reflecting on the meeting, the SG, while appreciating the refreshing character of the open, informal exchanges, emphasized the usefulness of adding some more strategic considerations. A need to connect at least a sub-set of items with the topics to be dealt with at the plenary was also identified. This should also comprise IT related topics and their relationship with methodology. <p><u>Actions</u></p> <p>5. <u>The next DIME/ITDG plenary meeting will take place on the 22/23 of February 2017 in Luxembourg.</u></p> <p>6. <u>The agenda of the next SG meeting would be pre-discussed with its members, possibly during a short video-conference.</u></p>		