

Other Activities

Other Activities

Co-ordination of OECD Statistical Activities

Purpose

Co-ordinate OECD statistical programmes with Eurostat, ECE, IMF, UN and other organisations with respect to both data collection and the development of international statistical standards.

Increase the visibility of statistical activities carried out by the OECD.

Co-ordinate internal OECD statistical activities to improve the quality of statistics and the efficiency of the OECD statistical organisation.

Objectives and outputs

Collaborate with other Directorates of the Organisation, with national data providers and with other international organisations to: reinforce the quality of OECD statistical data and the efficiency of statistical activities across the Organisation; improve data collection and data provision on Member countries and increase the visibility of OECD statistical work; contribute to the development of the international statistical system.

Databases

OECD statistical programme of work

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

Usage of the integrated OECD statistical programme of work to improve co-ordination and management of information on all statistical activities across the Organisation.

Improvement in the consistency of data collected and disseminated by the OECD through the development of the OECD statistical information system OECD.stat.

Provide linkages with similar facilities in other international organisations and national agencies.

Further improve relationships with national statistical activities and improve international co-operation between OECD Member countries in the area of statistics through the OECD Advisory Group on Statistics and the High-Level Group on statistics, composed of Heads of National Statistical Agencies.

Publish the first integrated catalogue of all OECD statistical products.

Other Activities

Development and Implementation of the OECD Quality Framework

Purpose

To enhance the quality of OECD statistics, to provide a systematic mechanism for ongoing identification and resolution of quality problems, to increase the transparency of the processes used by the OECD to assure quality, to reinforce the political role of the OECD in the context of an information society.

Objectives and outputs

The framework focuses on improving the quality of data collected, compiled and disseminated by the OECD through an improvement of the Organisation's processes and management, though there will be a positive spillover effect on the quality of data compiled at national level. The framework is composed of four elements: a definition of quality and its dimensions; a procedure for assuring the quality of proposed new statistical activities; a procedure for evaluating the quality of existing statistical activities on a regular basis; and internal quality guidelines covering all phases of the statistical production process.

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

In 2003 the guidelines will be finalised and a first group of ten statistical activities will be subject to quality reviews.

In the second part of the year, the recommendations to improve quality provided by the reviews will be analysed and the phase of their implementation started.

In 2003 all new statistical activities should be conducted in accordance with the framework.

Other Activities

Development of New OECD Statistical Information System

Purpose

The new statistical information system provides new statistical tools and support decentralised statistical activities in order to increase the incentives for those activities to adopt the quality guidelines and to share common systems and practices. The tools are tightly integrated together and cover the following elements: centralised detailed information on all OECD statistical activities, a common electronic glossary of statistical terms for the harmonisation of terminology and concepts, a new dataset comprising the data series that are the most commonly used across the Organisation, a complete data catalogue, a data warehouse and a common data browser to navigate the various OECD datasets.

Objectives and outputs

To finalise the development of the data warehouse; to fine tune the system for "OECD Reference Series"; to develop the central metadata repository and to develop and deploy a general user interface for the data warehouse.

Develop new techniques data dissemination based on new technologies such as XML and web services, as part of the OECD participation in the "Standards for Data and Metadata Exchange" Consortium.

Databases

OECD.stat data warehouse

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

Completion of the data warehouse system and of the "OECD Reference Series" system.

Development of pilot projects for experimenting new data collection systems, based on the XML language.

Other Activities

Statistical Training Programme

Purpose

To develop and maintain a programme of training events in statistical subject areas, to include: a programme of regular courses provided by OECD staff; a dynamic timetable of events such as seminars/workshops provided by staff and visiting speakers; liaison with other agencies providing training; e-learning materials; a statistical "knowledge base".

The events are aimed at both compilers/managers of data and users, and may be open to both OECD staff and external participants.

Objectives and outputs

This initiative was launched in early 2001, and has been carried forward by an OECD-wide coordination group which reports to the SPG. All statistical staff have been surveyed to identify their statistical training needs, and a programme of regular training courses and one-off seminars has been designed and largely put in place to address the needs of staff. Regular courses are available covering national accounts, CPIs, seasonal adjustment, and productivity measurement. Further courses will be added in 2003, including training in various aspects of statistical quality. One-off workshops and seminars during the 2002 have covered electronic dissemination of statistics, the role of statisticians in international organisations, and measuring globalisation. Workshops in 2003 will include time series analysis and imputation. As far as possible, courses and events are publicised in time for the each annual performance assessment exercise.

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

The 2003 will see expansion of the programme of regular courses, and more coordination with other international organisations and NSOs both to run joint events and to increase the training opportunities for OECD staff. Facilitating access to e-learning resources will also be a priority in 2003.