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STESEG TASK FORCE ON DATA PRESENTATION AND SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

SOME PROPOSALS ABOUT IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLISHED SERIES

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SOME PROPOSALS ABOUT IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLISHED SERIES

This issue tried to emphasise some difficulties encountered by users that can find in international databases and national databases different figures where they could expect the same series. The user is not always aware of that eventuality so it can occur that he uses discontinuous series unwillingly.

A second kind of problem mentioned was about ambiguity of denomination for fields of activity or product that can appear when various classifications use the same denomination for different field specifications.

Finally, when some user tries to compare evolutions of different kind of indicators (such as new orders and turnover), some indicators can be partially covered. For instance, the STS regulation in Europe requires the coverage of a selection of NACE divisions (totally covered). Then Eurostat collects this aggregation of fields within MIG classification. The problem encountered is then how to inform users that some fields are not fulfilled and then not to be compared too quickly with the same MIG position of other indicators.

First recommendation:

- The international offices that disseminate national data should always know whether the data are disseminated in the country or not. If the data are calculated by the international office, it should indicate it (for instance for SA series).

Second recommendation:

- The classification name should always be clearly indicated (for instance, NACE, CITI, MIG or National classification) so that when the same denomination is used in various classifications such as intermediate goods, the user does know if it is issue from one classification or another. This is true for each disseminator of statistics.

Third recommendation:

- when a field of activity is partially covered (such as MIG-intermediate goods or MIG-consumer goods in the new orders indicators of STS-regulation), it should be clearly indicated for instance with an asterisk or a footnote (by example, in the STS-New orders series, MIG-non durable goods (1) - (1) *Partial ; are missing NACE 151-155, 158, 159, 16, 19, 22, 364-366*).