

# Other Activities

## Other Activities

### Business Registers

#### Purpose

To contribute to reinforce statistical systems and improve globalisation analysis through the upstream design of better integrated business registers and links to administrative sources.

#### Objectives and outputs

Provide a forum for discussion/contribute to expert fora addressing the design and concrete implementation of registers, including multinational registers.

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

OECD assisted Statistics Estonia to organise the 22nd Wiesbaden Group meeting held in September 2010 in Tallinn.

The OECD will host in September 2011 to the joint Eurostat/OECD/UNECE Seminar on Business Registers and will co-organise the events with the partner organisations.

## Other Activities

### Co-ordination of OECD Statistical Activities

#### Purpose

To 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.

To increase the visibility of statistical activities carried out by the OECD and to 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, increase the visibility of OECD statistical work; and contribute to the development of the international statistical system.

Co-ordinate the preparation and publishing of the annual OECD statistical programme of work and the new Brochure on OECD Statistics.

Improvement in the consistency of data collected and disseminated by the OECD through the development of the OECD statistical information system and co-ordination of the migration of existing statistical activities towards the new statistical information system. 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 and several non-member countries in the area of statistics through the OECD Committee on Statistics, composed of Heads of National Statistical Agencies.

#### Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa

#### Databases

OECD statistical programme of work

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

Following completion of accession activities for four countries in 2009-2010, 2011 will see continuation of the accession activities with Russia. In addition, coordination with enhanced engagement countries will be significantly reinforced. Finally, efforts will be made to improve collaboration and advice on statistical activities with OECD policy committees via the Committee on Statistics.

## 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 2011

#### General aspects:

Following feedback from users, the Quality Framework and Review is undergoing a review to streamline the process and make the focus more quality oriented and to include user input.

Following the review a number of Quality Reviews of OECD Statistical Activities will be carried out during 2011.

## Other Activities

### eXplorer web-based interactive charts

#### Purpose

Provide an online animated and interactive graphical component for advanced data analysis and combines maps and graphs with stories allowing users to examine time developments and interrelations between indicators. A Vizlet version of this interface will be fully integrated with the OECD.Stat web browser allowing users to select the data to analyse (dynamic graphic).

#### Objectives and outputs

New production versions according to new user requests in different substantive directorates.

Full integration into OECD.Stat.

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

Finish developments started in 2010:

- Enable SDMX feed from OECD.Stat Web Browser.
- Develop 'light' version of explorer for non-expert users.
- Fully integrate explorer with OECD.Stat Web Browser and WikiProgress

Support and maintain application.

## Other Activities

### eXplorer web-based visualisation software

#### Purpose

Promote use of the eXplorer online data visualisation tool. This dynamic graphics package for advanced data analysis and combines maps and graphs with stories allowing users to examine time developments and interrelations between indicators. The interface will be fully integrated with the OECD.Stat web browser allowing users to select the data to analyse.

#### Objectives and outputs

Complete integration of eXplorer graphical components (maps, bubble charts, histograms, parallel coordinates plotters etc) with OECD.Stat interface. Work with data producers to produce animated data 'stories' for the web.

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

Deployment of version 4 component based architecture.

Implement Data Flow arrows for Trade and Migration data.

## Other Activities

### Green growth indicators

#### Purpose

To develop a set of indicators to as part of the OECD's Green Growth Strategy

#### Objectives and outputs

objectives in 2011:

- compilation of Green growth indicators
- publication of Green growth indicator compendium
- contribution to ministerial report 2011

#### Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, India, Russian Federation, South Africa

## Other Activities

### OECD Enlargement

#### Purpose

1. Following the accession in 2010 of four countries in the OECD (Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia), to ensure the integration of statistics related to these countries in the Organisation's reporting and information systems and to assist with and monitor improvements to their statistical systems and statistics as required. 2. To co-ordinate reviews of the statistical system and statistics of the Russian Federation (RF) in order to assist Council in taking an informed decision on whether to invite RF to accede to the OECD Convention and become a Member. To collect and review data and metadata from Russian statistical authorities in order to support the examination of economic and other policies by the OECD Committees. 3. Also, to improve and expand the statistical co-operation with the five "enhanced engagement" countries (Brazil, India, Indonesia, China and South Africa). 4. Furthermore, to co-ordinate the development of statistics for G20 countries or other non-members of relevance for the organisation.

#### Objectives and outputs

This activity is to support the Committee on Statistics in its evaluation of the statistical system and statistics of the Russian Federation, a country selected for possible membership in the OECD. To help the candidate countries integration in the Organisation's reporting and information systems upon accession. The Enlargement Activity will also engage exchanges with the "enhanced engagement" (EE) countries in order to improve our understanding of their statistical policies and programs, and co-ordinate the development of working level statistical projects involving EE countries and OECD Members.

#### Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

Co-ordination of the development of statistics for G20 or other new areas, promote an enhanced statistical co-operation with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Africa and with Argentina and Saudi Arabia as members of the G20.

## Other Activities

### OECD Factbook

#### Purpose

To meet the needs of a wide range of users for a one-stop resource containing broadly based, comparative, country-based, economic, social and environmental data. To help users in assessing the position of a single country taking into account multiple dimensions and promoting the importance of policy coherence.

#### Objectives and outputs

The objective of the activity is to bring together data concerning various economic, social and environmental phenomena and highlight measurement issues, underlining areas where the comparability of statistics across countries is weak and describing initiatives undertaken to overcome these problems.

The Factbook is published both on paper and on Internet. The electronic version is made available for free and contains longer time series and more detailed metadata.

#### Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

The 2011 edition will be published in November.

## Other Activities

### OECD in Figures

#### Purpose

To produce an original, simple to use, annual pocket statistical data book covering different domains.

#### Objectives and outputs

OECD in Figures contains key data on OECD countries, ranging from economic growth and employment to trade and migration. There are comparable tables on the environment, science and public finances. For added perspective, OECD in Figures includes a selection of graphs, giving snapshots on subjects such as GDP, education spending, services trade, health funding, development aid and renewable energy.

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

N/A

## Other Activities

### OECD Statistical DataWarehouse (OECD.Stat)

#### Purpose

OECD.Stat is the core element of the OECD Statistical Information System as it is the central repository and retrieval tool for the Organisation's statistical information resources. OECD.Stat is designed to contain the validated datasets to be shared and/or published, a special dataset for "Reference Series", all the statistical metadata associated with these datasets, and the glossary of statistical terms.

#### Objectives and outputs

OECD.Stat consists of a closed data warehouse with its standard entry and exit gates and a user front end (web browser). OECD.Stat is the basis of the new corporate tools for the statistical publications and electronic dissemination.

The main objectives and benefits for statisticians are: improved efficiency of statistical processes; improved quality, timeliness, visibility and accessibility of OECD's statistical resources; harmonisation effect of statistical classifications etc.; new and easier horizontal data products such as "Statistical Yearbook" and "OECD in Figures"; simplified and harmonised user access right management.

The data warehouse is physically independent from production systems and permits an easier management of connections from production databases (when new database versions or platforms), avoiding multiple interlinks between different production platforms.

Main objectives and benefits for analysts are: fast and user-friendly tools for locating and retrieving verified statistical data and metadata; availability of Reference Series and joint display of data from different OECD sources; easier interpretability of data; easier gathering of data to support horizontal projects; pre-defined executive reports; accessibility in-house and on the Internet without additional installations.

Today, about 95% of the OECD datasets are loaded into the OECD.Stat Data warehouse.

Respecting well-defined access right limitations, the data is available to specific users and groups within the OECD, to all OECD Staff, to member countries government staff via the OLISnet service, to the general public on the Internet, to specific public MyOECD users and to registered customers via the iLibrary commercial channel (including specific formats like Branded Views).

The OECD.Stat datawarehouse can also be accessed via the OECD analytical software (FAME, SAS, Stata, SPSS, EvIEWS) and includes a utility for an automated publishing of data in PC-Axis format for the OECD commercial service (iLibrary) as well as SDMX formats.

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

Many other international organisations, Central banks and National Statistical Offices are investigating sharing the system. This needs a significant support activity.

Main focus this year will be on consolidation and upgrade of software platform (Windows Server 2008 R2), a new embargo feature, a snapshot feature, revised SDMX metadata output, a new display of unit information, and new data visualisation tools, like dynamic maps.

## Other Activities

# Publishing from the Statistical Information System

### Purpose

To provide a publishing environment for the production of statistical publications and create new statistics dissemination services in the framework of the OECD Statistical Information System. The services include publishing complete databases, ready-made key tables and facts and figures indicators with dynamic graphs and commentary. The publishing environment comprises an authoring tool where the table is defined by the authors, and a formatting engine where the data are extracted from OECD.Stat and formatted for multiple outputs such as paper, PDF, Excel and HTML. The environment improves the efficiency of the publishing process and the quality of final publications in print and electronic format.

### Objectives and outputs

Produce publications through the new process from databases available in the central database OECD.Stat. Continue to develop new procedures to take into account specificities of these new publications. Create new services to disseminate statistics using data from OECD.Stat. In 2010, improvements in the OECD.Stat browser were made available on the OECD iLibrary which replaced SourceOECD. The complete databases were made available to users via an enhanced OECD.Stat browser on the OECD iLibrary platform. Key tables and facts and figures were published. Complete databases were published offline using a new centralised process to disseminate from OECD.Stat. Statistical editors worked with directorates to review and improve the quality of the data and metadata being disseminated from the central data warehouse. Regarding statistical publications, the new publishing environment was used in 2010 to publish updates of publications already produced out of OECD.Stat in 2009 and to apply the new procedures to a number of additional statistical publications. The new publishing environment was communicated to authors.

### Main Developments for 2011

#### General aspects:

In 2011, improvements in the OECD.Stat browser will be made available on the OECD iLibrary. Regarding statistical publications, the publishing environment will be used in 2011 to publish updates of publications already produced out of OECD.Stat in 2010 and to apply the new procedures to a number of additional statistical publications. In 2011, 14 STD print statistical publications will be produced using the publishing authoring tool and will transition to online table collections available in Excel, PDF and Web and print on demand. Further objectives of 2011 aim to continue to communicate the new publishing environment to authors.

## Other Activities

### Software Toolkit for OECD Statistical Databases (StatWorks)

#### Purpose

To provide a generic software toolkit for the management of OECD statistical production data. The StatWorks software provides a common, SQL-based repository for statistical data and a set of tools for data management. The application is designed to be fully integrated with other OECD corporate systems such as the OECD.Stat data dissemination warehouse, the MetaStore metadata interface and new tools for paper and electronic publications.

#### Objectives and outputs

The main objective of the StatWorks development is to modernise the software platforms for the management of OECD statistics in replacing multiple, non-standard systems with a single, generic application. The application manages the following statistical production processes: initial data migration, database administration, security management, data collection, data importing and validation, calculations, data querying and data export.

During 2004 the StatWorks software was implemented as a production application. The software is now used to manage 54 different databases (either fully migrated, in the process of migration or being tested in pilot exercises) across all substantive directorates.

In addition the StatWorks software is being or has been evaluated by other international organisations (UNESCO, FAO, Eurostat, ILO, UNCTAD and IMF).

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

This year will concentrate on implementing high value feature that important for the major OECD statistical databases, e.g. dynamic and advanced calculations, and an improved, consolidated and simplified import feature.

Assistance for data base migrations into StatWorks (e.g. QASA database, ENV datasets, others as needed).

## Other Activities

### Software Toolkit for OECD Statistical Metadata (MetaStore)

#### Purpose

To provide a generic software toolkit for the management of OECD statistical production metadata. The MetaStore software provides a common, SQL-based repository for statistical metadata and a set of tools for metadata management. The application is designed to be fully integrated with other OECD corporate systems such as the OECD.Stat StatWorks.

#### Objectives and outputs

The main objective of the MetaStore development was to modernise the software platforms for management of OECD statistical metadata in replacing multiple, non-standard systems and document collections with a single, generic application. The application manages the following statistical production processes: initial metadata migration, database administration, security management, metadata collection, metadata importing and validation, metadata querying and metadata export.

The MetaStore software was originally developed by STD but the development part has been taken over by ITN during 2008/2009. The software is used to manage many different metadata databases across all substantive directorates.

In addition the MetaStore software is being or has been evaluated or is being used by other international organisations (e.g. IMF).

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

The year 2011 will focus on further consolidation and interface redesign. A new import module (Excel questionnaires, SDMX) will be implemented.

## Other Activities

# Supporting evidence-based local strategy making (former Framework for Information Exchange in Local Development)

### Purpose

To increase the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of local economic and employment development policies by supporting the use of appropriate evidence on policy needs and impacts in the design and implementation of local strategies

### Objectives and outputs

Main issues to be addressed

1. Obtaining, processing and utilising information from diverse sources on local economic and employment performance, their drivers and enablers and the problems faced.
2. How to undertake sound local evaluation of the impact of existing policies and feed the results back into strategy development.
3. Setting up local evaluation frameworks and developing organisational capacity for the evaluation of strategic planning and delivery.
4. Creating local dashboards of economic and employment development indicators that may be baseline-tracked against targets and milestones and benchmarked over time and with other localities to better understand policy needs and impacts.

Methods:

Assessments will be undertaken in case study countries of the appropriateness of local information and evaluation systems for meeting the challenges of local strategy design and delivery. The assessments will include the degree to which the performance, needs and evaluation indicators used fit with those required to assess the local development model in place, the robustness and reach of the information sources and collection methods, and the systems for management and utilisation of the local development and evaluation information. Guidance will be provided on how to apply international good practice evaluation and strategy-making principles to strengthen information and evaluation systems at the local level, responding to the areas for improvement identified in the case studies. Recommendations will be made for the development of local dashboards of comparable local economic and employment development indicators.

Output:

Practical reports and action plans on developing information and evaluation systems for evidence-based strategy tailored to the needs of countries and localities. The process will also generate valuable learning for participating organisations, create new knowledge drawing on international practices, improve staff skills, create new relationships and networks and enhance evidence-based strategy development processes.

### Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Latvia

## **Main Developments for 2011**

### **General aspects:**

on-going activity

## Other Activities

### Training and skills development in SMEs

#### Purpose

collection of data through surveys of SMEs in Canada, Turkey, Poland, Belgium, UK and New Zealand

#### Objectives and outputs

Survey has more than 700 responses so far from Poland, UK, Belgium, New Zealand and Turkey. Survey to be finalised with inputs from Canada and Turkey and Belgium by March 2011.

#### Main Developments for 2011

##### General aspects:

Data on microfirms (less than 10 employees) and about formal and informal training.

## Other Activities

### WikiProgress

#### Purpose

To create a centralized web community around the vision of measuring the progress of societies by creating a place where progress data and research articles can be loaded, visualised and analysed so good decisions about societies can be made at the local, national and international levels.

#### Objectives and outputs

1 - Wikiprogress : A database of articles submitted to the wiki by the community on measurements of progress.

1a) installing myprogressindex.org in which users of the wiki can choose from various indicators and assign different weights to them. Based on OECD progress work (in planning phase)

1b) planning a dashboard of indicators on the site that come out the regularly using data visualisation. (in planning phase)

1c) eBrief a monthly communication going out to networks on latest in progress news (community portal, latest publications, latest articles, latest data, etc) - (executed).

1d) Leveraging networks for content coverage – GPRnet, Correspondents, friends of wiki, wikigender (executed)

1e) redesign of wikiprogress (executed)

2– Wikigender : as inequality is a major dimension of the progress initiative, gender equality will be a main emphasis in wikiprogress work and thereby merits its own platform and specialized community which will feed wikiprogress.

2a) Wikigender University (executed)

2b) Wikigender Impact (in planning phase)

2c) Wikigender monthly reminders (executed)

2d) Outreach to other networks and partners (executed)

3- Wiki.stat: a database of progress related data created and filled.

3a) Data visualisation tools utilised (in planning phase)

3b) Data uploaded application (executed)

4-The PROG BLOG: a regular communication on progress which will inform the progress interested community on the latest in research, data, initiatives and development on the wiki. (executed)

4a) On the blog and the wiki will be a series of videos which are narrated telling stories about the data. (in planning phase)

5- Research

5a) Working paper on Social Cohesion and 2.0 – in the context of shifting wealth and the recession, what could web 2.0 mean for social cohesion in developing countries (executed)

5b) contributing substantively to the social cohesion section on wikiprogress (ongoing)

## **Non-member countries involved in the activity:**

World

## **Main Developments for 2011**

### **General aspects:**

1a) installing myprogressindex.org in which users of the wiki can choose from various indicators and assign different weights to them. Based on OECD progress work (in planning phase)

1b) planning a dashboard of indicators on the site that come out the regularly using data visualisation. (in planning phase)

1c) Further development of the wikiprogress technically

1d) Nurturing of networks (Global Project Research Network, Wikigender, etc)

1e) Further development of communications tools: Prog Blog, Progress e Brief)

1f) Online events organised around the progress agenda

1g) Further outreach for development/progress datasets on wiki.stat

1h) Data visualisation and storytelling features developed.