



For the participators at the STESEG – meeting, Paris the 28th – 30th of June 2004

STISTF related to Demand for service

The “Short term indicators for services task force” is focusing on the production side of services, but in the future it will be rewarding to broaden the perspective to include the demand side. Right now the task force is dealing with this issue by following and relating the work of the task force to the results of Eurostat’s project “Demand for Services”. This is done as this project should give a good indication of the possibilities for collecting information on the purchase for services on a detailed level in a very broad spectrum of activities.

Statistics Denmark is coordinating the project “Demand for services” in cooperation with Statistics Sweden. As a represent of the project leader group I will present for you the “Demand for service”-project at the STESEG meeting in Paris the 28th – 30th of June.

The objective and scope of the project:

Services are recognised as a key driver of modern knowledge intensive economies contributing to the performance of European enterprises across all sectors of economy. A very big part of the economic entities either you are in the industry, the retail trade or the hotel and restaurant business uses services as external input to the production of goods or services. This relationship, and this amount of services that are purchased as input to enterprises is a subject of which currently very little is known. This survey is a tool of enlarging our knowledge on this vital aspect of our modern economy.

Nine EU member states (old and new) participate in this development project that seeks to identify the importance of the service economy from the demand side. The Survey consists of both quantitative and qualitative questions.

- The project should give us a better understanding of the relationship between the services sector and other sectors of the economy
- The project will supply information of the degree and the barriers of internationalisation of the service sector
- The project will test the possibility of extending the statistical coverage of the services sector by breaking down the Structural Business Statistics variable 13110 (Total purchases of goods and services)

Further Timetable

The project on “Demand for services” will enter its pilot testing phase shortly after Easter, and the surveys in the nine countries will be done in the fall. A comprehensive survey of available related data and national definitions has been carried out in all participating countries early this year.

At the STESEG meeting I will present for you:

- The scope and coverage of the project
- The results of the national methodological studies
- The results of the pilot testing
- The time schedule for the further work

This could eventually lead to a discussion of the perspectives of the survey:
In what way does your country or statistical unit deal with the demand side of the service sector?

What are the future possibilities for developing an indicator for the demand side of the service sector?

- Enclosed (Annex 1) you will find the draft questionnaire.

As I am looking forward to a fruitful presentation and discussion, yours
sincerely

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