

Methodological Research

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Coordination of Globalisation Statistics

Purpose

Completion of OECD's "Globalisation Cube" in OECD.Stat. Contribution to the trade chapter of OECDs Economic Globalisation Indicators (EGI), planned for 2009.

Progressive addition of other indicators.

Coordination with other OECD Directorates through the "Globalisation Reflection Group". Coordination with Eurostat to ensure consistency and comparability between OECD and the EU. A joint Steering group is under discussion.

Objectives and outputs

The goal is to unite in one cube OECDs globalisation indicators.

In 2008, a sharepoint was created to this effect. A preliminary stocktaking and progress report was presented to delegates of the WPTGS in September 2008.

STD delivered in time (September 2008) the entire trade chapter for the forthcoming EGI publication (postponed now to 2009).

The Globalisation Cube contains now

-STDs trade indicators

-Trade by enterprise characteristics

-FDI

-AFA

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, Chinese Taipei, Estonia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Russian Federation, Slovenia

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

Progressive addition of new datasets to the Globalisation Cube

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Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies

Purpose

To promote research- and information-sharing among countries, allowing them to better measure and assess the overall “position” and “progress” of a certain political entity (country, region, etc.) vis-à-vis other similar entities. The project is more policy-oriented, rather than technical in nature, as indicator systems are about establishing an agreed set of figures for everyone to use to assess the position and progress of their country.

Objectives and outputs

The need to look at economic, social and environmental phenomena from a “horizontal” perspective is becoming more and more evident, both at national and international levels. Policy makers and civil society, in particular, are demanding integrated views of various phenomena to make decisions and to evaluate the overall situation of a country, region, or a local community.

To address these issues the OECD has established an initiative to promote the international debate on this subject, in order to help OECD member countries, as well as non-members, to develop indicator systems for monitoring economic, social and environmental developments.

In June 2007 the OECD organised a major World Forum (1200 people from 130 countries) in Istanbul in co-operation with the Turkish State Planning Organisation and Turkstat. The conference, entitled “Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies” persuaded the OECD of the need to continue this work by launching a Global Project in collaboration with the European Commission, the UN and UNDP and the World Bank. Strong links have also been built with a network of regional partners such as the Inter American and African Development Banks, as well as international organisations, NGOs, academics, national statistical offices and the private sector.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Europe, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, International organisation, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Other, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

Work in 2009 will continue to take the Global Project forward around the world and deliver outputs in the form of research and recommendations. The OECD and partner organisations will be setting up working groups for non-OECD member countries and OECD countries alike, and will also continue the program of

scientific research on how indicators are used by decisions makers. A handbook on Measuring Progress in Practice will be published and research will continue into statistical frameworks for measuring emerging topics of importance such as trust and vulnerability. In October 09 we will hold the 3rd OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge, Policy in Busan, Korea. This Forum, focused on Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life will attract some 1 500 high level participants with a mixture of politicians and policy makers, opinion leaders, Nobel laureates, statisticians, academics, journalists and representatives of civil society from over 140 countries. The 3rd OECD World Forum will not be a stand-alone event. In the lead up to the Forum we expect to involve at least 3 500 people through regional and thematic events, and training courses. In 2009 these activities will be held in Europe, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, North America, Australia, and Asia. Finally in 2009 the Global Project will further it's goal to foster the development of new tools and approaches to help decision makers and citizens develop a better facts-based knowledge of their society through the launch of 'Wiki4Progress'. Wiki4Progress will bring data and metadata in to one place to create a single, integrated database that will encourage users to analyse the progress of their societies and compare it with that of others.

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Glossary of Statistical Terms

Purpose

The aims of the OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms are:

- to provide a highly visible and readily accessible source of statistical terminology and definitions that are derived from international standards for use by OECD author areas in the development of questionnaires and other data collection instruments and for inclusion in published output. The Glossary also has wide application for external government and non-government agencies;
- to provide a set of target definitions based on existing international statistical standards that will ultimately be linked to data located in the OECD's Statistical Information System (SIS);
- to be the catalyst for the development of consistent international statistical standards by highlighting existing inconsistencies between existing standards.

Objectives and outputs

The OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms contains a comprehensive set of definitions of the main data items collected by the Organisation. The Glossary also contains definitions of key terminology and concepts and commonly used acronyms.

Over 6 700 definitions currently included in the glossary are primarily drawn from existing international statistical guidelines and recommendations that have been prepared over the last two or three decades by international organisations such as the OECD, IMF, ILO, Eurostat, United Nations working with national statistical institutes.

Work in 2007 entailed the addition of new definitions prepared by a number of OECD statistical working parties and expert groups, as well as definitions published by other international organisations, and the insertion of extensive information into the "context" field of the glossary, explaining the uses and limitations of many of the definitions included.

New Glossary facilities include the possibility to identify new definitions included in the Glossary or existing definitions modified. The facility to download the entire Glossary from the web in as a WORD file and PDF has also been developed.

References to the Glossary is now included in over 170 000 web pages of national statistical agencies, central banks and academic institutes.

Databases

OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

OECD Statistical Programme of Work 2009, Part II

Insertion of new definitions reflecting the continuing activities of various expert groups and working parties both within the OECD and other international organisations.

Development of facility to enable users to download Glossary contents into SDMX-ML and XML.

Preparation of a paper Glossary publication.

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Journal of Business Cycle Measurement and Analysis

Purpose

To exchange knowledge and information on the theory and operation of business and economic cycle research, including both statistical measurement and analytical aspects.

Objectives and outputs

The themes covered by the Journal comprise: analysis and explanation of cyclical fluctuations; business cycle specification, definition and classification; statistical approaches to the development of short-term economic statistics and indicators; business tendency, investment and consumer surveys; use of survey data or cyclical indicators for business cycle analysis.

The Journal is closely linked to the well known statistical and methodological research work carried out in this area by the OECD and by the Centre for International Research on Economic Tendency Surveys (CIRET), in particular to the work produced by the OECD Short-Term Economic Statistics Working Party (STESWP) and by joint research in economic statistics with other institutions such as the European Commission and Eurostat, whereas CIRET encompasses a wide variety of researchers whose work results in the most up-to-date insights in this field.

The Journal also provides a calendar of conferences, along with e-information and book reviews which are of interest and within its scope.

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

Typesetting the journal is expected to be carried out by PAC with the following changes to production/dissemination: article-by-article publishing (printed issues will follow later); a single proofing cycle; a layout that conforms to standard OECD format.

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Statistical classification

Purpose

To contribute to more relevant, more useful international economic and social classifications for use in OECD member countries and elsewhere. To encourage greater convergence of regional and national activity, product, and trade classifications in OECD member countries. To coordinate OECD input into the revision of international statistical classifications that are actively used in OECD.

Objectives and outputs

Coordinate with other agencies and contribute to the revision of EBOPS in consultation with OECD analysts and countries.

Prepare correspondence between ISIC and EBOPS and vice versa.

Populate the schema with actual data and propose proper estimation methods where necessary.

Consult with internal and external experts.

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

Preparation of correspondence tables between ISIC and EBOPS and populating the table with actual data.

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Statistics for Sustainable Development

Purpose

To identify good concepts and practices in order to assist national governments and international organizations in the design of sustainable development indicator sets and in the development of official statistics in the area.

Objectives and outputs

A joint working group of the OECD, Eurostat and the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians (CES) has been established in 2005.

The working group should:

- i) articulate a broad conceptual framework for sustainable development measurement. While the starting point of this work should be the concept of capital, the group should also consider other approaches to the extent the capital approach is found insufficient from a conceptual standpoint;
- ii) identify the broad domains that good indicator sets should span;
- iii) develop a menu of good sustainable development indicators in order to help governments and international organizations when they are designing indicator sets;
- iv) identify a small set of indicators from the menu that might become the core for international comparisons;
- v) identify basic data systems necessary for a small set of indicators and identify their possible sources (existing or new statistical surveys, administrative records, information derived from environmental monitoring systems);
- vi) discuss the relationship between integrated environmental and economic accounts and sustainable development indicators.

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

The final version of the recommendations on how to measure sustainable development will be prepared and discussed with national and international experts. After the approval of the report, the OECD will evaluate how the project should be continued.