



STESEG 2005

Task force on the use of
administrative data for short-term
economic statistics



Task Force

- STESEG 2004 saw an expression of interest for this topic as a future direction.
- Five countries offered to form the initial task force; they made contributions to the draft handbook proposal document and, supplied previously published papers.
- A short meeting was held Monday midday with the task force members.



Initial Papers Received

- Papers were received from all task force members, the papers revealed:
 - Differences between how centralised and decentralised NSOs deal with administrative data
 - Some NSOs have been using administrative data for a very long time while others are just starting
 - Sheer size of administrative data datasets can be a factor
 - Level of statistical methodology can become very complex i.e. sampling techniques

Questions asked of STESEG

- The STESEG 2005 paper asked STESEG representatives five questions about how to proceed:
 - Centralised / decentralised NSOs
 - Complex statistical methods or general approach
 - Expand on Eurostat / Finland's work
 - Case studies or general issues with administrative data
 - Handbook or dynamic type internet site using references

Comments Received - General

- Around 17 countries gave direct responses to the questions posed
- In general all responses were positive about the concept of an administrative data handbook in some form
- A number of comments focused on the issue that this will be a large undertaking if the handbook is expected to generate good practice type advice

Comments – Question Summary

- Most countries suggested that no distinction be made between centralised and decentralised NSOs
 - Five countries suggested that the handbook concentrate on being a resource for NSOs who are just starting out in their use of administrative data
- Nearly all countries agreed that the handbook should focus only on the general statistical methods involved in compiling short-term economic statistics from administrative data
 - Some suggested that more technical papers are referenced

Comments – Question Summary

- The Eurostat (Finnish) extension question provided a number of varied responses.
 - A number suggested that it would be worthwhile expanding the Eurostat work in some form
 - Two responses suggested that this handbook be an entirely new piece of work
 - Two responses suggested that a partnership of some sort be formed with Eurostat to further their work
 - As the Finnish handbook mainly focused on annual statistics its use was seen as a more general resource

Comments – Question Summary

- The question of using case studies provided a number of different responses
 - At least four countries suggested that case studies should be heavily used
 - The majority of countries suggested that case studies should be used either directly in the handbook or referenced, but in a balanced way
 - A couple of countries didn't think that case studies should be used due to the differences between NSOs and need for the handbook to focus on best practices

Comments – Question Summary

- The final question concerned the proposed format of the handbook
 - At least eight countries suggested a dynamic internet format would be best
 - Three countries stated their preferred option would be a book format
 - Some countries in the first group and the remainder suggested some combined approach involving both a published and electronic version



Comments – Summary

- Overall, when grouped together, the comments seem to suggest three possible directions
 1. Use all relevant papers and case studies extensively in a dynamic internet display.
 2. Produce a best practice handbook concentrating on the new entrants into the field of administrative data.
 3. A mixture of text and papers covering general practice with examples in both a book and electronic format.



Next Step

- A decision needs to be taken on the direction of the project and the expected outcome
- Establish a timetable
- Obtain a commitment from all STESEG participants to provide support for the agreed project and direction