

OECD WORKSHOP ON BUSINESS AND CONSUMER TENDENCY SURVEYS, ROME, 19 SEPTEMBER 2006

Location: Bank of Italy, Via Nazionale 91, 00184 Rome

DRAFT AGENDA

Workshop objective

The main objective of the one day workshop will be to present work undertaken at the national and international levels following the joint European Commission (EC) - OECD Workshop on International Development of Business and Consumer Tendency Surveys held in Brussels in November 2005. The aim will be to ensure that the one-day workshop will complement both the discussion on more analytical issues during the actual CIRET Conference and work undertaken by the European Commission.

The workshop is envisaged as an intermediate process leading up to more in-depth studies on some of the areas of future work identified at the November 2005 leading up to the next joint EC-OECD Workshop that may be held in the second half of 2007.

09.30 – 09.45	Welcome, introductions and background	OECD (Denis Ward) European Commission (Nathalie Darnaut)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcomes from the joint EC – OECD Workshop in November 2005• Relevant issues from the recent meeting of the OECD Short-term Economic Statistics Working Party (STESWP)• Dissemination of BTS / COS statistics in the context of the recently developed OECD Statistical Information System• Recent and future EC initiatives	

Session 1 – Recently developed international guidelines for opinion surveys

Aims:

Presentation of the final version of the opinion survey international guidelines and recommendations discussed and endorsed at the joint EC - OECD Workshop in Brussels in November 2005. These cover recommendations for the improvement of: response rates and minimisation of respondent load; and harmonisation of survey operations and technical design.

Discussion in September will focus on the recommendations themselves and OECD proposals for the incorporation of these standards into the Organisation's work on business and consumer opinion surveys, in particular, as a basis for comparative assessment of national surveys. National agencies are also welcomed to suggest specific areas for future work that are relevant / specific to any of the guidelines. Some of the following national presentations touch on issues of recommended practice dealt with by the standards.

09.45 – 10.30	Background to the development of the guidelines	OECD (Denis Ward)
	Review of the guidelines and their intended use by the OECD and the EC	

	Discussion: national perceptions of guidelines and their possible implementation; suggestions for future work.	
10.30 – 11.15	Further refinements of BER analysis of BTS response behaviour	South African BER (Murray Pellissier)
	Discussion – questions on national presentation, discussion of similar analyses by other national agencies and possible future work in this area.	

11.15 – 11.35 Coffee break

Session 2 – Recent OECD work on standardized confidence indicators and zone aggregates and compilation / dissemination of composite leading indicators (CLIs) for large emerging non-member economies (NMEs) and new recent OECD Member countries

Aims:

To present recent work in these two areas. CLIs have been developed for Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa, Korea, New Zealand, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovak Republic.

11.35 – 12.30	Presentation of:	OECD (Ronny Nilsson & Gyorgy Gyomai)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardised confidence indicators and zone aggregates; • CLIs for NMEs and recently new OECD member countries 	
	Discussion	

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

Session 3 – Recent developments in national statistical offices and institutes

Aims:

To present recent national initiatives and developments in a range of areas such as data collection, Internet survey practices, consumer surveys and consumer psychology, response analyses, etc. Subsequent discussion will also include identification of possible areas of future work at the international level.

Participants are therefore requested to review work they may have done in these areas in preparation for the discussion.

14.00 – 14.30	Presentation of results of IFO survey of BTS institutes Internet survey practices. This is the first study of such practices worldwide.	IFO Germany (Anna Stangl)
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	Discussion	
14.30 – 15.00	Extension of internet data collection by INSEE for business tendency surveys.	INSEE (Philippe Scherrer)
	Discussion	
15.00 – 16.00	1. Long-run biases in consumer sentiment. Micro evidence from European surveys. 2. New ISAE questions on trade credit	ISAE Italy (Marco Malgarini, Maurizio Bovi)
	Discussion	

16.00 – 16.20 Coffee break

Session 4 – Developments in consumer opinion surveys

16.20 – 17.05	Outline of a proposed consumer opinion survey to collect information from consumers on their current knowledge of the economic and social situation of their country and their sources for such information.	OECD (Enrico Giovannini)
	Discussion	

Session 5 – Meeting conclusion and wrapup

17.05 – 17.30	Review of meeting conclusions and recommendations for future work:	OECD (Denis Ward)
	Other business	