Strengthening international cooperation in data collection on health workforce: The new joint questionnaire between OECD, WHO (European region) and Eurostat

OECD-WHO Technical Workshop
Monitoring Health Workforce Migration
OECD Conference Centre, Paris, 31 May – 1 June 2010
Background

- International organisations have been collecting data on health workforce for many years (and the scope and number of data collections has grown):
  - this has raised concerns among national data providers about data collection burden (duplication of work)
  - also raised concerns among data users about data inconsistencies across databases

- OECD, WHO (European region) and Eurostat agreed to develop a new joint data collection (WHO Headquarters also involved in the process)

- New joint questionnaire launched in January 2010
Aims of Joint Questionnaire between OECD, WHO (Europe), Eurostat

- Reduce data collection burden on national authorities
- Promote consistent use of international standard classifications and definitions (International Standard Classification of Occupations/ISCO, International Classification of Health Accounts/ICHA, etc.)
- Improve consistency of data reported by international organisations
Scope of the joint data collection

- Health care resources, including both:
  1. Human resources (health workforce/graduates)
  2. Physical/technical resources

- Possibility to extend questionnaire to other variables/topics in the future, if there is agreement between the three international organisations and with countries
Content on Health Workforce

- **Common variables** based on “mature” data collections and well-established data sources:
  - key occupational categories (with focus on doctors & nurses)
  - clear distinction between practising and non-practising (with a focus on practising)
  - new graduates (e.g., medical, nursing programmes)

- **Additional variables** requested from Eurostat (e.g., health workforce at subnational/regional level)

- **No variable** to distinguish foreign-trained doctors or nurses (but could be added following further developmental work)
Established annual cycle for this joint data collection

- December/January: Questionnaire sent out to designated focal points in countries
- February/March: Data (along with sources and methods) supplied by national focal points to three organisations
- April/May: Data validation process (to resolve any outstanding issues/questions)
- June (and afterwards): Data dissemination by each organisation