



29th Voorburg Group Meeting Dublin, Ireland

Agenda Overview

Presented by

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Introduction

- 29th meeting of the Voorburg Group
- VG received a renewed mandate from UNSC in 2005 – objective is to establish internationally comparable methodology for measuring the constant dollar outputs of the service industries. Since 2006, VG work focused on (a) classification issues; (b) output measures (turnover); and (c) producer price indices for services. (Classifications help assure proper identification and definition of services industries.)
- Once again, we have a full agenda – all of you have a part to play this week whether you are submitting a paper, giving a presentation, serving as a session leader or a discussant, actively participating in discussions (asking questions, offering comments, etc.), or simply learning something new – it is the members of the VG who make it successful!!

Agenda components

- Country progress reports (this morning)
- Sector Papers (this morning)
 - Present key methodological guidelines for development and product of service sector/industry covered
 - Intended as reference material
 - Represent culmination of individual country industry papers/presentations (“mini-presentations”) done at last year’s meeting in Tokyo
 - Programming & broadcasting components
 - Other publishing activities
 - Software publishing
 - Postal activities
 - Warehousing and support activities (Revisited)

Agenda components (continued)

- Country industry papers/presentations (“Mini-presentations”)
 - Covers given industry or parts of an industry
 - Typically have 3 papers/presenters for turnover/output and 3 for SPPIs for each industry/sector covered
 - Five industries and/or industry groups on agenda this year (on Tuesday & Thursday)
 - Call Centres
 - Leasing Intellectual Property and Similar Products
 - Travel Agency Activities
 - Human Health Activities
 - Specialized Design Activities

Agenda components (continued)

- Cross-cutting Topics and other items
 - Issues/practices that cut across industries of interest to VG members
 - Should be related in some respect to VG mandate
 - Focus on lessons learned
 - This year covering the following topics (Monday & Tuesday):
 - CPI use in PPI context
 - Institutional sectoring- Turnover & prices for various sectors
 - Productivity in services
 - Electronic data collection experiences
 - Maintaining Representative Turnover and SPPI – re-stratification, resampling, rebasing, and updating weights
 - Quality Adjustment Panel on Wednesday morning followed by Country Day activities

VG Reminders

- Content Development Framework (CDF) in use since 2007 to provide structured approach – “mini-presentations” leading to sector papers/revisited sector papers/updated sector papers
- VG meetings are open forum for interaction and discussion; papers/presentations meant to stimulate discussion
- We are here to learn from each other at some level and to make contributions to our development of BEST PRACTICES – we believe the best way to learn is to observe, participate, and exchange with one another
- Value and respect for contributions of all members of VG; differences of opinion & critiques are welcome but should always be given in a constructive and respectful manner
- Expectation that papers and/or presentations are representative of your country’s practices and/or methodological approach (with exception of Sector Papers of course which represent the consensus of the Voorburg Group) – remember that your contributions live on and remain accessible on the VG website

Future agendas: Ideas for Consideration

- Country industry papers (“Mini-presentations”): Industries ready for sector papers – if not, what is still required?
- What industries/sectors should we study next; are there ones for which we have already done sector papers for which “updates” are needed?
- CDF – time to revise and/or replace - does VG focus of our work need to change to continue to meet our mandate and if so, how?
- Potential for new cross-cutting issues, e.g. weaknesses in sampling for SPPIs; what are best practices for initialization for SPPIs; focus on industry classification vs. product classification (are changes needed to the way we think about services when they are prevalent in multiple industries, etc.); big data in PPIs, e.g. use of administrative data, webscraping, company data dumps, etc.
- What are your needs or expectations from the VG – don’t hesitate to talk to me or any other members of your VG Bureau?