



# **The Statistical Measurement of Services: Recent Achievements and Remaining Challenges?**

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# Developments in 2005

- **SNA decisions**
  - Capitalise R&D
  - Originals and copies inc software
  - Goods for processing
- **SNA to decide in Jan 2006**
  - Leases and licenses
  - Asset boundary
  - Merchanting
  - Financial services
  - SNA aggregations of ISIC 4
- **ISIC 4 finalised**
- **CPC 2 consultation on detailed structure**
- **BPM coordinating with SNA**
  - BOPS classification being developed

# Other developments

- **Services PPI OECD-Eurostat guide**
- **Short-term indicators OECD manual**
- **Trade in services**
  - **Consultation document on updating Manual spring 2006**
  - **Include review of EBOPS**
  - **Increase in technical cooperation UN/IMF**
  - **UN database and website development**
- **Globalisation**
  - **OECD Handbook published**
- **Business statistics**
  - **UN and OECD new expert groups**
  - **Eurostat SBS Regulation**
- **Others???**

# Combined OECD-VG Report to UNSC 2005

- **SNA/BPM5/ISIC/CPC revisions provide an impetus for progress on services**
- **Request to clarify VG mandate**
- **How to develop 'global standards' in services?**
- **Development work on prices and volumes is fundamental to measurement of growth and should continue**
- **How to engage more countries in services development work**
  - **Interagency coordination on technical cooperation**
  - **Improve dissemination of methodological developments**
  - **Involve more countries in expert groups**

# Combined OECD-VG Report to UNSC 2005 contd.

- **Promote and monitor implementation of standards (possible scorecard to be considered)**
- **Review data collection and dissemination IOs**
- **National strategies to improve services statistics (Focus on underlying statistical infrastructure)**
- **International comparability is far from satisfactory – need more precise recommended practices**
- **VG strategy document focusing on core mandate**

# UN Statistical Commission 2005 response

- **Recognised conceptual work of VG**
- **VG continue to develop internationally comparable concepts and methods for services outputs, prices and classifications**
- **Reiterated role of VG to submit to UNSC work completed on concepts and methods**
- **OECD continue to coordinate international work on services statistics and submit annual report**
- **Recommended creation of ISWG services statistics**

# Proposed ISWG services

- **Identify Division of Labour among IOs regarding maintenance and update of recommendations, such as those arising from VG**
- **Knowledge transfer in area of services statistics**
- **Promote use of best practices**

# Creating the ISWG?

- **OECD letter in July 2005 to IOs regarding possible ISWG pros and cons and inviting participation**
- **Responses Yes: UNSD, ILO, Eurostat, CISStat, ECB\***
  - **No: UNCTAD, UNECE, WTO**
  - **No but maybe in 2/3 years IMF, WB**
  - **Need to clarify TOR to avoid duplication**
  - **Start as virtual group**
- **Most noes support concept**
- **CCSA discussion by DGs**
- **Voorburg Group consultation**
- **OECD to propose first draft TOR for ISWG**

## Other next steps

- OECD progress report to UNSC 2006
- ISWG report to UNSC?
- Voorburg Group report to UNSC
- All combined into one report
  - When by end November 2005???

# Question to Voorburg Group

- Do you agree ISWG should focus on transfer of knowledge and maintenance of standards?
- To complement work of VG
- Oversee coordination of international service statistics activities
- Identify gaps, priorities and avoid duplication
- Promote best practice
- What specific areas of work should be considered for action?
- Any other comments or suggestions on role of ISWG?