29th Voorburg Group Meeting
Dublin, Ireland

Agenda Overview

Presented by
David Friedman, Voorburg Group Chair
22 September 2014
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?