VG Bureau Update and Progress on the Strategic Plan

Jakob Kalko & Bonnie Murphy
October 3, 2019
34th Meeting of the Voorburg Group
Paris, France
Overview

① VG bureau tasks assigned in Rome
② Objectives in Strategic Plan
③ Progress on tasks in Strategic Plan
④ Next steps
⑤ VG participation
⑥ Your feedback
Update on tasks assigned at 2018 meeting

- Provide updates to the UNSD
- Update UN Web-site – no update for 2018. 2019 planned by end October. Bi-annual report of activities to be delivered by 30. November 2019
- Try new collaborative tools
- Bureau members have access to a Confluence-based WIKI space for VG thanks to the generosity of the UNECE.
- Prepare future agenda items before next meeting
- Thank you to those who responded to our request for input on the plan. We started the meeting with a good list of topics and appreciate your input throughout the week.
Update on tasks assigned at 2018 meeting

- Share practices on use of alternative data
- New CDF includes alternative data sources. Country status reports include question on alternative data sources
- Finalize new Content Development Framework (CDF) – further development
- Tip sheet for preparing industry papers has been developed and will be uploaded at our web-site
- Develop standard instructions for the various roles in VG meetings
- Instructions are developed, but not uploaded yet. Specific instructions before 2019 meeting were distributed
Objectives in Strategic Plan

Respond to changes
- Update our best practices to account for the rapidly changing economy

Guidance
- Produce guidance papers based on cross-cutting methodological issues

Exchange ideas
- Provide a forum for information exchange on best practices and emerging issues

Accessible material
- Make our documentation more accessible and up-to-date

Increase knowledge
- Enhance our understanding of concepts and requirements of national accounts
Progress on tasks in Strategic plan

1. Share practices on use of alternative data
   - Content Development Framework (CDF) includes alternative data sources. Country status reports include question on alternative data sources.

2. Finalize and implement new CDF
   - Feedback from VG 2017 was used to finalize CDF. IMF has updated this. Tip sheet for preparing industry papers will be uploaded on our website after the meeting.

3. Establish plan for keeping documentation up-to-date
   - VG participants approved criteria for revisiting an industry previously covered, at 2017 meeting in New Delhi.
Progress on tasks in Strategic plan (2 of 3)

4. Redesign website to establish VG as a premier source of information

Website was redesigned in 2017. Security update in 2018. Updating UNSD links. Further enhancements can still be made to improve the new design.

5. Establish criteria for cross-cutting issues CDF.

VG participants approved criteria for cross-cutting issues at 2017 meeting in New Delhi. No actions required from the meeting in Rome.

6. Implement mechanisms for VG collaboration methods

Webex, Skype, video- and teleconferencing are causing technical difficulties among countries. Has been used among some task forces, co-chairs and the Bureau. UNECE has set up space for us on their Wiki site.
Progress on tasks in Strategic plan (3 of 3)

7. Collaborate with other international groups

8. Provide input to changes in classification and manuals
Relevant classification problems and concepts are passed on to the Expert Group on Statistical Classifications on a regular basis.

9. SNA review of sector and industry papers
CDF reflects SNA concepts. To formalize this in instructions to session leaders and authors.

10. SNA participation at the meetings
Bureau member from SNA and SNA delegates at meetings.
Next steps

1. Future
2. Collaborative agenda
3. Website design
4. Contribute to tools
5. Connect with other groups
6. Classification and manuals
VG participation

Since 2012 – 45 countries, IMF, OECD and Eurostat have participated in the meetings.

In 2019 – 38 countries are participating from all parts of the world, except Oceania.

Compared to 2018, 7 new countries are participating in this year’s meeting.
Before you leave tonight, please take the time to complete the evaluation form.

What did you like best about the meeting?

What areas of the meeting can be improved?

What suggestions do you have for future meetings of the Group?