

**CES consultation on the draft  
Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics, Second Edition**

Deadline for comments: 3 May 2011

**Questions for your comments and feedback**

We would appreciate your comments and/or any suggested changes concerning the attached draft. Please structure your comments with consideration to the following questions.

1. Does the draft Second Edition Handbook reflect its objectives to:
  - incorporate the latest standards for micro level household income statistics;
  - update the inventory of country practices; and
  - provide additional guidance on best practices for quality assurance and dissemination of these statistics?
2. Are there any parts of the text which are considered inaccurate or inconsistent with relevant international standards for micro level household income statistics or best practice?
3. Are there any new areas of work that should be considered by the newly formed OECD Expert Group on micro statistics on household income, consumption and wealth?

Please send the reply to Carsten Hansen ([carsten.hansen@unece.org](mailto:carsten.hansen@unece.org)) with a copy to Tihomira Dimova ([tihomira.dimova@unece.org](mailto:tihomira.dimova@unece.org)) by 3 May at the latest.

Thank you in advance!

**Explanatory note**

**Task Force mandate**

The Task Force was established by the CES Bureau at its meeting on 2-3 February 2009. Its establishment was an outcome of the 2008 CES Bureau's in-depth review of statistics on income, living conditions and poverty.

The mandate for the Task Force, as outlined in the Handbook Preface, was to undertake a relatively limited update of the *2001 Canberra Group Handbook*<sup>1</sup> to:

- incorporate new developments in the area of household income measurement, including practical issues related to possible data sources and their strengths and limitations;
- expand the current guidelines set out in the Canberra Handbook to take into account these new developments;
- establish a set of quality assurance guidelines for countries to assess the quality of their income estimates.

The Task Force was also asked to refresh the information about country practices in this field of statistics. Together, these updates are intended to provide a single, consolidated and up-to-date source of information on internationally agreed standards (ILO 2004) and practical guidelines for household income data producers and users.

<sup>1</sup> The proper title is the *Final Report and Recommendations of the Expert Group on Household Income Statistics. The Canberra Group* (2001)

### **Future international developments**

Chapter 9 of the new Handbook sets out future directions for work in the field of micro level household income, consumption and wealth statistics. The proposed future directions are consistent with the CES Bureau's own 2008 in-depth review of income, living conditions and poverty, which identified the need for a wider initiative to develop an integrated framework for these statistics.

The OECD has recently established a project and Expert Group to progress the development of wealth standards and guidelines and also the development of an integrated framework for micro statistics on household income, consumption and wealth.

### **CES consultation process**

The draft manuscript has undergone several review processes within the Task Force. It has been sent to the 52 participants in the survey of country practices, and their responses to the survey have been quality assured. The comments provided by CES Bureau members in February 2011 have also been addressed in the latest draft.