

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2019/2020 Bureau
Aguascalientes (Mexico), 25-26 February 2020

Item 3 (g) of the Provisional
Agenda

REVIEW OF THE GENERIC STATISTICAL INFORMATION MODEL

Prepared by the Secretariat

This note describes the review of the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) carried out under the High-Level Group on Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) Modernisation Group on Supporting Standards. The previous version of the model was endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2017.

The Bureau reviewed the new version of GSIM (provided as document 12/Add.3) and agreed that it can be submitted to CES for endorsement.

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) describes and defines a set of concepts and information used in a statistical production process. By standardising information that flows within the production process, GSIM can facilitate reusing and sharing of methods, tools and processes within and between statistical organisations.
2. The model was first developed in 2012 and subsequently revised several times to reflect user experiences and changing business environment. The previous review was carried out in 2013. The model was endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2017 along with three other models developed under the High-Level Group on Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS): the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO), and the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA).
3. In April 2017, the HLG-MOS Modernisation Group on Supporting Standards (henceforth the Supporting Standards Group) decided to initiate the next review of GSIM. A task team was established for this purpose, consisting of the following members: Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Italy, Mexico, Sweden, United States of America, the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Supporting Standard Group oversaw the work of the task team to ensure the review was conducted in alignment with other HLG-MOS models (GSBPM, GAMSO and CSPA).
4. The new version of GSIM (version 1.2) was released on the UNECE Statistics Wiki in April 2019.
5. Section II of this document outlines main changes made in the new version of the model and the rationale behind them. Section III gives a brief overview of the review process.

II. MAIN CHANGES

6. GSIM consists of about 130 information objects (pieces of information needed for statistical production process such as “*Variable*”, “*Statistical Classification*”, “*Process Input*”). Each object has a definition, explanatory text and a list of attributes (additional information that specifies how the object is used such as “*Valid From*”, “*Version*”). The relationships among these objects reflect how statistical organisations use information in the production process (e.g. “*Statistical Need*” initiates “*Business Case*”, “*Provision Agreement*” governs the use of “*Exchange Channel*”). The changes to the model concern information objects, relationships among them, definitions, explanatory texts and attributes of the objects as explained below:

- 20 information objects were added and 5 information objects were removed to reflect the change in how statistical organisations work and to make it easier to use the model.
- Attributes of information objects that could be derived from relationships with other information objects were removed, reducing unnecessary duplication and making the attributes more consistent across information objects.
- Value types of attributes were harmonised into 7 types (e.g. “Date”, “String”).
- Relationships among information objects were updated and descriptions in definitions and explanatory texts were cross-checked to make them consistent in terms of wording and vocabulary.

III. REVIEW PROCESS

7. The GSIM review involved two rounds of consultations: in 2017 and 2018.

8. In the first round of consultations, users of GSIM 1.1 were asked to provide input for the review. The feedback was received by email and through a public UNECE Statistics Wiki forum. A total of 97 issues were raised, ranging from specific wording changes to proposals to add more information objects. They were all documented in the public [wiki pages](#). The GSIM review task team analysed the feedback and made changes to the model accordingly.

9. In the second round of consultation, the changes made to the model were shared with 49 national statistical offices and 4 international organizations for further comments. A total of 31 issues were collected from 13 national statistics offices. The task team finalized the new version of the model based on the feedback received in this round.

10. Changes agreed by the review task team after two rounds of consultation were implemented in two electronic formats: an on-line [GSIM Clickable](#) and as an Enterprise Architect file, and subsequently released on the UNECE Statistics Wiki in April 2019.

11. The following table summarizes the main steps taken during the GSIM review process.

Apr 2017	The task team was established under the Supporting Standard Group.
Jul 2017	The first round of consultations – a request for user comments on GSIM (version 1.1) was sent out by the Secretariat.
Sep 2017 – Jun 2018	The task team reviewed the user feedback and made changes to the model.
July 2018	The second round of consultations – a request for comments on the changes in the model was sent out by the Secretariat.
Oct 2018 – Jan 2019	The task team reviewed the feedback and finalized the new version of GSIM (version 1.2).
Feb – Mar 2019	Changes agreed by the task team were implemented in the online GSIM Clickable and in the Enterprise Architect file.
April 2019	GSIM (version 1.2) was released.

IV. PROPOSAL TO THE BUREAU

12. The Bureau is invited to:

- a) Comment on the new version of GSIM (document ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/12/Add.3);**
- b) Decide whether the new version model can be submitted to CES for endorsement.**

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