CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2014/2015 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-18 February 2015

Item 3 (d) of the Provisional
Agenda

PROCEDURE FOR UPDATING THE CLASSIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES (DISA CLASSIFICATION)

Note prepared by the Secretariat

I.   BACKGROUND

1.   The classification of international statistical activities was established in 2005 to be used as the basis for providing information in the Database of International Statistical Activities[1] (DISA). Therefore, it is often referred to as 'DISA classification'. **The CES Bureau is the owner of the classification and responsible for its maintenance and authorising its revisions as necessary**.

2.   There was a minor update to the classification in 2009: one statistical area was added and the name of one area was changed[2].

3.   The current classification is provided in Annex. Statistical activities in the classification are divided into five domains: (1) demographic and social statistics; (2) economic statistics; (3) environment and multi-domain statistics; (4) methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis; and (5) strategic and managerial issues of official statistics. These are further refined and categorised in 56 statistical areas.

4.   The classification is increasingly used as a reference at global level, for example:

   (a)   in the **SDMX** content oriented guidelines;
   (b)   by **Paris21** for coordinating the capacity building activities;
   (c)   in the **Global Inventory of Statistical Standards**, maintained by UNSD;
   (d)   by **FAO** in developing their quality framework;
   (e)   by several countries, e.g. **Canada** (for a centralised metadata repository) and **New Zealand** (for organising statistical data and metadata).

5.   The Bureau discussed the DISA database and classification at its October 2014 meeting and noted that: "The classification of statistical activities needs to be updated to include new, emerging areas of international statistical work, such as climate change related statistics, composite indicators, geo-spatial data, etc. The name of the classification should also be considered."

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[1] DISA is a compendium of information on the statistical activities undertaken by more than 30 international organizations in the UNECE region. The UNECE secretariat compiles the database annually. The 2014 issue is available at: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/disa2014
[2] The following changes were introduced in 2009: the statistical area 2.9 'Science and technology' was renamed 'Science, technology and innovation', and a new statistical area 3.3.7 'Entrepreneurship' was added.

6.   **The Bureau decided to launch the update of the DISA classification and asked the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the updating procedure for the February 2015 meeting of the Bureau.**

7.   It was noted that as the classification is widely used, any changes in the classification have to be consulted with the main stakeholders and users of the classification to take into account their needs. All users should be informed about the new version after the classification will be updated.

II.   NAME OF THE CLASSIFICATION

8.   The classification has been called DISA classification according to the name of the database for which it was originally created. As the classification has been increasingly used for other purposes, there is no reason to link the name directly to the database.

9.   Furthermore, although originally the classification was used for classifying international statistical activities, it applies as well to statistical activities undertaken at national level. This is evidenced by the use of the classification by several countries.

10.   In view of the broad use of the classification and its ownership by the CES Bureau, it is proposed to call it **CES Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA)**.

III.   PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURE FOR UPDATING THE CLASSIFICATION

11.   As the classification is used by different organizations and countries, its revision must be carefully considered. It may have implications for structuring statistical programmes or websites, or for databases and software where the classification has been incorporated. Therefore, it is proposed that the update of the classification be **based on the following principles**:

    (a)   Consulting the main users of the classification in the updating process;
    (b)   Introducing a particular change in the classification only if there is a strong need and widespread agreement;
    (c)   Keeping the structure of the classification stable; the revision should concern mainly adding new statistical areas, refining existing statistical areas, or adding more level of detail, if necessary.

12.   It is proposed that the **practical work on the updating would be undertaken by a small group (3-4 persons) coordinated by the Secretariat**. The group should include representatives of the main users of the classification: such as SDMX, Paris21 and a country (e.g., Canada).

13.   The following general work plan and timetable for the update are proposed:

	Task	Time
1.	A small Task Team (TT) to work on the revision will be set up	End February - beginning of March 2015
2.	The TT will compile a list of possible changes in the classification	March-April 2015

3.	The proposal by the TT will be consulted with stakeholders (organizations and countries using the classification)	May-June 2015
4.	The TT will compile a draft revision	By beginning of September 2015
5.	Consultation of the draft revision with stakeholders and the Bureau	September-October 2015
6.	Updating the revision based on feedback from the consultation	October-November 2015
7.	Presenting the revised version of the classification to CES Bureau for approval	December-January (to be approved in February 2016)
8.	Informing the main users, CES, etc. about the revised classification; promoting the classification among potential users (organizations and countries)	March 2016 onwards

III.   DECISION BY THE BUREAU

14.   **The Bureau agreed with the proposed process of updating the DISA classification.**

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ANNEX

**CLASSIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
(REV. 1 - October 2009)**

Domain 1: Demographic and social statistics

1.1 Population and migration
1.2 Labour
1.3 Education
1.4 Health
1.5 Income and consumption
1.6 Social protection
1.7 Human settlements and housing
1.8 Justice and crime
1.9 Culture
1.10 Political and other community activities
1.11 Time use

Domain 2: Economic statistics

2.1 Macroeconomic statistics
2.2 Economic accounts
2.3 Business statistics
2.4 Sectoral statistics
2.4.1   Agriculture, forestry, fisheries
2.4.2   Energy
2.4.3   Mining, manufacturing, construction
2.4.4   Transport
2.4.5   Tourism
2.4.6   Banking, insurance, financial statistics
2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics
2.6 International trade and balance of payments
2.7 Prices
2.8 Labour cost
2.9 Science, technology and innovation

Domain 3: Environment and multi-domain statistics

3.1 Environment
3.2 Regional and small area statistics
3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators
3.3.1   Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues
3.3.2   Gender and special population groups
3.3.3 Information society
3.3.4   Globalisation
3.3.5   Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals
3.3.6   Sustainable development
3.3.7   Entrepreneurship
3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia

Domain 4: Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis

4.1   Metadata
4.2   Classifications
4.3   Data sources
4.3.1   Population and housing censuses; registers of population, dwellings and
             buildings
4.3.2   Business and agricultural censuses and registers
4.3.3   Household surveys
4.3.4   Business and agricultural surveys
4.3.5   Other administrative sources
4.4   Data editing and data linkage
4.5   Dissemination, data warehousing
4.6   Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection
4.7   Data analysis

Domain 5: Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics

5.1   Institutional frameworks and principles; role and organization of official statistics
5.2   Statistical programmes; coordination within statistical systems
5.3   Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and
       offices
5.4   Management and development of human resources
5.5   Management and development of technological resources (including standards for
       electronic data exchange and data sharing)
5.6   Coordination of international statistical work
5.7   Technical cooperation and capacity building