

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2017/2018 Bureau
Yerevan (Armenia), 10-11 October 2017

Item III (d) of the Provisional
Agenda

WORK PLAN OF THE TASK FORCE ON WASTE STATISTICS

Prepared by the Task Force

*This document presents the work plan of the Task Force on Waste Statistics, established by the CES Bureau in February 2017. **The Bureau reviewed and approved the work plan.***

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) established the Task Force on Waste Statistics in February 2017. The main objective of the Task Force is to draft a conceptual framework on waste statistics which will help to harmonise international waste statistics and to provide better information needed for managing and measuring of important waste-related policy frameworks. The Bureau asked the Task Force to prepare a work plan for the October 2017 meeting of the Bureau.

2. This work plan structures the work of the Task Force on Waste Statistics in achieving its objectives as described in the Terms of Reference. The work plan also helps to monitor the progress of work. It defines working phases, milestones and deliverables. The work is planned to finish with the approval of the Conceptual Framework on Waste Statistics by the CES in June 2019.

3. The work plan will be reviewed regularly and revised (in agreement with the members of the Task Force) if necessary.

II. OBJECTIVES ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

4. The objective of the Task Force is to develop a conceptual framework on waste statistics and draft a glossary of the most important terms and definitions in waste statistics. The framework should:

- (a) be consistent with the relevant existing statistical and policy frameworks;
- (b) build upon existing concepts used internationally and take into account national frameworks on waste and waste statistics;
- (c) define the scope of waste statistics, covering also illegal and informal waste management; support a coherent integration of emerging issues and other waste streams or waste characteristics in future;
- (d) define waste, the related concepts, a general sequence of waste flows and the related key statistics.

5. The Task Force will also identify areas of waste statistics where further conceptual and methodological work could be undertaken to support the implementation of the framework. This may include activities such as harmonization and improvement of existing waste classifications, development of methodologies to fill important information gaps (e.g. informal or illegal waste collection and trade, food waste etc.), drafting of implementation guidelines, etc.

III. WORKING PHASES

6. The project is defined in three phases: the start up phase (phase 1 – already implemented), working phase (phase 2), and the writing phase (phase 3). The whole project is summarized in the Annex.

A. Phase 1: Start-up phase (March – May 2017)

7. The start-up phase set the foundation for the governance and scope of the Task Force by:

- (a) Clarifying project roles;
- (b) Drafting and agreeing on the work plan;
- (c) Setting up a collaborative working platform (wiki);
- (d) Setting up a project library on the wiki with most relevant project documents;
- (e) Drafting the main structure of the final document;
- (f) Assigning Task Force members to individual work packages and chapters of the final document, defining scope of the work package, defining work package leaders, and contributors.
- (g) In principle each work package should lead to a chapter in the final report;
- (h) Inviting additional institutions and experts to participate in the work of the Task Force, if needed.

Project roles

8. The following project roles have been assigned:

- Chair of the Task Force: Kees Baldé (Statistics Netherlands)
- Secretary of the Task Force: Michael Nagy (UNECE Statistical Division)
- Editor: Mirza Agic (Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina)

9. Additional roles that could be helpful:

- Advisory board: Experts/users of waste statistics who are not directly involved in the work of the Task Force, and can give substantive guidance and advice. Members of the advisory board could e.g. be experts from the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

10. Currently the Task Force does not have a Vice-Chair. Formally, the Task Force reports to the CES Bureau. The Secretariat and the Chair will provide annual short progress reports to the CES Bureau.

Deliverables and milestones

11. Deliverables:

- (a) The work plan with clearly identified roles and working phases.
- (b) An initial structure of the final document. Chapters/sections of the document clustered into work packages by mid May 2017
- (c) Members of the Task Force assigned to individual work packages, leaders for work packages that start in May have been identified by end of April 2017.
- (d) Leaders for work packages that start later to be identified by end of September 2017

12. Milestone: Conference call of the Task Force to agree on the final version of the work plan: end of May 2017

B. Phase 2: Implementing work packages (May 2017 – August 2018)

13. Work packages (WP) will be implemented during that time. The leaders for work packages will stay in regular contact with the Chair and the Secretary (e.g. monthly phone calls). If necessary, drafts will be shared among all Task Force members for internal consultation.

14. The work packages will be aligned with chapters and sections of the final report. Some work packages probably can be developed in parallel, whereas others have to be in a consecutive order.

15. The following work packages were identified by the task force in its call on 19 April 2017:

WP1: Assessing the fitness for purpose of current waste statistics

This work package identifies the main waste-related policies (global, regional, national), their legal frameworks and related information needs. It also identifies information needs for emerging issues, such as circular economy, e-waste, food waste, scrap materials, end of life vehicles (ELV), etc.

It contributes to the report chapter(s) which identify what is missing in waste statistics, where are the major conceptual problems etc. The results will later be integrated into the conceptual work. This work package can build upon the CES Bureau paper “Problems with waste statistics and a proposal for action” (ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/7).

Expected results:

- Mapping the policy needs for waste statistics and the currently available statistics

Proposed timing: 1 May – 31 July 2017

WP leader: Kees Baldé (Statistics Netherlands) and Michael Nagy (UNECE)

WP team members: Eurostat (Karin Blumenthal), OECD (Sarah Sentier, Myriam Linster), UNEP-SBC (Melissa Lim, Carla Valle)

WP2: Defining scope of waste statistics:

This work package can be carried out in parallel to WP1. This work package should set out the big picture / general scope of the waste statistics. It identifies important system boundaries (waste / product / resource) and proposes definitions for statistical purposes, which take into consideration related international conventions and other important frameworks.

Expected results:

- Clear definition of the term “waste” (for statistical purposes), including an explanation of its relation to other important terms.
- Definition of the scope of waste statistics: What should be included, what should not be included, what are the overlaps with other statistical domains

Starting points for this work could be a consideration of all material flows in the economy. The work should also take into consideration the distinction of waste residuals and waste products according to SEEA.

Proposed timing: 1 May – 30 September 2017

WP leader: Statistics Canada (John Marshall)

WP team members: UNEP-SBC (Melissa Lim, Carla Valle), Eurostat (Karin Blumenthal), OECD (Sarah Sentier, Myriam Linster)

WP3: Drafting a generic waste flow scheme

Taking into consideration the results of WP1 and WP2 a generic waste flow scheme should be drafted. The goal is to show the entire “value-chain” of waste as a graphical presentation which forms the basis of the conceptual understanding.

The scheme should combine the following aspects:

- Generation of waste
- Import and export of waste
- Management of waste
- Informal waste streams
- Illegal waste streams
- System boundaries (waste as a product, waste as a (future) resource)
- Circular economy
- Etc.

Several flow schemes already exist internationally and nationally. Together with figure 2 of the CES Bureau paper “Problems with waste statistics and a proposal for action” they could serve as a starting point for that work.

Expected results:

- A graphical presentation (or presentations) of a generic waste flow scheme for statistical purposes.
- Clear definitions for the different steps in the value chain should be drafted, e.g. “waste management”, “generation of waste”, “import of waste”, “informal waste management” etc.

Proposed timing: 1 June – 31 December 2017

WP leader: INEGI Mexico (Francisco Jimenez)

WP team members: Statistics Canada (John Marshall), National Statistical Service of Republic of Armenia (Naira Mandalyan), Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mirza Agic), Central Bureau of Statistics Israel, Eurostat (Karin Blumenthal), OECD (Sarah Sentier, Myriam Linster)

WP4: Review of key terminology and classifications used in waste-related policies and waste statistics

This WP will take stock of existing terms and classifications, and discuss related problems. It will propose solutions where possible.

Results of WP1 – WP3 are to be taken into consideration.

Starting point for this work are most recent reference documents of international organisations, including legal documents, methodological documents, guidance documents etc. The terminology and classifications used in international indicator frameworks and policy frameworks (including SDGs) will also be reviewed.

Another starting point is chapter V of the Task Force’s background document “Problems with waste statistics and a proposal for action” which discusses overlapping concepts.

Expected results:

- An review of currently used terminology and identification of related problems, e.g. terms used as synonyms or similar terms with different definitions
- A review of currently used classifications to describe different concepts of wastes (e.g. sources of wastes, types of waste (based on composition), management of waste, other characteristics of waste (e.g. hazardousness, economic value, distinction of residuals and products, etc.).
- A proposal for terms and definitions of key terminology (e.g. “waste”, “municipal waste”, “re-use”, “recycling”, etc.), taking into consideration the results of WP 1 and WP2.
- A proposal for classifications to describe the different concepts of wastes, taking into consideration the results of WP1 and WP2.
- A list of open issues that need to be clarified at a later stage

Proposed timing: 1 October 2017 – 31 March 2018. The review of currently used terminology and classifications can be carried out in the period October – December 2017, and the proposal for terms, definitions and classifications should be developed after the scope of waste statistics (WP2) has been clarified.

WP leader: UNSD (Reena Shah)

WP team members: UNEP-SBC (Melissa Lim, Carla Valle), INEGI Mexico (Francisco Jimenez), Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mirza Agic), Eurostat (Karin Blumenthal), OECD (Sarah Sentier, Myriam Linster), UN-Habitat (Nao Takeuchi, Joel Jere)

WP 5: Development of the framework on waste statistics

This is the key work package, as it defines the framework on waste statistics by integrating the results of WP1 – WP4.

Expected results:

- A description of the waste statistics framework in form of graphs and text. The framework will clearly define and describe:
 - The scope of waste statistics
 - System boundaries
 - Waste flows
- Linking of different concepts (such as sources of wastes, composition of wastes, etc.) will be described in detail.
- A set of complementary key terms and classifications (as far as possible) will be recommended for the different parts of the framework.

Proposed timing: (after completion of WP1 – WP3) 1 March – 30 June 2018

WP leader: not yet identified

WP team members: to be identified

WP6: Identification of follow-up work

This WP identifies concrete follow-up activities focused on specific areas of waste statistics to support the implementation of the framework.

Expected result:

- A list of activities for future work, including a proposal when and by whom (e.g. by a new Task Force or a specific international organisation) they should be carried out.

Proposed timing: (*after WP1-4 are completed*) 1 July – 31 August 2018

WP leader: not yet identified

WP team members: to be identified

Deliverables and milestones

16. Deliverable: Draft chapters

17. Meeting schedule: Phone conferences of the Task Force every 4-6 weeks, in those phone conferences, the Work Package leaders report about progress of work, other Task Force members provide comments and guidance.

18. Meetings or communication of the work packages, should be organised by the respective work package leaders with the work package members.

C. Phase 3: From draft to final report (August 2018 – December 2018)

19. Phase 3 includes combining work results into one single document, as well as internal and external reviews. An indicative timetable could be the following:

- August 2018: Align + collate all draft chapters into the first draft
- Send for internal review + comments (September 2018)
- Send for (small, friendly) external review (October 2018)
- November 2018: Broader consultation round and incorporation of comments
- Completion of report in December 2018

20. The report will be presented to the CES Bureau in February 2019 for approval for e-consultation. If the e-consultation is positive, the report will be presented to the CES Plenary in June 2019.

Deliverables and milestones

21. Deliverable: Final report “Conceptual Framework on Waste Statistics” for approval by CES Bureau.

IV. PROGRESS REPORTING AND THE ROLE OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

22. It is suggested to prepare a progress report for the February 2018 meeting of the CES Bureau. The advisory board could review the draft report before presented to the CES Bureau, and provide guidance on further working steps. The feedback of the advisory board would also be presented to the CES Bureau.

23. The progress report will be drafted by the Secretary and the Chair of the Task Force.

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