

Institutional arrangements and methodological issues in the compilation of BOP and NA

– Results of the survey

UNECE Statistical Division

Workshop on the implementation 2008 SNA: Consistency between national accounts and balance of payments statistics

3-5 October 2017, Minsk, Crowne Plaza Minsk Hotel



Questionnaire

STATISTICS

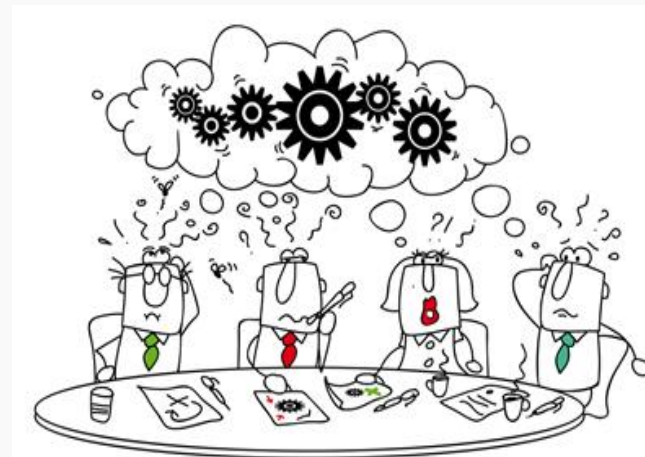
- I. Institutional arrangements**
 - II. Data collection and production**
 - III. Evaluation and plans for improvement**
 - IV. Specific issues**
- 18 countries (20 replies)**

I. Institutional arrangements

STATISTICS



- **Responsible compilers**
 - **National Accounts: NSOs** (1 country ROW by CB)
 - **Balance of payments: CB** (1 country Ministry of Economy)
 - **Financial accounts: Split between NSO or CB**
 - Produced and published in 5 countries (2 NSOs, 3 CB)
 - Experimental or partial in 7 countries
 - Not produced in 6 countries
- **Subject to the Statistical Law**
 - **NSO in all countries** (produce and disseminate)
 - **CB in most countries**
 - Not included in 2 countries
 - Not clear in 4 (only as data provider)

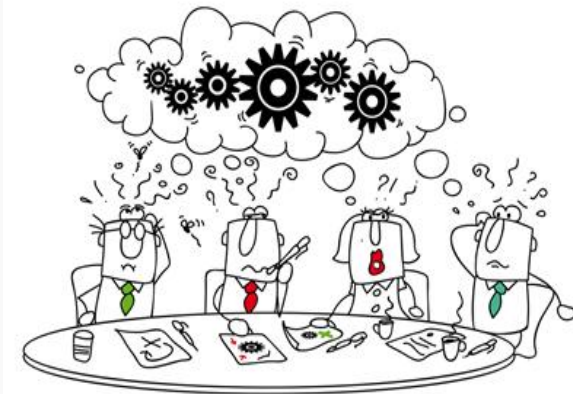


I. Institutional arrangements



- **Cooperation mechanisms**

- **Agreements (MoU) between NSO and CB in all countries**
 - In 4 countries included in statistical work program
 - Often agreements involve also MoF or other institutions (Customs, Ministry of Economy, etc.)
 - In 2 countries specifically focused on the 2008 SNA implementation, in others broader for compilation of macroeconomic statistics
 - Mostly for data exchange (rarely to improve quality or implement classifications, methods)
- **Working groups in half of the countries**
 - Dealing more with methodology
 - Discussing major revisions, consistency



II. Data collection and production

STATISTICS



- **Data sources to compile BoP and ROW**
 - **BOP (Customs, CB, NSO, ITRS, MoF, etc.)**
 - Current account: customs data (often first processed by NSO); bank reports to CB; CB & NSO surveys on services trade; ITRS; enterprise surveys; administrative and other data from public authorities, trade in energy from respective agencies, FDI survey
 - Capital account: ITRS; household surveys; MoF; estimations based on customs data
 - Financial account: data reported from banks and other financial institutions to CB; data for insurance companies from supervising agencies; FDI survey; MoF; monetary statistics
 - Data are used both for direct calculations, as well as for cross-checks
 - $ROW \leftarrow BOP + \text{adjustments}$



II. Data collection and production

STATISTICS



- **Coordination of production. Consistency.**

BoP - ROW (ROW is not compiled in 2 countries; Sector accounts are often compiled only annually)

- **BOP data is the source for ROW**

- CB typically responsible for data collection
- Feedback from the adjustments made by NSO is needed
- Broad coordination – information only on main revisions, ad-hoc comparisons (Kyrgyzstan, Moldova...)

- **Some countries have more coordinated production**

- Regular consistency checks, WG, removing differences, etc

Financial – non-financial accounts (Work in progress in many countries)

- **Regular checks and synchronization (Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, ...)**



II. Data collection and production

STATISTICS



- **Components contributing most to inconsistencies**
 - No analysis of the discrepancies in about half of the countries
 - Lack of feedback of NSO adjustments
 - Most often to inconsistencies contribute:
 - Estimates for non-observed economy (e.g. household sector, illegal trade, narcotics)
 - Remittances/Primary income (households)/Other current transfers
 - FISIM
 - Other items mentioned by individual countries
 - CIF/FOB adjustments
 - Classification/coverage of certain transactions or institutional sectors



II. Data collection and production

STATISTICS



- **Revision and publication calendars separately for BoP and NA exist in most countries.**
- **Regular national accounts revisions follow and incorporate BoP revisions. Back link is rare**
- **In some countries BoP switched to BPM6 before 2008 SNA was introduced (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, ...)**
- **Synchronisation of revision policies and calendars**
 - Synchronized revision policies in 6 countries
 - Coordination of annual releases and when major revisions occur in another 7 countries
 - Revision policies are less coordinated in others
- **Publication calendars –no common releases, BoP usually published first**



III. Evaluation of the current situation and future plans

STATISTICS



- **Strengths**

- **Cooperation between NSO and CB**
 - Coordinated data collection and data sharing
 - Better use of resources and expertise
- **Different data sources allow cross-checking data**
- **Good cooperation with relevant international organisations**



- **Areas for further development**

- **Further strengthening cooperation, feedback, improving consistency**
- **Common IT tools, automated data processing**
- **Full implementation of SNA/BPM, sector accounts, coverage**
- **Obstacles to data sharing, confidentiality**
- **Improving specific areas: Goods for processing, merchanting, FISIM, CIF/FOB adjustment, cash transfers, etc.**

IV. Specific issues

STATISTICS



- **Coverage of the institutional sectors**
 - **Consistent coverage of institutional sectors in all but 2 countries**
 - Under-coverage linked mainly to some household transactions
 - BoP can not always provide the necessary sector breakdown
 - **Classification of institutional sectors (in some countries still under development) in 8 countries**
 - Working groups including CB, MoF and NSO exist in some countries



IV. Specific issues

STATISTICS



- **Unit for large multinational companies**
 - No specialized LCU in any country
 - MNEs part of the regular collection and processing of enterprises data
 - MNEs do not have a big impact on the economy
 - FATS surveys conducted in some countries



IV. Specific issues

STATISTICS



- **Specific BoP/ROW items – coordination of methods**
 - Good coordination of estimation methods and adjustments for most BOP-ROW items in 3 countries
 - In most countries partial coordination: most often mentioned CIF/FOB, compensation of employees/remittances, travel services
 - In many countries CB are in charge for estimating the respective items, NSOs are using as data source
 - In some countries BoP switched to BPM6 earlier -> no coordination
 - FISIM, goods for processing, merchanting and remittances were indicated challenging areas by several countries



IV. Specific issues

STATISTICS



• Trade asymmetry reconciliation exercises

- Carried out in about half of the countries, predominantly by the CB
 - CEFTA reconciliation of trade in services, FDI and FATS: Albania, Moldova, Montenegro (planned), Serbia (planned)
 - Bilateral comparisons of foreign trade in goods and services in EAEU: Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
 - Bilateral reconciliation of BoP positions: Belarus-Russian Federation, Belarus-Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan-Russian Federation
 - Periodical or ad-hoc mirror comparisons with selected partner countries



IV. Specific issues

STATISTICS



- **Topics to be discussed in the workshop**
 - Consistency between NA and BOP (coordination of the work, data collection and data sharing, impact of 2008 SNA/BPM6)
 - Compilation of financial accounts, consistency with non-financial
 - Goods for processing, merchanting
 - Globalization
 - Remittances
 - FISIM
 - Other items: CIF/FOB, extended SUT, tourism services, reinvested earnings, SPEs, capital transfers, NOE, etc.



Thank you!

UNECE Statistical Division

3 October 2017, Minsk

