Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICPs)

Workshop at the joint UNECE/ ILO meeting of consumer prices experts, Geneva, 10 May 2010

Aim

The aim of the workshop is to give an overview of the EU’s system of HICPs for consumer price experts in National Statistical Institutes within and beyond the EU - who may be undertaking similar harmonisation initiatives or interested in building proxy-HICPs. The background to the development of the HICPs will be outlined, and the main technical requirements for compiling HICPs will be explained.

Draft Programme

1. Background to the development of HICPs

   The user need
   The process of harmonisation
   HICPs constructed from national CPIs
   Discussion, negotiation, agreement and legislation

2. The role of Eurostat and the role of the National Statistical Institutes

   Statistical production
   Dissemination – flash and full dataset
   Development of harmonised standards
   Monitoring compliance
   Financial support within the EU

3. The HICP methodology

   Laspeyres-type
   Weights
   Sampling and quality adjustment
4. Recent HICP developments and unfinished business

Seasonal items
Weights
Owner-occupied housing
Quality adjustment and sampling
Multi-purpose consumer price statistics

5. Viewpoints from an EU National Statistical Institute, a user and Eurostat

How an EU NSI produces its HICP
Advantages and disadvantages of the HICP approach
Advantages and disadvantages of producing a HICP
Costs and benefits

6. Calculating a proxy-HICP from a CPI

The main elements

Suggested discussion points

Participants are welcome to comment or ask questions on any of the points described above.

Participants may wish to discuss their experiences of other harmonisation processes, or of calculating proxy-HICPs, and to express views on the main harmonisation challenges they face.