Overview of the Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010

Fourteenth meeting - Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account
Madrid, Spain, 14 – 15 January 2014

United Nations Statistics Division
Karoly Kovacs, Chief, Statistics of International Trade in Services Section

Outline

• Importance of MSITS 2010
• Structure of MSITS 2010
• The Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010 (CG MSITS 2010)
  o Origins and aim
  o Structure, main content
  o Drafting process
  o Most recent meeting of the UN Expert Group
  o Timeline
Changes elaborated in the new version of MSITS

An important feature of *MSITS 2010* is the new chapter 5 which describes in details of the modalities through which services may be supplied, of which the GATS identifies four:

- cross-border;
- consumption abroad;
- commercial presence and
- presence of natural persons.

Distinctions among these modes are based on whether the service supplier and the consumer are present in the same country or in different countries when the transaction is effected.

Structure of MSITS 2010

- Summary
- Chapter I - General introduction and foundations of the Manual
- Chapter II - Conceptual framework for the development of statistics on international trade in services
- Chapter III - Services transactions between residents and non-residents
- Chapter IV - Foreign affiliates statistics and the international supply of services
- Chapter V - Trade in services statistics by mode of supply
The UN Statistical Commission endorsed the implementation programme for the adopted MSITS 2010 particularly for drafting a Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010. The TFSITS supported the establishment of a UN Expert Group, aiming to help UNSD to carry out the project.

The main aim of the CG MSITS 2010 is to provide practical advice, good country examples and pitfalls (to be avoided) in the implementation of MSITS 2010 to produce high quality official statistics on international trade in services.

It should be useful for both developed and developing countries and should reflect practices for all regions of the world.

The Guide aims to complement the BPM6 compilation guidance on balance of payments statistics, focusing on the compilation of data by EBOPS 2010 categories, by trading partner and by mode of supply.

The Guide places particular emphasis on the compilation of trade in services data by partner country. While many countries have provided, or are working towards providing this level of detail, most countries currently do not comply with this important recommendation of the MSITS 2010.
Main Aim of the Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010

The Guide includes more detailed compilation guidelines for FATS as far as it relates to the international supply of services and provides guidance on how to compile statistics on the modes of supply on the basis of the new Chapter 5 of MSITS 2010.

The Guide also recognizes the importance of data quality, metadata and the use of IT tools in the production process of SITS and contains guidance and advice relevant to those areas of statistical work.

Structure of the CG MSITS 2010

• The organization of the Guide largely follows the logic of the standard statistical process.

• The structure of the CG-MSITS was decided to consist of 4 parts which breaks further into 21 chapters:
  - Part I. General Framework
  - Part II. Data Collection
  - Part III. Data Compilation
  - Part IV. Cross cutting issues

• It was decided that the Compilers Guide would take full account of the draft versions of the Compilation Guides for Balance of Payments 6th Edition (BPM6) and the International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics (IRTS 2008).
Part I of the Guide provides an overview of general frameworks which underpin the SITS production:
- conceptual frameworks (chapter 1),
- legal frameworks (chapter 2),
- institutional arrangements (chapter 3).

Part II focuses on data collection:
- Overview of data sources within the modes of supply framework (chapter 4),
- Registers and survey frames (chapter 5),
- Enterprise and establishment surveys (chapter 6),
- Surveys of persons and households (chapter 7),
- International transaction reporting system (chapter 8),
- Administrative records (chapter 9),
- Other data sources (chapter 10),
- Comparing data sources (chapter 11).
The part II is discussing the use of ITRS and other data sources to be used to produce more details on service categories and trading partners. The business register / creation and maintenance is discussed.

Other data sources

- Customs records for use in freight and insurance services
- Immigration information and entry/departure records
- Payment cards data
- Mobile phone records
- Big data
Part III elaborates various issues of data compilation.

- Introduction and overview of data compilation within the modes of supply framework (chapter 12)
- Integration of data from different sources (chapter 13)
- Resident/non-resident trade in services statistics (chapter 14)
- Compilation of FATS and the international supply of services (chapter 15)
- Compilation of other indicators for modes of supply (chapter 16)
- Estimation and modelling of missing data, forecasting or back-casting (chapter 17)
Part IV covers several key cross-cutting topics and provides guidance on
- Metadata (chapter 18)
- Data quality management and data reporting (chapter 19)
- Data and metadata dissemination (chapter 20)
- Use of information and communication technology (chapter 21).

The chapter on Metadata describes the concept and structure of SITS metadata as well as good metadata compilation practices. It underscores that metadata are relevant for the correct understanding of the content, coverage and limitations of the data, and should guide users on their correct interpretation.

*The way forward: metadata warehousing* - the dissemination of data and metadata becomes integrated with the collection and processing components of the statistical production process.
The chapter on quality management provides an overview of basic concepts and definitions used in quality management, is focused on quality assurance frameworks, quality measurement and reporting and country practices in reconciliation studies, cross-country comparability and bilateral data exchanges. It includes the Template for a Generic National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF).

**Time frame for completion of CG MSITS 2010**

1. The drafting of the CG is being done by an editor
2. The Task Force on Trade Statistics will review the draft at its meeting in October 2013
3. Members of the virtual meeting will be asked to final review the text (including the issues the editor is drafting and the Task Force will provide)
4. Summarize the comments made by the virtual meeting; elaborate changes in the text based on the summary as well as the Task Force comments – available, ongoing
5. The full draft version is to be provided to the SC in 2014.