

PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS AND
NATIONAL ACCOUNTS IN THE ARAB REGION

Economic And Social Commission For Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

الاسواق
ESCWA

Wafa Aboul Hosn
Economic Statistics Section

Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on
Economic Statistics (TAGES) in the Arab region

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Progress achieved and the highlights in the priority areas

I. National Strategy for the development of Statistics (NSDS) and Strategy for Economic Statistics and National Accounts

II. Progress and challenges in the implementation of the 2008 SNA

Supply and Use Tables and 2008 SNA; Informal Sector; Financial Corporation and Islamic Finance in national Accounts; Estimation of Household Expenditures and Capital Formation; Price Statistics Regional Programmes; Short Term Economic Statistics; Satellite Accounts; Economic Classifications, Trade and Industry Statistics

III. Infrastructures and Operations

Statistical Business Registers, Classifications; Economic and Business Surveys; Business Accounting

IV. Core Set of Economic Indicators for Arab Countries Links to SDGs

V. Agenda 2030 and SDGs

VI. Dissemination

VII. Areas in priorities and not tackled in 2017-2018

VIII. New Areas proposed: Transport statistics and Digital Economy (Annex 1, 2)

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I. National Strategy for the development of Statistics (NSDS) Strategy for Economic Statistics and National Accounts

2 of the 22 Arab countries have an active NSDS.

ESCWA supports some countries

- The department of Statistics (DOS) in Jordan prepared detailed sectoral strategies.
- CAPMAS of Egypt prepared a draft new NSDS with detailed sectoral statistics assessment but the strategy has not been officially adopted by the government.
- Libya prepared a draft strategy taking into consideration that the country in conflict situation with the assistance of UNFPA and Paris 21. The emphasis was put on Population and Housing Census and social and demographic statistics. The National Accounts mandate being in the Ministry of Planning outside the statistical office

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II. Progress and challenges in the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts Supply and Use Tables

ESCWA focus on supply and use tables (SUTs) as a key component of the SNA, and a framework that provides methods for calculating GDP and that serves as an effective tool for ascertaining its consistency.

- Twinning among Member States
- [Regional Workshop on National Accounts and the development of Economic Statistics Infrastructure within SDGs Framework 15-18 May 2017. Amman](#)
- Regional seminar 28-29 August 2018 in Beirut
- Training on Supply and Use for countries in crisis
 - Iraq (14-17 August 2017),
 - Yemen (20-26 October 2017)
 - Libya (18-21 December 2017).
 - Syria (12-15 August 2018)

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Financial Corporation, Islamic Finance in national Accounts

- ESCWA Statistics Division and the UNSD methodological work on issues on the implementation of the 2008 SNA.
- Recommendations for Islamic Finance were raised during several meetings in the Arab region.
- [“Islamic Banking in SNA2008 “Proposals by various experts”](#) presented at the 10th meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts from 13 to 15 April 2016 in Paris
- ESCWA and UNSD established a task force on Islamic Finance
- [Workshop on Islamic Finance in the National Accounts 24 to 26 October 2017 in Beirut, Lebanon. “Islamic finance in the national accounts”](#) at the 11th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 5-7 December 2017, New York.
- [“Methodological study on economic statistics 2017 \(E/ESCWA/SD/2017/6\).](#)
- A follow-up workshop hosted by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in Ankara, from 31 October to 2 November 2018.

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Trade and Industry Statistics, Economic Classifications

Capacity development in the areas of statistics of international Trade and Industry Statistics, Economic Classifications

Trade in services infrastructure needed to collect and disseminate statistics in the countries in the region is weak, despite their importance to economic policy and trade negotiations.

[Regional Workshop on the Compilation of Trade in Services Statistics](#) AMF WTO ESCWA UNSD UNCTAD 20-23 November 2017 Abu Dhabi UAE preceded by National workshop for UAE

The workshop was also preceded by a distance learning course on Trade in Services Statistics developed and produced jointly by UNCTAD, WTO and the UNSD (train for Trade Programme)

[The publications on International trade changed in content and format. New interactive trade country profiles were produced with new indicators](#)

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Price Statistics Regional Programmes

- Strategy for the continuous production of Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) and improvement of price statistics computing annual PPPs and building a PPP time series extending from 2011 onward
- Increased the integration between the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and International Comparison Program (ICP) activities
- Harmonized Consumer Price Index for the region
- Price statistics on the regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels
- Compiling national accounts weights

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III. Infrastructure and Operations: Statistical Business Registers Surveys and Business Accounting

[A regional workshop on statistical business registers for the Arab countries in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, UN Statistics Division and UNIDO in Amman, Jordan during the period 26-29 September 2016](#)

Specific element of the E-Glossary of Statistical Terms for the Statistical Business registers developed through a partnership with the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), in accordance with the guidance issued by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Technical material on SBR development in the region being prepared

IV. Core Set of Economic Indicators for Arab Countries Links to SDGs

Proposal of list of core economic indicators in a separate agenda item

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V. Agenda 2030 and SDGs- Environment

- [Regional Workshop on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting Systems to Support Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) in the Arab Region with AITRS](#), UNSD, UN Environment Statistics. 26 to 29 March 2019, Amman, A [Consultative Meeting on the Implementation Framework for the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab Region](#), from 18 - 21 September 2017 in Cairo, Egypt
- [Arabic Version of e-learning Course on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 - Central Framework \(SEEA CF\)](#) that ESCWA provided for the E-learning course on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 - Central Framework (SEEA CF)
- [The elearning and training programme](#) on (SEEA-CF) and environment-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) launched in February 2018.

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VII. Areas in priorities and not tackled in 2017-2018

- ESCWA did not provide independent work on
- Household Expenditures and Capital Formation; and Informal sector. This was part of the development and as within the work on Supply and Use
- Tourism satellite accounts is being presented along the workshop on trade in services no specific capacity building activities have been provided.
- Agriculture and Education Accounts have not been addressed as other UN sister agencies provide capacity building in those statistical areas.
- On dissemination of national accounts according to the SDMX

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Areas of work proposed: transport statistics

Members of the committee are invited

- to take note of ESCWA's current work on Transport statistics presented in Annex 2 of the paper "Progress Achieved In The Field Of Economic Statistics And National Accounts In The Arab Region 2016-2018"
- to facilitate to ESCWA's secretariat to obtain the necessary mandate to work on Transport statistics and ensure the collaboration of the member countries' NSOs in the collection and dissemination of transport data.
- to give guidance on member countries priorities and advice on means of collaboration among member countries and ESCWA's secretariat to achieve the targeted objectives.

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New Areas of work proposed: Digital Economy

- Emergence of new goods and services, new processes, rapid transactions and new modalities for the exchange of goods and services within the economy and globally with new IT advances
- Methodological questions among which the questions of: capturing such activities in the current macroeconomic frameworks; adequacy of compilation methods and the price/volume split of nominal developments and; the measurement of the digital economy.
- OECD Advisory Group to develop a satellite framework to measure the digital economy. and recommended that the OECD Advisory Group, in conjunction with Eurostat, elaborate on concrete examples on how digital production activities fit in the conceptual framework of the SNA
- The Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG) addressed these issues in its 11th Meeting 5-7 December 2017

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