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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

Data collection, methodological development and harmonization of transport statistics: Glossary for Transport Statistics

Updating the Glossary for Transport Statistics: Publication Finalisation

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. The Glossary for Transport Statistics is a joint publication of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Transport Forum (ITF) and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat). It is a key reference document for transport statistics collection and production. The fourth edition was published in 2009 and the Working Party noted in recent sessions that a new edition is needed to reflect developments in transport statistics.

2. At its sixty-eighth session in 2017, the Working Party decided to establish an informal Group of Experts of member States and international organisations, as a discussion forum to provide input and suggest amendments for the new edition of the Glossary. The Group's Terms of Reference can be found in ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/1, as endorsed by the Working Party at the sixty-eighth session.

3. Sixteen different member States (with sometimes multiple different contacts covering different modes) and several international organisations indicated that they would be able to participate in some form. Member States indicating their desire for involvement were Austria, Canada, Czechia, Ireland, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. International organisations that responded positively were the International Road Federation, the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), Sava River Basin Commission, International Union of Railways, European Commission Directorate for Mobility and Transport (DG-MOVE), Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine

(CCNR), Danube Commission, and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) (in addition to the three author agencies).

4. At its sixty-ninth session in 2018, the work of the Group of Experts was presented to the Working Party in the form of a draft fifth edition. This draft fifth edition contained the suggested updates and additions made by countries and organisations up until that point, that had been discussed at previous in-person and online meetings. These changes included (but were not limited to):

- (a) adding a section on maritime accidents;
- (b) improving the international scope of the Glossary;
- (c) introducing new sections on the environmental impact of transport and passenger mobility;
- (d) improving the consistency of definitions across modes, where possible;
- (e) compiling the intermodal terms into its own chapter;
- (f) compiling the energy terms into a new dedicated chapter;
- (g) adding an additional definition for seriously injured (in a road traffic accident) using the Maximum Abbreviated Injury Scale, MAIS 3+ (this does not replace the existing definition of 24 hours in hospital used in police data);
- (h) reviewing basic rail infrastructure definitions to ensure that the scope of definitions reflect the data collected; and
- (i) reviewing all existing definitions in the glossary to remove mistakes and redundancy, and to ensure definitions reflect the reality of statistics collected by member States.

5. This provisional draft was circulated to all relevant governments (not just those attending the Working Party session) in May 2018, with a deadline for comments of August 2018.

6. At the sixty-ninth session, the suggested changes were broadly accepted, and the provisional draft was endorsed by the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/175) with the understanding that further work on the Glossary would be required after the deadline for comments, in order to consider any concerns and suggestions of member States and international organizations. In addition, at this time the new chapters on environmental impact of transport and passenger mobility were not yet available.

7. The three author agencies thus held a final meeting on 25-26 September 2018 in Luxembourg, with representatives from ERA, DG MOVE and Sweden (coordinator of the road chapter) also present. At this meeting, all remaining comments from member States and pending items were discussed and the revision process was concluded.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.6/175

II. Publication Finalisation

8. After this last meeting and further final consultations to address outstanding issues, the English-language content of Glossary was finalized in October 2018. It was thus sent for translation by Eurostat into the other European Union languages, and illustrations and pictures were agreed upon where necessary.

9. In parallel to this, a co-publication agreement between the United Nations, the European Union and the International Transport Forum was negotiated and agreed upon, with the signing of this expected in April 2019. While there are four previous versions of the Glossary, the fifth edition will be the first to comply with official publication requirements of the three organisations. It is hoped that official publication status will further increase the prominence and thus the usage of the listed definitions in the Glossary.

10. After the co-publication agreement was signed, the secretariat submitted the manuscript for United Nations translation into Russian.

11. It is hoped that final release of the PDF of the finished Glossary, and printed copies made available by Eurostat, will be ready before the end of 2019, including all language versions.

III. Potential Future Activities

12. As has been discussed in previous sessions of the Working Party, an interactive version of the Glossary published online would improve both the dissemination and usefulness to data providers and data users. If delegates have ideas on software or other tools that would work for this exercise, they are invited to share their views.

13. It was previously an agreed practice that the Glossary should be updated around every five years. If this is still the wish of the Working Party, then work would need to begin in 2021 or 2022 for a future publication in 2024, respecting the need for lengthy member State consultations and publication formalities. The Working Party may wish to consider when it would like to see the next edition.

14. The secretariat together with the ITF and Eurostat has strived to involve member States at each stage of the revision process, with regular consultations and all proposed amendments freely available on the wiki site. The country-led work has resulted in a finalized fifth edition being available two years after the process started, an impressive effort. The secretariat pays special thanks to all member States and international organisations who provided input into this work.
