International Family of Economic and Social Classifications and International Classifications Work

United Nations Statistics Division

WS-ECE 09/04

Main topics

◆ International Family of Economic and Social Classifications (Family)

◆ International Work in Classifications

◆ UN Classifications Systems and Mechanisms

The Family

- Is comprised of international classifications:
    - registered in UN inventory of Classifications
    - reviewed and approved as guidelines by UN Statistical Commission or other competent intergovernmental board
- Includes also registered regional or national classifications derived from or related to international classifications

The Family

- ◆ Subject matter areas of classifications
  - Activities
  - Products
  - Labour
  - Health
  - Education
  - Demographics
  - Environment
  - ...

Types of classifications in the family

◆ Within each subject matter area exist:

- ■ Reference classification(s)
- ■ Derived classifications
- ■ Related classifications

Reference classifications

◆ Product of international agreements
◆ Approved by UNSC or other competent body
  ▪ therefore have official and broad acceptance
◆ Serve as guidelines for preparation, development or revision of other classifications
  ▪ with respect to structure, building blocks
  ▪ character and definition of categories
◆ Example: ISIC – activities, CPC - products

Derived classifications

- Based upon reference classification
- Adopt structure of ref classification
    - consistency of aggregates
- Respect building blocks
    - additional detail where necessary
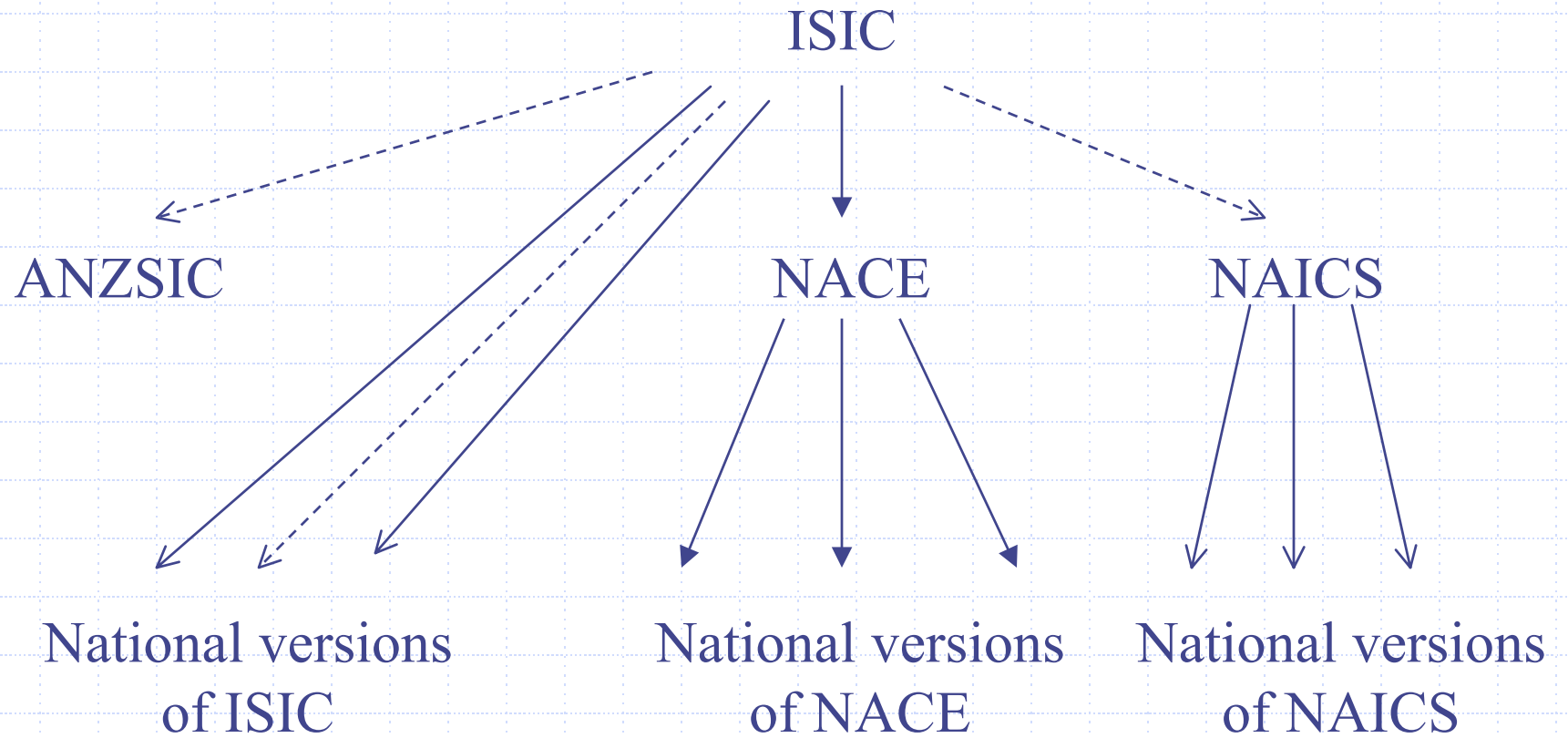- Tailored for use at national or multi-national level

Related classifications

◆ Differ in structure and/or building blocks from reference classifications

◆ Linked mainly through correspondence tables

  ■ many links will refer to partial correspondences
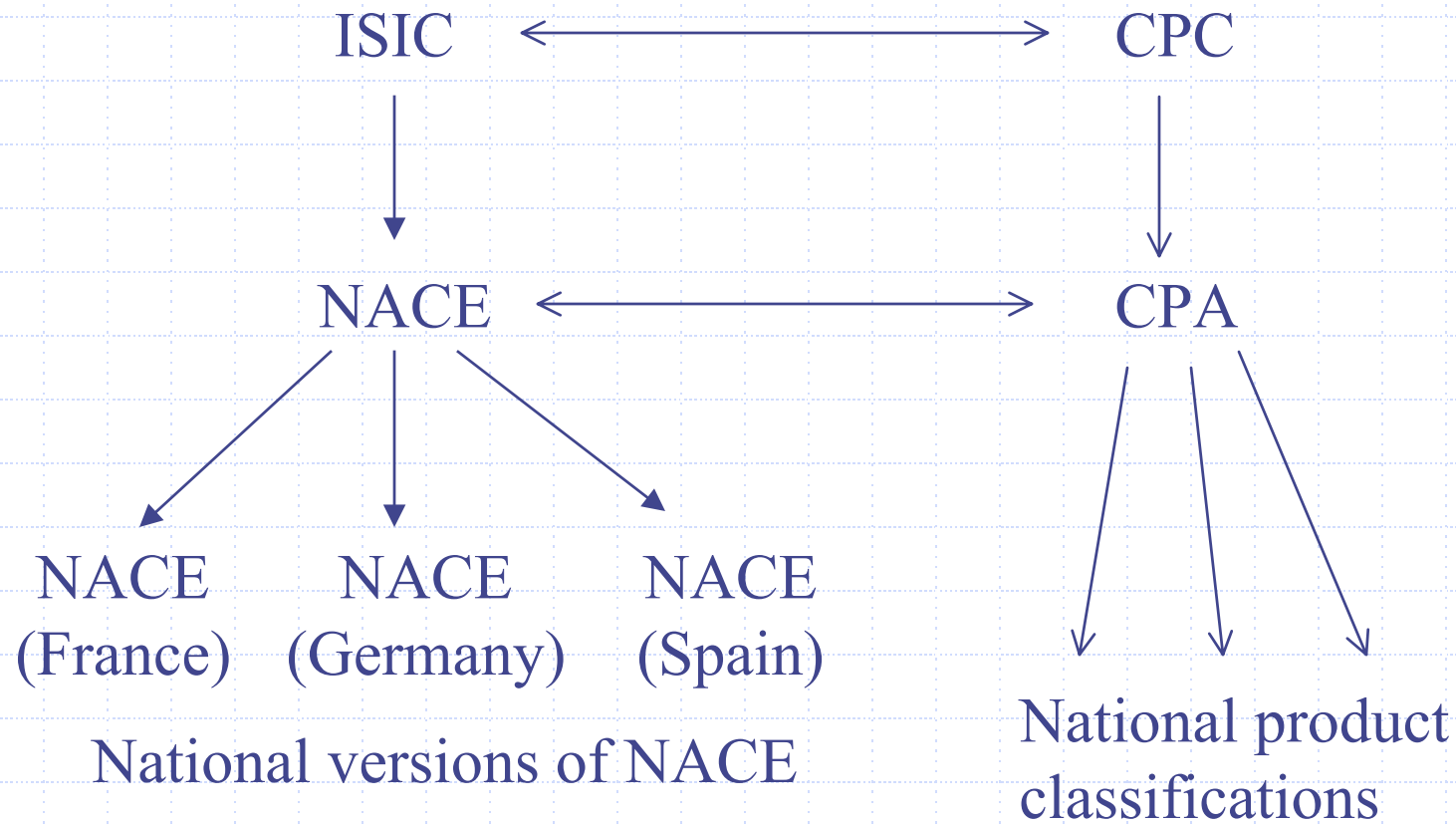
Example: Activity classifications

- ◆ Reference classification
  - ISIC Rev.3.1
- ◆ Derived classification
  - NACE Rev.1
- ◆ Related classifications
  - NAICS, ANZSIC

Activities

ISIC

ANZSIC   NACE   NAICS

National versions
of ISIC

National versions
of NACE

National versions
of NAICS

Activities

Products

ISIC $\longleftrightarrow$ CPC

ISIC $\longrightarrow$ NACE

CPC $\longrightarrow$ CPA

NACE $\longleftrightarrow$ CPA

NACE (France)   NACE (Germany)   NACE (Spain)

National versions of NACE

National product classifications

Requirements for reference classifications

- ◆ used for data collection and presentation at international level
- ◆ guidelines for national and multinational classifications

Requirements for reference classifications

- Have to be general enough to
  - be applicable for all countries
  - provide room for national adaptation and specifications
- Have to be specific enough to
  - allow for useful data collection
  - provide reasonable guidelines for creation of national classifications

Requirements for reference classifications

◆ orchestrated updates within the family

◆ schedule of updates

  ■ Example: activity and product classification recommended to be reviewed in 10/5 year intervals (2002, 2007, etc.)

Family obligations, role of custodians

Among the family obligations, the most important are:

- Recognize being part of a dynamic system, of a network of systematic information exchange
- Officially recognize their dependence on each other
  - make explicit the structural and conceptual relationships between reference, derived and related classifications of each subject matter area
  - changes/needs of the reference classifications to be echoed on derived/related ones and vice versa
- Coordinate and announce the timings and updates of revisions

Family obligations, role of custodians

- Publicise the classifications time-tables for major work
- Collaborate in the preparation of correspondence tables between reference, derived and related classifications
- Work together to prepare guidelines for classifications' implementation, other guidance and training materials

International work on classifications

Purposes:

- Ensure harmonization and standardization

- Solicit and receive input and feedback for the classifications updating and revision processes

- Ensure that the needs of international community are met

Work on Classifications

UN Statistical Commission

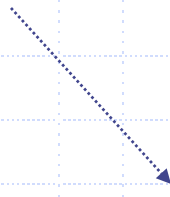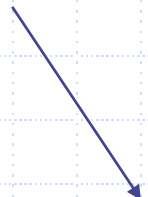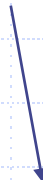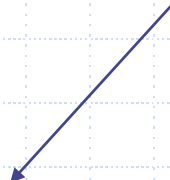Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications

UNSD   ILO   UNESCO   WHO   Member countries

UN Statistical Commission

◆ Established in 1946 by ECOSOC

◆ 24 members, according to geographical distribution pattern:

- 5 members from Africa
- 4 members from Asia
- 4 members from Eastern Europe
- 4 members from Latin America & Caribbean
- 7 members from Western European and other States

◆ 4 years membership

◆ 1 meeting per year (since 1999)

UN Statistical Commission

◆ Reports back to ECOSOC on each session

◆ Issues considered:
- international statistical development, methodological issues
- coordination and integration of statistical programmes
- support of technical cooperation activities
- organizational matters

UN Expert Group on International, Economic and Social Classifications

- The central coordinating body for Work Programme on Classifications
  - a regular and open forum
  - an authority in classifications work
- UNSD convenes the Expert Group
  - ensures proper regional representation
  - ensures representation of international organizations

UN Expert Group on Classifications

- ◆ Ensures harmonization and convergence among classifications in the family
- ◆ Recommends, examines changes/updates
- ◆ Adopts schedules for updates
- ◆ Can install subgroups
- ◆ Decisions and recommendations of EG are reported back to UNSC

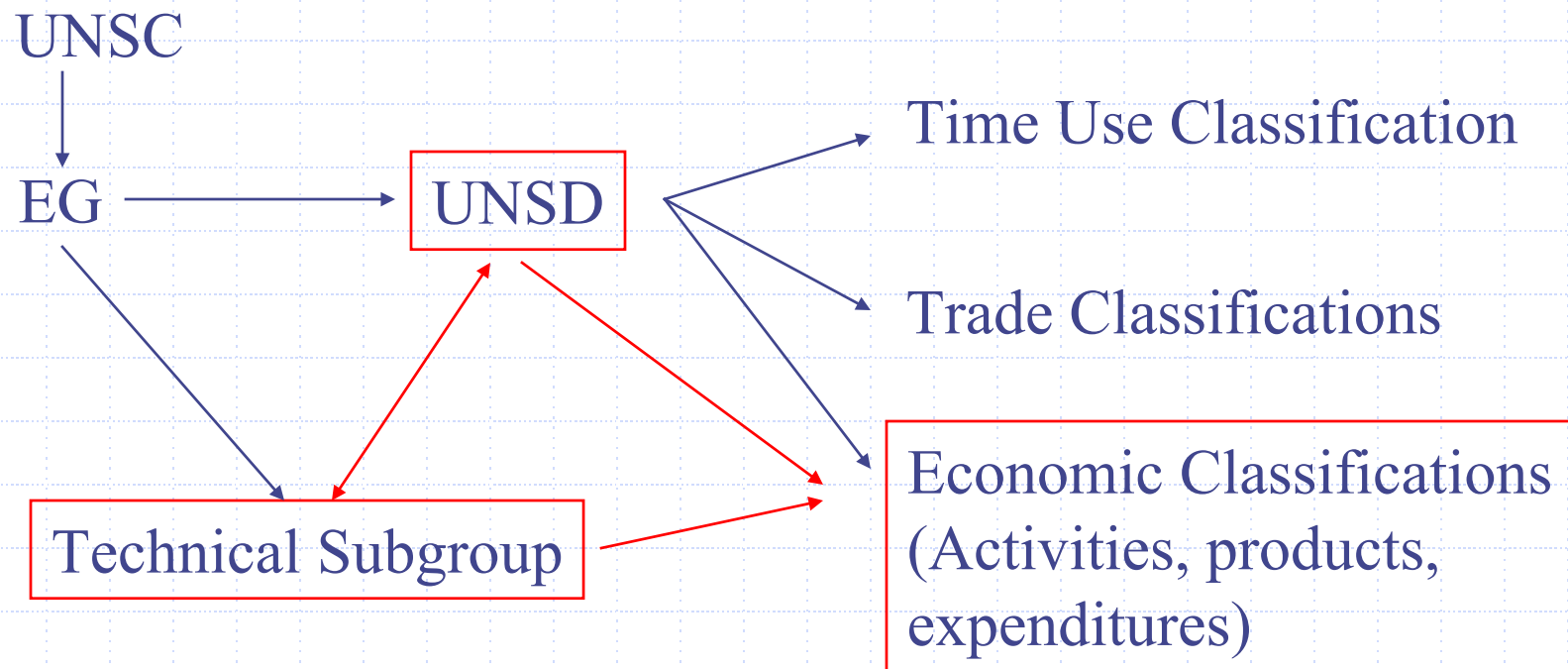# Technical Subgroup on Classifications

- Established in November 1999 by EG

- Meets twice a year

- Reports to EG on progress

- EG acts as steering committee

Technical Subgroup on Classifications

Priority: work programme on ISIC, CPC

- worked on ISIC, CPC, 2002 updates
- works currently on ISIC, CPC 2007 revisions
  - Concept discussions
  - Papers on special issues
  - Drafting of proposals for classification structures
  - Maintain contact with other groups and national offices
  - Rulings on interpretation issues
  - Review additional inputs

Work on Classifications

Workshops and training

Purposes

- Training
  - on ISIC, CPC, other reference classifications, their implementation and use
- Sharing of information
  - on reference classifications, national classifications
- Getting input and feedback to the revision processes
  - ex: ISIC, CPC - 2007

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/training

UN Classifications systems and mechanisms

◆ Classifications Hotline

◆ Classifications Registry

◆ Classifications Website

◆ Classifications Newsletter

◆ Monitoring Mechanisms

Classifications Hotline

- Established in response to a request by UNSC
- Serves as a central reference service for international, economic and social classifications
- Promotes common approaches, principles, conventions

Classifications Hotline

Provides information and technical assistance to users

- disseminates publications and databases
- disseminates correspondence tables and indexes
- assists in interpretation and coding

Classifications Hotline

◆ Refers other queries to the appropriate source or organization

◆ A means of receiving feedback on classifications issues and related topics

◆ Contact Information:
  ▪ e-mail: chl@un.org
  ▪ fax: 1 212 963 4116/1374

Classifications Registry

A system to store and organize information

- Classifications
- Explanatory notes
- Indexes
- Correspondence tables

Classifications Registry

A system to store and organize information

- questions and problems reported by countries and organizations
- decisions and discussions that led to these decisions

Classifications Registry

Thereby,

- providing input into the updating and revision processes

- using this input on classifications work

- recording these processes

Classifications Registry/Website

- ◈ A system to provide and distribute information
- ◈ Information provided and distributed through the classifications website
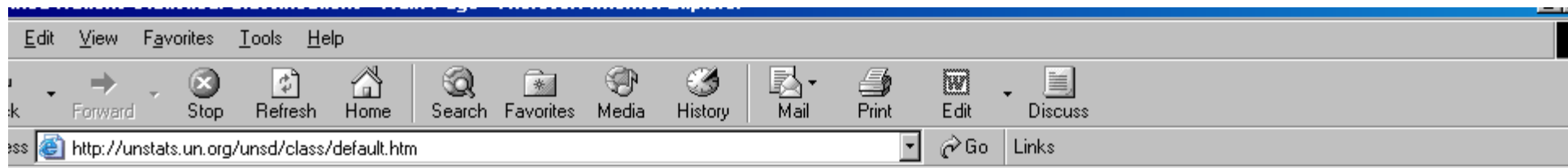
Classifications Website

◆ Main link

■ http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class

◆ Structure and contents

■ sitemap link

◆ http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/prodserve.htm

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Statistics Division

Search the site [   ] GO

HOME | STATISTICAL DATABASES | PUBLICATIONS | METHODS AND CLASSIFICATIONS | STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Classifications

International family of
classifications Preamble,
Basic principles, List of the
Family, Glossary
Classifications registry
maintained by UNSD.
Detailed information on
SIC, CPC, SITC, COFOG,
COICOP, COPNI, COPP,
alphabetical indexes,
correspondence tables
International cooperation in
classifications
Products and resource
services/Site map

UN Classifications Registry

Classifications
Alternate structures
Indexes
Correspondences
Registry entries(corrections,
updates, decisions, case
laws, ...)
Meetings
Revisions
National classifications
Downloads
Mailing list
Contact us
What's New
Search the Registry

ST/ESA/STAT/CLASSIFICATIONS/WWW
03 July 2003

Economic and Social Statistical Classifications

The Classifications Section of the United Nations:

- Develops and maintains economic and social classifications approved as guidelines by
  the United Nations Statistical Commission covering economic activity, products,
  international trade and time use.

- Provides technical support for development, implementation, interpretation,
  maintenance, updating and revision of these classifications;

- Prepares and disseminates classifications methods and materials, i.e., statements of best
  practice, explanatory notes, indexes, correspondence tables, coding strategies and
  methods;

- Coordinates international cooperation in the area of statistical classifications through the
  Statistical Commission and through activities of the United Nations Expert Group on
  International Economic and Social Classifications.

For further information on classifications, contact:

Director
United Nations Statistics Division
Attn: Statistical Classifications Section
United Nations
New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax: +1 (212) 963-1374 or +1 (212) 963-4116
E-mail: chl@un.org

itemap: United Nations Classifications Section

About us/ Contact
UNSD Programme on Statistical
Classifications
Contact us
Classifications Hotline

About Classifications
International Family of classifications
List of Classifications in the Family
UN glossary of classification terms
International cooperation in classifications
Statistical Commission
Expert Group Meetings
Technical Subgroup Meetings
United Nations Classifications Workshops and
Training
NACE-NAICS Convergence Project
**History of Economic Statistical
Classifications** [ISIC, CPC, SITC]

Information, Sales and Publications
Classifications Newsletter
Classifications Hotline
Mailing list

**Registry of international
classifications**
UN Classifications Registry (about)
Classifications (by classification & language)
Alternate structures
Indexes
Correspondences
**Registry entries (corrections, updates,
decisions, case laws...)**-(basic search)
Search Registry (advanced search)
Registry Decisions by Meetings
Registry Decisions by Revisions
National classifications
Free Downloads (classification structures,
correspondences, documents)

**UNSD Classifications by subject
matter**
Economic Activity
ISIC Rev. 3.1
ISIC Rev. 3
ISIC Rev. 2

Products
CPC Rev. 1.1
CPC Rev. 1.0
CPC prov
SITC Rev. 3
BEC

Expenditures according to Purpose
COFOG
COICOP
COPNI
COPP

Country and Area
M49

Other
Time Use

What's new

Newsletter No. 11 published

Questionnaire for ISIC4/CPC2
revision added

Website, contents

- UNSD Programme on Statistical Classifications
- Classifications Hotline
- Registry of International Classifications
  - classifications
  - alternate structures
  - indexes
  - correspondences
- National Classifications
- Free Downloads

Website, contents

◈ International Cooperation in Classifications

- Statistical Commission
- Expert Group Meetings
- Technical Subgroup Meetings
- Workshops and training

◈ History of Economic Statistical Classifications

◈ Information, Sales and Publications

◈ What's new

Classifications Website

Ongoing updates

- More information
    - classifications, indexes, correspondence tables, downloadable products, national classifications, history of classifications
- Language support
- Search features

Classifications Website

◆ A tool for the processes of international cooperation

◆ Enhances transparency in classifications work

◆ Suggestions?
   ▪ contact: chl@un.org

Classifications Newsletter

◆ Summarizes recent developments and events

◆ Draws attention on information availability

◆ Announces
- newly issued publications, technical materials
- revision plans
- classifications meetings
- important events

Classifications Newsletter

- Currently published as a supplement to the UN Statistics Newsletter and disseminated by UNSD
- Available at **http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class**
- To subscribe

  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm

Monitoring mechanisms

- ◆ Questionnaire for activity and product classifications

- ◆ Workshops on SNA implementation