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**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Statistical Division**

Agenda item 2b

# **Proposals on Priorities and Recommendations for the 2008 SNA implementation in the region**

Presentation by UNECE

**Group of Experts on National Accounts  
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# Overview

## 1. Proposed Priorities

- *Priority 1.* Setting up national implementation plans
- *Priority 2.* Review of strategic papers, consultations with other organisations and users; adoption of implementation plans
- *Priority 3.* Review of work needed to support implementation of the 2008 SNA
- *Priority 4.* Basic indicators of GDP
- *Priority 5.* Compilation of GNI and other main indicators
- *Priority 6.* Institutional sector accounts (Milestones 3-6)

## 2. Recommendations by the stages of implementation

## 3. Other prerequisites of implementation

- Need for TA,
- Tools and Guidance on 2008 implementation,
- Resources, and
- International and Regional cooperation



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## Proposed Priorities (1)

### Priority 1. Setting up national implementation plans

- It is recommended to review the draft implementation plan tables and to set up the implementation plans
  - Short and medium term action plans
  - To indicate in plans the expected timeframe for the first publication of GDP by the 2008 SNA
- Timeframe for the priority:
  - 2012



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## Proposed Priorities (2)

### **Priority 2. Review of strategic papers, consultations with other organisations and users; adoption of implementation action plans**

- This priority includes actions from Stage 1 and involves adaptation of the action plans for the short and medium term:
  - a) Identification of outstanding issues with 1993 SNA
  - b) The main changes from 1993 SNA to 2008 SNA and their impacts
  - c) Institutional agreements
  - d) Prioritization based on user needs and available resources
  - e) Inclusion of the implementation of 2008 SNA in the overall strategic plan of the statistical office
  - f) Adoption of detailed implementation action plans
- Timeframe for the priority:
  - 2013-2014



## Proposed Priorities (3)

### Priority 3. Review of work needed to support implementation of the 2008 SNA

- Activities at Stage 2:
  - adoption of classifications
  - improvements in business statistics and surveys
  - improvements in business registers, improvements and adaptation administrative registers to the new requirements
  - other changes: IT, human resources, etc.
- Timeframe for the priority:
  - 2014-2015

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## Proposed Priorities (4)

### Priority 4. Basic indicators of GDP

- The main priority for the 2008 SNA implementation for the countries in the region is To improve GDP estimates and implement changes most affecting size and volume indicators of GDP (Stage 3, Milestone 1)
  - It is recommended to indicate in implementation plans expected timeframe for first publication of GDP according the 2008 SNA
- Timeframe for the priority (up to the first publication of GDP by the 2008 SNA):
  - 2014-2015



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## Proposed Priorities (5)

### Priority 5. Compilation of GNI and other main indicators

- Implementation of changes related to GNI and other primary aggregates is the next priority for the countries while implementing the 2008 SNA. This process depends on the implementation of BPM6.
  - This process depends on the implementation of BPM6
- Timeframe for the priority:
  - 2014-2015



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## Proposed Priorities (6)

### **Priority 6. Full implementation: institutional sector accounts, financial accounts, balance sheets**

- These are the activities No country in the region has fully implemented SNA 1993, some have on-going projects plans.
  - The main challenges are lack of resources, insufficient IT support, data sources and need for appropriate changes in GFS.
- Timeframe for the priority:
  - Mainly for long term - 2015-2020



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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 1a.



- a. Identification of main outstanding issues with SNA 1993.
- As almost all countries have a clear understanding of outstanding issues with 1993 SNA in their national accounts, it is recommended to have the list of these issues, which would be very useful for further planning of improvement in national accounts taking into account also the implementation of the 2008 SNA.
  - The recommended timeframe for this activity in the region is 2012.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 1b.



b. Understanding the main changes in 2008 SNA compared to SNA 1993 and their importance for country.

- The following actions could be taken.
  - to focus on the main changes that affect the GDP and its main components.
  - to study Annex 3: Changes from the 1993 System of National Accounts in the *System of National Accounts 2008* (available in Russian).
  - to participate in workshops and meetings on 2008 SNA issues at international and regional levels.
  - to discuss the changes with the other main producers of economic statistics and other relevant agencies in the country for establishing a list of priorities for future work.
  - to present the main changes to the main users in order to get their feedback while assessing the importance of each change and producing a detailed list of priorities.
- The recommended timeframe for these activities in the region is 2012.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 1c.



- c. Identification of main institutions involved in collecting and producing data for SNA and establishment of institutional agreements for 2008 SNA implementation.
- The following actions are recommended.
    - identify institutions which are involved in the collection and production of relevant data for the SNA.
    - initiate discussions with the main institutions involved in production of data for the SNA to present the new needs for data and to agree on future work.
    - establish institutional agreements between NSOs and other main institutions on cooperation during the SNA 2008 implementation in the country. It would be useful to have agreements on cooperation especially for the 2008 SNA. More advanced cooperation might involve creation of special Task Forces or joint working groups.
  - The recommended timeframe for these activities in the region is 2012-2013.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 1d.



### d. Prioritization for 2008 SNA, based on user needs and resources.

- Statistical offices should initiate consultations with users and take their needs into account when deciding on the priorities in the implementation of 2008 SNA.
- A mechanism for consultations with users of national accounts would be beneficial to ensure feedback on urgent and important priorities and may be used to inform the users about forthcoming changes.
- Presenting the changes in the 2008 SNA to users and receiving feedback may help prioritising.
- Assessing the needs for additional resources for the implementation of the first priorities and discussion with the Government or MoF on resources, presentations of the main international requirements to supporting statistics and the necessity to changeover to the 2008 SNA in order to provide internationally comparable statistics.
- The recommended timeframe for these activities is 2012-2013.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 1e.



- e. Inclusion of the implementation of the 2008 SNA in the overall strategic plan of the statistical office
- Inclusion of the 2008 SNA implementation in the overall strategic plan or work programme is recommended.
  - In instances, when overall plans or programmes are already established, work on 2008 SNA implementation may be included as amendments and/or supplements to the existing programmes or plans.
  - The recommended timeframe for this activity in the region is 2012.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 1f.



- f. Adoption of detailed action plan for 2008 SNA in short, medium and/or long-term period.
- After inclusion of the 2008 SNA implementation plan in the overall strategic plan there is a need for adoption of more detailed action plan for short, medium and long-term.
  - Ideally a detailed action plan for the medium term should be developed. For example, the action plan of all activities needed up to the publication of GDP according to the 2008 SNA may be agreed in the first stage of planning. The medium term plan could be then made more detailed and adopted with the annual statistical programs as such practice exists in many countries.
  - It is difficult to set up a detailed action plan for the long term, but the allocation of main tasks for full implementation of the 2008 SNA may be useful for the development of further medium term implementation plans.
  - The recommended timeframe for the development of detailed action plans in the region is 2012-2013.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 2a.



- a. Adoption of new classifications and other improvements in business registers and business statistics
- The implementation of the 2008 SNA requires changes in classifications and implementation in business registers and business statistics of the new classifications. The classifications needs to be implemented in the business registers and business statistics and used in data collection schemes and for dissemination purposes.
  - Activities (e.g. training workshops) on classifications should focus on the practical implementation in business registers, primary statistics and national accounts.
  - Training, guidance or training materials on back casting.
  - The recommended timeframe for adoption of new classifications on institutional units, types of activities and products is 2012-2013, while their full implementation into statistical practice is expected by 2015.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 2b.



- b. Changes in business statistics surveys and questionnaires to collect the necessary source data
- As the full implementation of 2008 SNA will take place gradually according to stages and priorities, the changes in the business statistics surveys and questionnaires to meet the requirements of 2008 SNA should follow the same priorities and time plans.
  - The first set of changes reflecting the need for information to compile GDP by the 2008 SNA requirements should be implemented by 2014.



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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 2c.



### c. Adaptation of administrative data sources to new requirements

- The work with administrative registers is a continuous activity. However, in order to be able to reach the main priority (implementation of changes affecting GDP) there is a need to focus efforts to adapt at least the main administrative data sources to meet the requirements of 2008 SNA.
- Establishment of task forces with coordinating agencies of corresponding administrative registers could facilitate the process.
- The recommended timeframe for the adaptation of administrative data sources reflecting the need for information to compile GDP by the 2008 SNA requirements is 2014.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 2d.



### d. IT and other changes

- Improvements and developments of IT hardware and software, and training of staff are important to help improving the statistical capacity of the countries. In regard to the needs to improve efficiency of the statistical production process, utilise administrative data sources and the growing user needs this issue is one of the most challenging and resource demanding for the statistical offices in the region.
- The necessary changes in IT and improvements in issues with human resources should be assessed according to the priorities in order to be able to start implementation of the 2008 SNA.

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# Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 3a.



## a. Milestone 1. Basic indicators of GDP

### *Outstanding issues from SNA 1993*

- The implementation of outstanding issues from SNA 1993 should not be differentiated from implementation of the 2008 SNA in the country. The implementation of the 2008 SNA should be treated as a tool for strengthening the national accounts statistics.
- The improvement of estimates at constant prices, estimates of NOE, estimates of owner-occupied dwelling services and recording of GFS data on accrual basis should have high priority as they are highly related to the main indicator that users are interested in – the real growth of GDP and its components.
- The compilation of regional accounts is not requested for the full implementation of SNA, although, the national accountants in the countries may develop the regional indicators as they are demanded by users, particularly policy-makers.

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# Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 3a.



## a. Milestone 1. Basic indicators of GDP

### *New issues arising from the 2008 SNA*

- Recognizing these issues as priority, the countries expect assistance from international and regional statistical organisations during the implementation. Guidelines and training are most required.
- In order to be able to disseminate GDP according to the 2008 SNA concepts, the countries should also take into account other changes affecting GDP. Most of the issues regarding GDP from the 2008 SNA are presented in Table 3 of *Guidelines for monitoring the 2008 SNA implementation* by ISWGNA. The prioritization of the issues may vary between the countries according to the level of importance of this or that issue for the GDP in countries.
- The recommended timeframe for first publication of GDP according 2008 SNA is 2014-2015.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 3b.



### **b. Milestone 2. GNI and other primary indicators**

- While NSOs are mainly responsible for national accounts statistics in the countries of the region, the central bank is usually responsible for the implementation of BPM6. This is an additional reason for coordination and cooperation between these two agencies while implementing these new standards.
- The recommended timeframe for having GNI and other primary aggregates according to the 2008 SNA is 2015.

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## Recommendations by the stages of the 2008 SNA implementation – Stage 3c.



### **c. Milestones 3 to 6. Institutional sector accounts: first, intermediate and final steps**

- Taking into account the priorities of the countries to start the implementation of the 2008 SNA with the issues affecting the GDP and main indicators, the implementation of changes for institutional sector accounts, balance sheets and data systems from Milestones 3-6 is not a priority for the short and medium term in most of the countries of the region.
- Many countries continue to work on incorporation of data categories from Milestones 3-6 according to plans of full implementation of SNA 1993. However, it would be more efficient to continue the work taking into account the proposed changes by the 2008 SNA.
- The implementation of changes and/or introduction of institutional sector accounts and other data systems are gradually expected after 2015.



## Need for technical assistance

- Training workshops for the staff of NSOs (national, regional and international)
- Study visits to more developed statistical offices
- Region-specific manuals and guidelines
- On-the-job training
- Seminars for other producers of statistics
- Exchange of experience with other countries

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# Tools and Guidance on 2008 SNA implementation



- *The Diagnostic Framework for National Accounts and Supporting Economic Statistics* is a self-assessment tool developed by UNSD that helps countries to evaluate the statistical prerequisites outlined in Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the implementation and facilitates planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- IMF's SDDS, GDDS, DQAF and ROSC
- Reports of Global Assessments by Eurostat, UNECE and EFTA
- *Essential SNA: building the basics*. Eurostat, is a practical handbook for implementation of 2008 SNA.





## Resources and Cooperation

- Implementation of the 2008 SNA depends on the availability of appropriate resources. This includes allocation of resources within the national statistical offices and provision of technical assistance by international and regional organisations.
- Funding of the different activities, both from national and international sources, should be considered in the implementation plan
- Joined efforts of international and regional organisations in providing technical assistance is essential to enhance effective and timely implementation of the 2008 SNA in the countries of the region.