

Group work: Summary of the discussion

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UNECE

Purpose

- This summary is meant to distill the group work discussion into a few general conclusions. It will not cover all of the topics discussed.
- More exhaustive notes on the group presentations will be included in an annex to the seminar report.

General observations

- Since *LCS indicators* is a broad category of indicators that spans different domains and comprises indicators that are based on various methods, it is difficult to come up with overarching compilation guidance.
- Many of the challenges raised during discussion of LCS indicators are not unique to these kinds of indicators. There are similar issues with producing the “standard” indicators that are already in NSOs’ work programmes.

Considerations for NSO production

- There are good reasons for NSOs to produce LCS indicators, since NSOs are trusted, impartial producers.
- LCS indicators were generally not seen as being “too controversial” for NSOs to produce. There was recognition that their production could risk damaging NSOs’ credibility, but this was seen as a manageable risk.

Considerations for NSO production

- Other considerations for NSO production were seen as more important, such as:
 - Policy relevance of the indicators
 - Practical matters, such as financial and human resources and access to data
- Production should be left to other institutions (e.g., Central Banks, research institutions or private companies) when:
 - They are better equipped to do so – in terms of resources or access to data
 - The indicators are still in the experimental stage

Particularities of LCS indicators

- While many issues overlap with issues for standard indicators, there are some particularities of LCS indicators.
- There are particular considerations for both:
 - Compilation methods, which will likely involve some different practices from those used by NSOs for standard indicators, and
 - Dissemination strategies, which should include special provisions to explain the particularities of LCS indicators and respond to misuse. NSOs should be aware of the need for careful communication of these indicators.

Continued communication

- One major theme that emerged was a need for continued communication:
 - *Between NSOs and users*, to assess user needs and explain methods to prevent misunderstandings
 - *Between NSOs and other producers*, to build upon existing guidance on methods and definitions
 - *Amongst NSOs from different countries*, to share methods and good practices