

IDENTIFYING KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2013 AND BEYOND

Following the adoption of the HLG-BAS strategy by the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2012, it is necessary to determine the priority activities to implement that strategy. This paper distills ideas from different brainstorming sessions during spring and summer 2012, into a set of coherent work packages. It is the main input to a discussion on priorities at the Workshop on Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics, to be held in Geneva on 7-8 November 2012. Given that it will not be possible to complete all activities listed during 2013, participants will be invited to comment on priorities.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document proposes next steps following the adoption of the HLG-BAS strategy by the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2012. It takes the proposals resulting from various brainstorming exercises, groups them by broad theme, and tries to assign priorities. It is intended as an input for the Workshop 2012 on Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics, to help the HLG-BAS and the expert groups to find agreement on priority activities for 2013 and beyond. This process of identifying Key Priorities is intended to be an annual exercise.

II. PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING AND IMPLEMENTING PRIORITIES

2. The work packages in this document will undergo several reviews before they are finalised. In chronological order:

- At the November workshop, the work packages will be further refined and potential implementing bodies will be identified. The implementing bodies may be existing expert groups or consortia of expert groups.
- The HLG-BAS will decide whether any work packages should be considered as special projects to be executed in sprints, rather than allocated to specific expert groups.
- The work packages will be further elaborated by the interested groups, including estimates of timing and resources.

3. Whilst all work packages are seen as important, resources are limited, so it is necessary to identify those that are the highest priority in the short term, and which can be left for future years. This decision should also take account of any potential dependencies between work packages.

III. PROPOSED WORK PACKAGES

4. The activities below are grouped into work packages, for which goals and deliverables are given. It is important to understand that this is a preliminary distribution of tasks into work packages, meant as input for discussion with the representatives of the relevant expert groups. For transparency the work packages intended for the HLG-BAS and Secretariat Team are also listed, and marked in GREEN. The packages marked in RED are considered to be key-priorities by HLG-BAS members.

5. The work packages are presented within five broad themes, which have been identified from the HLG-BAS strategy paper:

(i) ***Strategic and organisational***

Development of the current vision and strategy and their adaptation to future needs is important to keep up with a changing world. This theme also includes the development of high-level architectures as well as organisational and human resources issues.

(ii) ***Products***

All work on new and adapted products and related research into data sources belongs in this theme.

(iii) ***Processes***

Work related to modernising and streamlining statistical production processes belongs here.

(iv) ***Standards***

Activities to create, maintain and administer standards, together with the work needed to promote and encourage their use, belong here

(v) ***Communications***

Communication of the work of the HLG-BAS and related modernisation activities belongs in this theme.

6. In the last column of each table, provisional priorities are assigned according to the “MoSCoW” method, using the following categories:

- M - MUST: Describes a requirement that must be satisfied in order to implement the strategy.
- S - SHOULD: Represents a high-priority item that should be included if possible.
- C - COULD: Describes a requirement which is considered desirable but not necessary. This will be included if time and resources permit.
- W - WON'T: Represents a requirement that is not a current priority, but may be considered again in the future.

7. This assignment of priorities still leaves more “MUST” activities than can reasonably be delivered in one year, so further refinement of the priorities is needed. The aim is to identify no more than two work packages (in addition to the ones coloured green), for implementation during 2013.

(i) Strategic and Organisational

Package:	1. HLG Vision and Strategy	MUST
Goal:	Refine and update the HLG Vision and Strategy, provide strategic guidance on related issues	
Delivers:	New version of Vision and Strategy in 2013 (updated and consistent terminology) Coherent framework for implementation actions	

Package:	2. High-level Architectures	SHOULD
Goal:	Specify standards for common high-level architectures that are platform independent	
Delivers:	Reference architectures for the official statistical industry High level requirements of plug and play architecture	

Package:	3. Workforce	MUST
Goal:	Map a path towards a more agile workforce, adapted to a rapidly changing world.	
Delivers:	First draft of recommendations on the human resources aspects of modernisation for statistical organisations	

Package:	4. Legal and Licencing Issues	MUST
Goal:	Create a framework that facilitates sharing and collaborating	
Delivers:	Inventory of issues and their proposed remedies per country or area Proposals for standard licenses and agreements	

(ii) Products

Package:	5. Market Research and Product Architecture	SHOULD
Goal:	Define an architecture of statistical products and identify potential new products	
Delivers:	Market analysis by target populations One or two example products as case studies	

Package:	6. Improved Access to Micro and Intermediate Data	SHOULD
Goal:	Modernise data access	
Delivers:	Guidelines for implementing wider data access Case studies and recommendations for micro data access	

Package:	7. New Data Sources	MUST
Goal:	Understand and show the possibilities of new data sources, both to replace existing sources and facilitate new products.	
Delivers:	Standards and methodology for access and use of new data sources, including “big data” and “open data” Case studies and best practices	

(iii) Processes

Package:	8. Data Editing and Imputation	SHOULD
Goal:	Modernise data editing and imputation and provide a global solution	
Delivers:	Requirements and first design of a common approach	

Package:	9. Plug and Play architecture	MUST
Goal:	An architecture that enables definition and execution of the statistical production process as an orchestrated collection of GSBPM sub processes with standard interfaces transporting GSIM information objects.	
Delivers:	Blueprint of the architecture including the interface specification and model. Proof of concept, demonstrating operating system and platform independence	

Package:	10. Sharing	MUST
Goal:	Promote sharing of ideas and solutions – for example by building an inventory of the best tools / processes that statistical organisations have to offer each other.	
Delivers:	Enhanced international collaboration	

(iv) Standards

Package:	11. GSBPM/GSIM Maintenance and Support	MUST
Goal:	Maintain and develop the GSBPM and GSIM to fully support the modernisation of statistical production. Support the practical implementation of these models.	
Delivers:	New versions of GSBPM and GSIM as needed Additional material to support implementation and integration with other standards such as DDI and SDMX	

Package:	12. Streamlining Standards	SHOULD
Goal:	Identify the additional standards needed for the modernisation of official statistics, using and adapting existing standards where possible, and identifying gaps.	
Delivers:	Centralised point of access to the necessary standards and supporting material Recommendations for maintenance or creation of standards	

Package:	13. Quality	COULD
Goal:	Effective quality management in a modernised statistical system	
Delivers:	First proposals and plans	

(v) Communications

Package:	14. Communication within Statistical Organisations	MUST
Goal:	Ensure effective communication of HLG-BAS work throughout statistical organisations	
Delivers:	Communication plan for use by statistical organisations Materials such as posters, videos, presentations, scenarios	

Package:	15. Public Outreach and Communication	MUST
Goal:	Raised awareness of external stakeholders (public, governments) and strategic partners in the wider information industry, of the importance of official statistics and the modernisation thereof.	
Delivers:	External communication strategy Material to be used in communications, examples Networks and communities with common aims	