

UNECE Metadata Glossary: Update on Progress

Dan Gillman

US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Glossary Scope

- Create glossary of terms
 - ▶ UNECE statistical metadata standards
 - GSIM, GSBPM, GAMSO, CSPA, etc.
- Disseminate in user-friendly format
- Work begun in 2015
- Long break
 - ▶ Dec 2017 – Feb 2019

Work – Who and What

- Who is involved?
 - ▶ Current
 - Canada, Eurostat, ILO, Italy, Mexico, US
 - ▶ Formerly
 - Korea, Norway, and Sweden
- Work completed
 - ▶ GAMS0 – terms and definitions revised
 - ▶ GSBPM – terms and definitions revised

Current Work

- Complications
 - ▶ GAMS0 / GSBPM work took too long
 - ▶ Part of reason for hiatus
- Expedited reviews now include
 - ▶ Check spelling, use British English
 - ▶ Check form of terms and definitions
 - ▶ Conduct technical review of definitions
 - Problem found?
 - Contact responsible group

Writing Definitions

- Definitions – rules
 - ▶ Short, precise, and same style
 - ▶ Not circular
 - ▶ No leading articles or capitals
 - ▶ No sentences
 - ▶ Only one concept
 - ▶ Essential nature of concept
 - E.g., intensional definition - define using
 - broader concept
 - delimiting characteristics

Working Arrangements

- Working framework
 - ▶ Telecon meetings every 3 weeks
 - ▶ Maintain glossary in spreadsheet
 - ▶ Use following fields:
 - term, standard, definition, explanatory notes
 - alphabetize by term
 - ▶ Begin with GSIM
 - Use clickable v1.2 as reference
 - ▶ Will then go to CSPA

Problem Uncovered

■ Problems - example

- ▶ Activity (GAMSO) versus Process (GSBPM)
 - GSBPM is part of GAMSO
 - <GAMSO> Activity = <GSBPM> Process
- ▶ But
 - Informal description
 - Activity: WHAT we do
 - Process: HOW we do it
 - Capability: what ENABLES us
- ▶ Therefore, don't fit together

Resolution to Problem

- Resolution
 - ▶ Not Glossary Team's problem
 - ▶ Up to technical groups
 - GAMSO and GSBPM
- Consequence for Glossary Group
 - ▶ Need to work more quickly
 - ▶ Stay away from technical issues
 - ▶ Focus on glossary / terminology issues
 - Especially form of definitions

Future

- Schedule

- ▶ Complete review of GSIM terms
- ▶ Complete review of CSPA terms
- ▶ Include comments if necessary
- ▶ Finish by end of 2019

Contact Information

Dan Gillman

+1.202.691.7523

gillman.daniel@bls.gov

<https://www.bls.gov/osmr>