



GSIM Task Team Report

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What is GSIM?

- The Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) is a reference framework for statistical information and provides a set of standardised, consistently described information objects.
- It provides an extensive coverage of statistical information objects and is used across several statistical agencies around the world.
- It also provides standardised inputs and outputs to the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), a reference framework for statistical processes.
- Current version is 1.2

Why The Task Team?

- As more and more agencies use GSIM, they uncover and report inconsistencies, ambiguities, errors, etc. that arise from:
 - challenges in implementing the model
 - different interpretations of the model
- The Metadata Glossary task teams provided feedback for improving the model and making it consistent with the other Modern Stats Models: GAMSO (Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations), GSBPM, and CSPA (Common Statistical Production Architecture) documentation
- Also, the Linking GSIM and GSBPM task team has flagged some concerns
- To address all these issues, there is a need for a dedicated team hence this task team

What is our direction?

- By April 2020, statistical organisations that are part of the GSIM community voted on four suggested work areas:
 1. “Soft updates” of GSIM to clarify ambiguous points and fix minor errors
 - more significant errors need to be compiled for the next GSIM revision
 2. Review of GSIM User Guide (2012)
 - update it to reflect changes made in GSIM v1.2 and recent experience
 3. Review of other GSIM supporting documents
 - e.g. Specification, Communication
 4. Extension of GSIM Group(s)
 - Structure Group, Business Group

What is our agreed workload?

- Updates with inputs from Supporting Standards Group task teams
 - Metadata Glossary task team
 - Linking GSBPM and GSIM task team
- Updates from issues raised by statistical agencies in the discussion forum
 - Prioritised list
- Updates on the communication paper to align with current version of GSIM, v1.2
 - Essential, as it describes why organisations want to use GSIM
- Updates on the GSIM User Guide and User Specification
 - As they will have to align with the version that will result from the task team work

How do we proceed?

- Conference calls through WebEx
 - chaired by Francine Kalonji and Flavio Rizzolo, both from Statistics Canada
 - first meeting on June 26th, 2020
 - frequency: every three weeks, but adjusted as needed
 - 22 members have joined from Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Norway and USA
- Issues are compiled on the UNECE Stats Wiki by Inkyung Choi (UNECE secretariat)
 - Based on agreed priorities, and shared with the team
- Team decides on which issue to tackle first
- Discussions incur, thoughts are exchanged, members are consulted for a collective decision, the outcome is logged, action items are assigned when required
- Some interventions happen offline via email if the discussion is too long for the meeting
 - Outcomes are always discussed during meetings

Participating members by countries

Country	Member
Canada	Francine Kalonji – Chair Flavio Rizzolo - Chair Farrah Sanjari
Italy	Giorgia Simeoni Mauro Scanu Laura Tosco Orietta Luzi Cecilia Casagrande Marina Signore (observer)
Mexico	Juan Munoz
Norway	Jenny Linnerud

Country	Member
Hungary	Zoltan Vereczkei Csaba Ábry Józsefné Ferencz Éva Ender Hajósné Andrea Petres
Finland	Essi Kaukonen Mikko Saloila
Australia	Alistair Hamilton
France	Florian Vucko
USA	Dan Gillman Christopher N Carrino

Communication paper

- Work led by Inkyung Choi, Jenny Linnerud (Statistics Norway) and Juan Muñoz (INEGI, Mexico)
- Based on version 1.1, it was updated to align with version 1.2
- Reviewed by the team
 - Garnered very good and comprehensive feedback
- Input was discussed during the August 20th, 2020 meeting as well as offline
- Updated and published on the wiki at the beginning of October 2020

Changes from Metadata Glossary task team

- Advised to follow convention for definitions
 - UK English spelling
 - No leading articles, be able to substitute grammatically for the term, start with lowercase and no ending dot, doesn't start with concept being defined
- Proposed changes to some definitions and/or explanatory texts, where it was unclear
 - Cases where definition was too long and did not follow the convention, part was moved to explanatory text
- Identified terms for modifications when proposals were not possible
 - This will require more work on the part of the task team to come up with meaningful definitions
 - Concrete examples were also suggested to clarify some concepts
- Review started with the Base Group

Changes from Linking GSBPM and GSIM task team

- Misinterpretations of GSIM definitions were also reported by this task team
- Started with Business Group
 - e.g. In mapping Information Objects to *Transformable Input*, one element in the definition led to inconsistent mappings of information objects by different countries.
 - ❖ A type of *Process Input* whose content goes into a *Process Step* and **is changed** in some way by the execution of that *Process Step*.
 - Proposition to change the *Transformable Input* to *Main Input*
 - Proposition to change its definition
 - ❖ *Main Input*: main *Process Input* used to produce a *Transformed Output* where **some or all its content may be changed** by the execution.
- Details on other reported information objects can be found on the wiki

Impact

- Changes must be looked at as whole because of the connection between information objects
 - To ensure the meaning/harmonisation of connected objects is not altered
- Impact on GSIM implementations
 - Change in names of the information objects
 - Change in definitions (the mapping may have to be altered)
 - ❖ It is the case of the work in Linking GSBPM and GSIM
 - Structural changes (for this revision, they are done, only if absolutely necessary)
- Aim for minimal impact, for this revision
 - Whenever possible
- Input from countries effected by the modifications is very encouraged

Useful Links

- CSPA: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/CSPA>
- GAMSO: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/GAMSO>
- GSBPM: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/GSBPM>
- GSIM Communication Paper:
<https://statswiki.unece.org/display/gsim/GSIM+v1.2+Communication+Paper>
- GSIM Task Team: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/Standards/GSIM%3A+Home>
- GSIM: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/gsim>
- Metadata Glossary:
<https://statswiki.unece.org/display/hlgbas/Statistical+Metadata+Glossary>
- Stats Wiki: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/Standards/GSIM%3A+Home>