UNECE High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics



Business Case for Application of GSBPM for Geospatial Information

This business case was prepared by Supporting Standards Group and is submitted to the HLG-MOS for their approval.

Type of Activity				
	New project		New activity	
	Extension of existing project	\boxtimes	Extension of existing activity	

Purpose

Potential of geospatial information to enrich statistical information is gaining great interest within official statistical community. Geo-referenced data allow spatial analysis and spatial visualization of statistical data, which can render new insights that tabulated data alone cannot provide. Geospatial information can be used to link economic, social and environmental statistics that is essential to solve increasingly complex problems such as urbanization, climate change, etc. Standards widely used in the official statistics community, like SDMX, are being incorporating features that allows them include this kind of information.

To ensure good quality of geospatial information and its integration with statistical information, it is needed to make sure that necessary activities to collect, process and analyse geospatial information are taken at the right stage throughout the production process. GSBPM is a de-facto standard for statistical production process model and hence an ideal tool to document activities needed for geospatial information during the production. The purpose of this activity is to provide a guidance on how to use GSBPM to incorporate geospatial information for statistical production process.

Description of the activity

In the early 2020, a task team consisted of GSBPM experts and geospatial experts was created under the Supporting Standards Group. The task team also includes experts working in other international groups such as UN-GGIM, Eurostat GEOSTAT4 project and IAEG-SDG which facilitates alignment with other standards and initiatives. In the first few meetings, the task team agreed to focus on two use cases of geospatial information in statistical organisations: 1) to produce geospatially-enabled statistics; 2) support the statistical production, and develop a document describing geospatial-related activities using GSBPM. As of October 2020, the task team finished the work until Phase 5.

By April in 2021, the task team aims to cover the remaining phases and finalise the document including a brief review of overarching and corporate-level geospatial-related activities (i.e. GSBPM overarching process and GAMSO activities respectively).

Alternatives considered

The alternative would be non-action which would result in the incomplete work.

How does it relate to the HLG-MOS vision and other activities under the HLG-MOS?

Geospatial information can greatly increase relevance of official statistics by providing spatially disaggregated data that are more informative and actionable for policy-makers. GSBPM has been used as a common reference framework within and between many statistical organizations. The geospatial view of GSBPM can facilitate the integration of geospatial information into statistical production process. The task team work also can demonstrate how flexible GSBPM is and the model can be used with new data (geospatial data), new processes and services.

Proposed start and end dates				
Start: January 2021	End: April 2021			