**UNECE High-level Group for the
Modernisation of Official Statistics**

**Business case for Metadata Glossary**

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| This business case was prepared by the Metadata Glossary Group and is submitted to the HLG-MOS for their approval. |

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| **1 Purpose** |
| The metadata glossary is intended to be a central, unified, and definitive source for the terms and definitions contained in the various standard models managed under HLG-MOS. Included are GSIM, GSBPM, GAMSO, and CSPA. The glossary will also serve as the source of disambiguation between the same spellings with (slightly) different meanings contained across the standards (homographs), and will serve as the source of identifying terms of different spellings with similar or the same meanings across the standards (synonyms). |
| **2 Description of the activity** |
| To conduct the work, group participants bring their knowledge of statistical practice and the expertise around the particular standards under consideration. This deep understanding allows group members to analyse definitions, identify nuances between similar ideas, and arrive at consensus (among the group) wording that captures and conveys the intended meaning.The output of the Metadata Glossary Group will be an alphabetically organized list or terms, their definitions, sources for the definitions, source of the term (in which standard(s) does it appear), explanatory text that further contextualizes the meaning, and references to other similar, broader, and narrower terms. Other more complex ways of organizing the glossary can be pursued at a later date.The Metadata Glossary Group completed work to incorporate the terms from GAMSO and has completed all the Phases and half the Sub-processes in GSBPM. The Group will operate on an accelerated schedule for the rest of this calendar year to complete GSBPM by December 2017The Group intends to complete their work by the following dates:* GSIM by July 2018
* CSPA by December 2018
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| **3 Alternatives considered** |
| The work is explicitly devoted to the terms contained in GSIM, GSBPM, GAMSO, and CSPA. Though some of these standards may contain a glossary of its own, a unified glossary with the characteristics described above does not currently exist. Users of HLG-MOS models will be put to a disadvantage if the glossary is not built. |
| **4 Expected Benefits** |
|[ ]  Reduced costs |
|[x]  Increased efficiency |
|[x]  Reduced risks |
|[x]  New capabilities to meet user needs |
| Benefits of the Metadata Glossary include* Increased efficiency in understanding individual HLG-MOS standards, in the ability to understand how two or more of those standards can be used together, the ability to build systems based on these standards, and interoperability (data, semantics, and metadata) among NSOs
* Reduced risks result for the greater understanding of the intent behind the standards, which results in more effective systems designed and built
* Implementation of GSIM, GSBPM, GAMSO, and CSPA individually and together still represent a large change to the way many NSOs do business. Implementing these standards ultimately help users with the data NSOs produce.
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| **5 Type of Activity** |
|[ ]  New activity |
|[x]  Extension of existing activity |
|[ ]  Other *(specify below)* |
| This activity is a continuation of existing activity. However, it is also an extension because the work follows the existing standards, incorporates changes the revision groups recommend, and recommends changes back to the revision groups especially if definitions are imprecise.. |
| **6 Which key priorities in the HLG-MOS Strategic Framework does the proposed project relate to?** |
|[x]  Take cost out of our organisations to reinvest in more value added areas |
|[ ]  Explore new areas collectively and leverage each other’s' research investments in specific areas |
|[x]  Provide whole of government data ecosystems based on international standards, for better estimates in key policy areas |
|[ ]  Renew our governance and operating processes |
| The metadata glossary will provide a more accurate and richer understanding of the terms and concepts in each of the HLG-MOS models – GSIM, GSBPM, GAMSO, and CSPA. The usability of the models is increased because the metadata glossary supports better understanding of the models and their relationships. The ability to build more pervasive metadata driven systems within and across NSOs is enhanced, in large part due to the increased ability to make the standards work together. |
| 7 How does the proposed activity relate to other activities under the HLG-MOS? |
| The Metadata Glossary relates directly to GSIM, GSBPM, GAMSO, and CSPA. |
| **8 Proposed start and end dates** |
| **Start:** December 2017**End:** December 2018 |
| **9 Expected costs** |
| A small group of experts working virtually |