

Meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts

23-25 April 2024, Geneva

CALL FOR PAPERS

Countries and international organizations are invited to provide papers and/or presentations on the topics to be discussed during the meeting. We welcome the sharing of countries' practices, compilations challenges, experience in developing new, innovative data sources and estimation methods as well as feedback from communicating the new estimates with policy users and main stakeholders.

If your office would like to submit a contribution, please send a short abstract via email to national.accounts@un.org by **1 December 2023**. The session organizers will review the abstracts and select the contributions that will be presented at the meeting.

Selected documents will be translated in the UNECE official languages English, French and Russian provided they are received by **2 February 2024**.

The Group of Experts on National Accounts will discuss the following substantive topics:

- **Session 1: Towards 2025 SNA**

The Project Manager and Lead Editor will report on progress with drafting chapters, focusing on the outcomes from the UNSC. Further, the Communication Task Team Lead will report on progress since the previous meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts in April 2023. In the end of the session the research agenda of the 2025 SNA and a way forward with communicating macroeconomic information alongside social and environmental developments will be discussed.

The session will also look at new developments in the areas of Measuring intangible assets and natural capital in 2025 SNA, Globalization, Digitalization, and Well-being and sustainability. It will pay specific attention to the practical issues in early implementation, guidance developed and country examples. The following topics would be covered:

Measuring intangible assets and natural capital in 2025 SNA will focus on the implementation of recommendations pertaining to intangible assets and natural capital in the 2025 SNA. The session will explore best practices and discuss specific challenges encountered during compilation / early implementation of the draft recommendations. For intangible assets, the possible topics include the measurement of data assets, marketing assets, (avoiding) double counting of intangible assets. For natural capital, topics include the valuation of non-renewable mineral and energy resources, renewable energy resources, biological resources, cost of depletion and the split-asset approach. Countries are invited to share their work in these areas and/or to discuss specific compilation challenges they face or foresee in some of these work streams.

Globalization will focus on areas identified for early implementation and recent efforts to develop new analytical tools and statistics. These new statistics should support the recommendations of the joint globalization task team (GZTT) for the 2025 SNA and provide useful information on topics such as extended supply and use tables (eSUTs), Trade in Value Added (TiVA), the role of foreign controlled enterprises and other

multinational enterprises (MNEs), other topics related to global supply chains, and the role of Special Purpose Entities (SPEs.). In describing these efforts, countries are encouraged to share experiences in areas such as linking microdata, using new data sources and estimation methods, and responses of external stakeholders. For additional information from the Joint Globalization Task Team, please visit this website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/snaupdate/gztt.asp>

Digitalization will focus on related topics that feature prominently in the 2025 SNA, including artificial intelligence, cloud computing, digital intermediation platforms, the production and consumption of free digital products, crypto assets and non-fungible tokens, and the development of digital economy satellite accounts. Contributions are also welcome on price and volume measurement of digital goods and services. The session would aim to share countries' experiences on early implementation of the related recommendations, stimulating a discussion on data sources, estimation methods, and how the stakeholder community is responding to the increased visibility of the digital economy in macroeconomic statistics. For additional information from the Digitalization Task Team, please visit this website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/snaupdate/dztt.asp>

Well-being and sustainability will focus on the implementation of recommendations in the area of well-being and sustainability as part of the 2025 SNA, exploring best practices and discussing specific challenges in compiling results related to unpaid household activities, distributional accounts, health care, education and human capital and environmental-economic issues as well as learning from countries on how to best present these results in coherence. Countries are invited to share their work in these areas and/or to discuss specific compilation challenges they face or foresee in some of these work streams. For additional information from the Well-being and Sustainability Task Team, please visit this website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/snaupdate/wstt.asp>

- **Session 2: Improvement of measures of consumption of fixed capital**

This session will focus on recent work to improve measures of depreciation or consumption of fixed capital (CFC). Measures of CFC will become more important because the 2025 SNA will give more prominence to net income and growth measures, such as net domestic product (NDP), that are net of CFC. They are also closely linked to the measurement of capital stocks. However, accurate measures of CFC are hard to obtain because they require specialized data sets, modelling assumptions and complex methodologies. Countries are encouraged to share recent research, experiences with research methods, data sources, and implementation, and comparative cross-country studies of estimates and methods.

- **Session 3: Sub-national (or regional) accounts**

Increasingly, users are requesting more granular data. Sub-national (or regional) data are of particular importance. Sub-national data provides important information on the socio-economic health of various parts of a country and is increasingly sought to make policy decisions, investment decisions and is valued by the regions themselves. This session will highlight work that has been done in the area of regional data, the challenges in measuring activity at such a level of granularity and solutions to these challenges. Broader issues to consider are: data availability within and across regions, ensuring representativeness without sacrificing precision, aggregation of regional data to a consistent national total, and mitigating biases and maintaining confidentiality that can often impact regional datasets. Countries are invited to share their experiences with measuring regional data and highlight work that has been done in this domain.

- **Session 4: Main revisions and benchmarking – policy and practice**

This session will focus on country experiences with conducting comprehensive and/or benchmark revisions and identifying ways to improve the process going forward. Benchmarking statistics to periodic dated economic censuses is extremely costly to national statistical offices and places substantial burden on census respondents. Current practices should be carefully evaluated, including weighing pros and cons for conducting existing benchmarking practices. Alternative methods should be presented, potentially using real-time “big” data, machine-learning techniques, administrative data, etc. Countries are encouraged to share their experiences, with an eye toward future plans to better meet customer’s needs.