



Regional Seminar on System of National Accounts (SNA) Update Programme

Concept Note

Economic, Infrastructure and Agriculture Statistics Section
African Centre for Statistics
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Background

Following the remote meetings of the global Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts held in April 2021, the UNSD and UN-ECA are organizing a series of online regional seminars to inform the Member States the status and the process of updating the System of National Accounts (SNA), the scope of the research under development, and the experimental implementation component of the new methodological guidelines at the country level.

Regarding the SNA update Programme, it was agreed, among other things, i) on the regional approach to conducting assessments and experimental estimates of proposed new guidance; ii) on the need to have a clear classification of the recommendations in relation to their impact on the “core accounts”; iii) on the benefits of conducting the baseline assessment, where relevant, based on the minimum requirements to implement the recommendations in the guidance notes; and iv) on the need to develop experimental estimates in a wide range of countries at different stages of development. These efforts will help to assess the value of new measures and potentially build momentum and inform for future investments.

On economic statistics, it was advised to adopt a user driven approach in releasing experimental statistics on new methodological developments by national statistical systems; and thus adopt a more continuous update process for manuals on national accounts and other domains of economic statistics.

Accordingly, the first online information seminar is scheduled on 17 June 2021.

Purpose and Objectives

The main objective of this seminar is to inform Member States about the status of 2008 SNA update and the way forward.

The specific objectives of the online seminar are that, by the end of the workshop, participants will have a better understanding of the following topics:

- 2008 SNA update overview: procedures, endorsement, and timeline;
- Task Teams and Guidance Notes: research topics and status;
- Assessment and Experimental Estimates: initiative, current implementation status, and outreach.

Activities

To achieve these objectives, the information seminar will be organised into four sessions:

- 1) 2008 SNA update overview
- 2) Task Teams and Guidance Notes
- 3) Assessment and Experimental Estimates/Early Implementation
- 4) Meeting wrap-up and way forward



During the information seminar in June 2021, a survey will be conducted among countries in order to collect the topics that interest them and their degree of interest to be part of the pilot countries for experimental testing of new recommendations. The questionnaire will be posted online for those countries that could not attend the seminar but would like to respond.

Based on the survey responses, up to two additional regional technical webinars will be scheduled. The main objectives of these webinars will be to present the recommendations contained in the methodological guidance notes, the scope of their impact as well as the strategy for their implementation. The tentative plan is to organize the first one regional technical webinar on a group of topics in September/October 2021 (e.g. well-being and sustainability + Digitalization), and the second regional technical webinar on a different set of topics in November/December 2021 (e.g. Globalization + Informal Economy). Each of which will be for 2-3 hours and in one day.

After the selection of the pilot countries for the experimental testing, technical assistance will be organized to support these pilot countries for implementation according to the selected topics. The specific modalities of the technical assistance will be discussed with the pilot countries later.

Participants

Participants will be invited from all members State who will be in charge of National Accounts. Invitation will also be sent to the agencies and development partners in the region.

Date and Venue

The online seminar is planned for one day and will take place to 17 June 2021. It will be conducted with simultaneous interpretation between English and French.

Contact Persons

Issues related to the organisation and administrative arrangements of the project, please contact:

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