

Virtual Meeting of the IWGPS

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Minutes

Participants: Carsten Boldsen (UNECE); Brian E. Graf (IMF); Valentina Stoevska (ILO), Paulus Konijn (Eurostat); Svetoslava Pavlova (Eurostat); Jarmila Botev (OECD); Federico Polidoro (World Bank).

1. Management of Alternative Data Sources e-Handbook, of classification guidelines and of training materials about to be published by UNTT on scanner data.

- a. The UN Task Team on scanner data (a Task Team of the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics) sent a note to IWGPS on the 25th of September about the perspective of the management of E-handbook, classification guidelines and training materials that are the three main outputs of the work done by the TT and that are about to be published on the UN statistics wiki and UN learning platform.
- b. Federico (WB), who is also part of the Steering Committee of the TT, illustrated the main contents of the note, that is broken down by four main parts: Background, Achievements of the UN Task Team on Scanner Data, Sustain and build on the achievements, Next steps. He clarified that the coverage of the work conducted by the TT was about all the Alternative Data Sources (ADS; scanner, web scraped and administrative data) for CPI compilation and not only about scanner data.
- c. The focus of the presentation and of the discussion was on the proposal of the UNTT “to make a post available (a Secretariat) at the IWGPS (with the co-participation of the international organizations making up the group). The Secretariat would operate in strict connection with the UNTT. It would be coordinated by one of the international agencies, with the role of lead of this Secretariat rotating on a triennial (or with other frequency) basis”.
- d. IWGPS strongly appreciated the work done by the UNTT but, at the end of the discussion, decided to decline the proposal to create such a Secretariat, mainly because the perspective of having a permanent structure supported by IWGPS to manage E-handbook, classification guidelines and training materials on the use of ADS for CPI compilation, is out of scope of its mission. In addition, IWGPS has not resources to invest.
- e. Federico (WB) was charged to draft the answer to the note sent by UNTT and to circulate it amongst the members of the IWGPS for their review and comments before sending to the UNTT.

2. Follow up on the Voorburg Group and PPI methodologies.

- a. Carsten (UNECE) summed up the strengths of the papers of the Voorburg group brought to the attention of the IWGPS.
- b. The IWGPS welcomed the work of the Voorburg Group to develop a framework for utilizing CPI sub-indices in the production of PPIs, as laid out in the two documents: Alignment of

Methodology and Scope between Services Producer Price Indices (SPPIs) and Consumer Price Indices (CPIs): Developing a framework for using CPIs in SPPI calculation (2022) and Modernising CPI production – PPI as an Official User (2023).

- c. It is useful to consider different price indices, e.g., CPI and PPI, as parts of a broader system of price indices. This can help to ensure consistency across indices, exploring synergies and optimizing resources in the production of price indices. The use of CPIs in the production of PPIs has the potential to reduce production costs and response burden and is practice in a number of countries. The work of the Voorburg Group is helpful in developing guidance to countries to support sound practices in this regard and the quality of the resulting price indices.
- d. The suggested framework presents conceptual and measurement differences between CPI and PPI, including price concepts and valuation principles, geographical coverage and coverage of products (goods and services) that must be considered and adjusted for to ensure consistent practices when applying CPIs in the production of PPIs. The use of SUTs to identify suitable CPIs for use in PPIs and the mapping of COICOP to classifications used in PPIs (ISIC, CPC, CPA) to guide the selection of CPIs and imputations are helpful tools for index compilers.
- e. The IWGPS agreed to:
 - Review the two documents. Brian, Federico and Carsten agreed to draft comments and forward them to VBG after circulation to the IWGPS for a quick round of comments.
 - Include the documents (or a link to the documents) on the IWGPS website.
 - Incorporate the material in the update of the PPI Manual.

3. AOB

- a. Carsten (UNECE) raised the point of the state of play of COICOP 2018. Paul (Eurostat) will remind UNSD about the need for the release of the final version of COICOP 2018 and correspondence tables with COICOP 1999 and CPC and will inform the IWGPS.
- b. Valentina (ILO) informed the IWGPS that by the end of November the web page of the group will be updated, and the minutes of the meeting uploaded.