

Partner Reporting on Support to Statistics (PRESS)

Task Team Meeting – March 10, 2008

Minutes

1. The sixth meeting of the Task Team on the Partner Reporting on Support to Statistics was held on March 10, 2008 at the offices of the PARIS21 Secretariat. Participants to the meeting were: Morag Ottens of Eurostat, Phil Cockerill of DFID, Petteri Baer of UNECE, Valérie Gaveau of OECD, Christophe Duhamel, Jean-Marc Landais, Marc Tocatlian, and Adriana De Leva of PARIS21. Naoko Watanabe of the World Bank (by video-conference), Simon Scott of OECD DCD-STAT and Antoine Simonpietri of PARIS21 joined the afternoon session of the meeting.
2. The discussion focused on three key items for moving forward on the PRESS, namely the questionnaire, the development of a data processing application for the information collected by the PRESS, and the content of a PRESS annual report. The Team was de-briefed on the main conclusion of the CCSA meeting on February 25, 2008, namely that the development of the PRESS continue and that a draft report on the first round of the PRESS be distributed in early June 2008. The final report of the PRESS would be presented to the CCSA in its September 2008 session in Tunis. It should be noted that the CCSA was yet again recognizant of the positive work of the PRESS Task Team.

PRESS Questionnaire

3. A draft PRESS questionnaire, reflecting the Team's discussion over the last year and the experiences of Eurostat and UNECE, formed the basis of the discussion. The meeting also reviewed the draft questionnaire prepared by UNECE for its upcoming reporting survey in the Central Asian countries. One useful feature from the latter questionnaire that could be incorporated into the PRESS questionnaire in future rounds is the inclusion of previous reported activities by a particular partner. This would give respondents a basis for completing the questionnaire and allow any necessary changes to previous activities.
4. The meeting agreed on the draft PRESS questionnaire that would consist of three parts: (i) a general information sheet; (ii) a project/programme information sheet for each partner activity; and (iii) an information sheet for future activities. It was also agreed that the cover sheet of the questionnaire would include a sentence to the effect that the results of the questionnaire would be tabulated and sent back to each respondent for review before presenting them in a summary report. The information sheet on future activities would also include a question on statistical areas. The Word-based questionnaire will be transformed into a tabulated questionnaire that could be sent to non-CRS partners no later than end-March 2008. As agreed in the January 2008 meeting, for CRS partners, the questionnaire would be sent to PARIS21 contacts, namely representatives of the statistical agency and development agency, to request current year and future commitments (the questionnaire would not be sent to CRS correspondents, but they would be kept informed of the results). Information on past activities (2001-06) for OECD bilateral countries has already been extracted from the CRS and tabulated for the PRESS.

Data processing application

5. The meeting agreed that the PARIS21 Secretariat would work with staff from OECD's DCD-STAT to find an appropriate solution for processing and managing PRESS information.

PRESS annual report

6. The Team agreed to the draft outline of the PRESS annual report, but suggested the following for the section on Conclusions:

- analyze, to the extent possible, trends in support to statistics
- identify areas that might require more in-depth analysis
- suggest some good practice with regard to partner coordination on statistics, either within recipient countries or among partners
- indicate lessons learned from the results of the questionnaire, as well as from the whole PRESS process.

Work Programme of Task Team – March-June 2008

7. The Task Team agreed to meet on June 17, 2008 to review progress and finalize the PRESS annual report. Comments on the draft report would be provided electronically.

8. Table 2 presents the Team's work programme for the period March-June 2008, based on the above discussions:

Table 2: PRESS – Work Programme, March-June 2008

Activity	Responsible	Calendar
Transform Word-based questionnaire into tabulated questionnaire	Tocatlian / Thielemans / De Leva	March 21
Send questionnaire to non-CRS partners for global coverage	De Leva/Gallelli	Week: March 24
For CRS partners, request current year and future commitments from P21 contacts	De Leva/Gallelli	Week: March 31
Develop and test data processing application	Tocatlian / Thielemans / TT	Mid-April
Process and tabulate results	De Leva/Landais	By end-April
Review of tabulated information by partners	Partners	Early May
Draft PRESS annual report on results	De Leva	Mid-May
Review draft report	TT + P21 Sect.	Mid-May
Present draft report to P21 Steering Committee meeting	P21 Sect	June 5-6
Next Task Team meeting	TT	June 17