

National Accounts data sharing between international organizations

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International organisations (IOs) have been regularly encouraged by Member States to investigate how to streamline existing data exchanges in order to reduce the reporting burden of national statistical authorities and to ensure the consistency of the statistics necessary to support macroeconomic policy.

During 2012 the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics (IAG) has discussed several times the key elements for a successful global data sharing and launched in early 2013 task forces, charged with the development of two pilot projects (1) one for a detailed dataset of institutional sector accounts for G-20 economies; and (2) another one covering GDP, expenditure components and population for a wider representation of global economies. The purpose of these pilots is, by end-2013, to define and test an efficient framework for collecting, disseminating and, where necessary, validating economic and financial statistics amongst IOs. This framework should ensure that the data shown in the databases of the IOs are consistent and of the highest quality, hence improving communication towards users and the public at large. Moreover, such data would also permit the compilation of global aggregates. While in the beginning this transmission of the datasets between the IOs in “push mode” may still be necessary, the SDMX technology would later on permit that data are automatically “pulled” by the computers of the respective IOs offering additional efficiency gains in the medium term. In the meantime, a forthcoming service level agreement between Eurostat and OECD on the exchange of data can be seen as a concrete example on how international data sharing can improve the arrangements for the data collection, validation and dissemination in the area of national accounts and deliver more consistent, high quality data to the users.

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