



## **SDMX STATISTICAL GUIDELINES**

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### **Standardising Reference Metadata Reporting in SDMX**

Details and Implementation Examples

**Version 1.0 - 28/6/2019**

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1.0	28/6/2019	Initial version

The goal of this guideline is to increase the efficiency of reference metadata exchange between statistical agencies, and for dissemination (where the consumer may not be known). The quality and timeliness of reference metadata exchange may be improved and harmonised, thereby enabling statistical data to be described more thoroughly in a comparable way using automated, shared systems.

This guideline includes a Global Reference Metadata Concept Scheme (hereafter referred to as “Global MCS”) that enumerates a standard list of reference metadata concepts. The Global MCS is not sufficient to implement an exchange; therefore, the document also describes how to derive implementation structures from the Global MCS.

By following the guideline, the same tools and mappings may be used across separate metadata flows, agencies and domains using community-driven systems, thus saving on reinvention of the same

functionality. Furthermore, the use of the Global MCS is intended to boost the automation of metadata exchange.

The Global MCS is constructed from a subset of SDMX cross-domain concepts that are related to reference metadata in the SDMX Glossary Version 2.0<sup>1</sup>. When the SDMX Glossary was compiled, all relevant reference metadata concepts were included that can be mapped to metadata frameworks used by several international organisations.

The procedure of building the Global MCS was to group the concepts relating to reference metadata into homogeneous categories, for example: Administrative Information; Scope; Statistical Processing. The categories are simply guides in this document and are not functional categories.

For each metadata concept, this document includes the definition and concept ID from the SDMX Glossary for ease of reference. To avoid unnecessary duplication, the usage context, related terms and other fields have not been included here and are available in the SDMX Glossary.

The Global MCS is available in the Global Registry to enable direct referencing.

The current situation of reference metadata exchange usually requires that, for an agency to exchange with another agency, a specific mapping between the two agencies is required. Reference metadata are provided in the following ways:

- either the providing agency maps to the consumer agency's framework and sends the metadata (provider mapping),
- or the providing agency publishes metadata using their own framework structure, and the consumer has to map the metadata to their own framework (collector mapping). This situation results in many mappings to compile and maintain which increases quickly with each new agency in the exchange, as shown here:

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<sup>1</sup> [https://sdmx.org/wp-content/uploads/SDMX\\_Glossary\\_Version\\_2\\_0\\_October\\_2018.docx](https://sdmx.org/wp-content/uploads/SDMX_Glossary_Version_2_0_October_2018.docx)

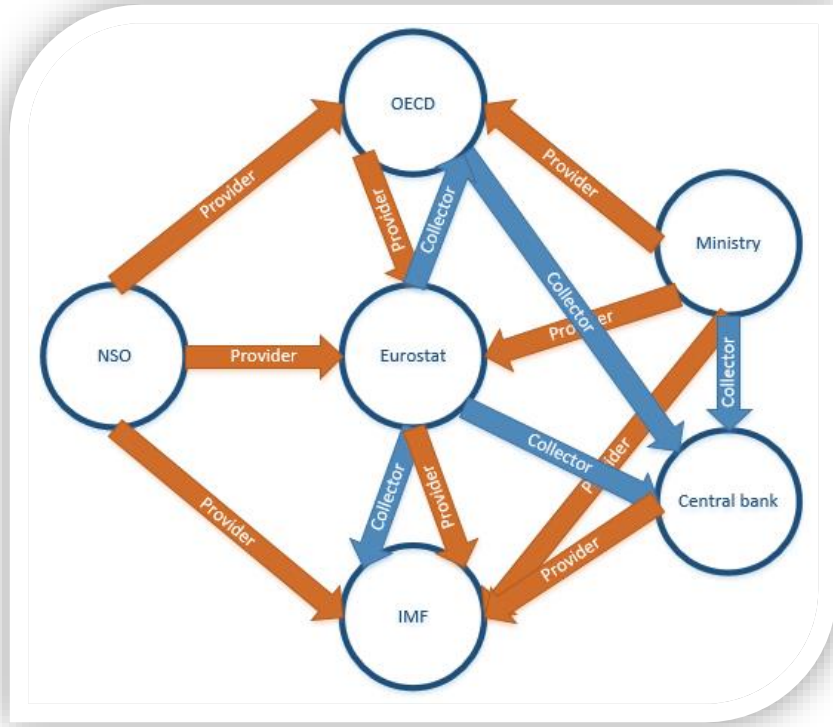


Figure 1: Without the global MCS, agencies maintain many similar mappings to other agencies metadata reference frameworks

The mapping maintenance cost grows significantly if agencies exchange metadata with each other directly.

The recommendations in this guideline are designed to alleviate this issue by replacing the direct mappings between the different local frameworks by mappings from and to the Global MCS, as in the following diagram:



Figure 2: Agencies will map to and from the Global MCS rather than implement the concepts directly. The two-colour mapping arrows indicate that each agency needs to map to the Global MCS for dissemination (orange), and from the Global MCS for collection (blue)

It is important to note that this Global MCS guideline recommends that statistical agencies should not have to change their own internal metadata framework in order to implement and benefit from the Global MCS.

### Implementation Artefacts

The Global MCS may be considered as an “abstract” artefact – it cannot be used directly to define the structure of reference metadata messages, validate and exchange them. Instead, “implementation artefacts” must be created that derive from the Global MCS. These artefacts may be Metadata Structure Definitions (MSDs), or Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) (usually in attributes).

There are certain advantages to implementing reference metadata exchange using either artefact:

FEATURES	Use MSD	Use DSD
Reuse an instance of metadata, attaching it to multiple artefacts	Yes	No
Exchange metadata separately from data	Yes	Possible <sup>2</sup>
Define metadata for artefact types which are not a dataset	Yes	No
Relate/exchange metadata tightly with data	No	Yes
Use same SDMX tools as for data exchange	No	Yes
Reduce amount of artefacts to implement	Maybe <sup>3</sup>	Yes

Table 1: Advantages of implementing reference metadata exchange using DSDs or MSDs

To simplify this guideline, the implementation artefact referred to from this point will be an MSD; however the points would apply if a DSD was chosen for the implementation.

The Global MCS encompasses all SDMX reference metadata concepts; however, some of them may not be relevant for a metadata exchange program; therefore, implementation structures will likely be created that use a subset of the MCS concepts. If required in special cases, reference metadata concepts that are not in the Global MCS may be added to the MSDs – however, such additions will result in non-standard exchanges so this should be used with caution. If the added concepts are considered to be cross-domain in character, please refer to the section on Maintenance of the Global Metadata Concept Scheme.

The figure 3 below shows the relationship between the Global MCS , the derived MSDs for implementation, and a possible custom MCS:

- The green Custom MSD is a typical subset of metadata concepts that will be implemented;
- The light blue Custom MCS is a subset of metadata concepts that may have further MSDs derived from it;
- The purple Custom MSD contains some concepts from the Global MCS but has also been extended with other metadata concepts.

<sup>2</sup> It is possible to exchange metadata separately from data using a DSD by querying using the detail=nodata parameter

<sup>3</sup> This may be possible, depending on the current implementation such as if an MSD is already implemented

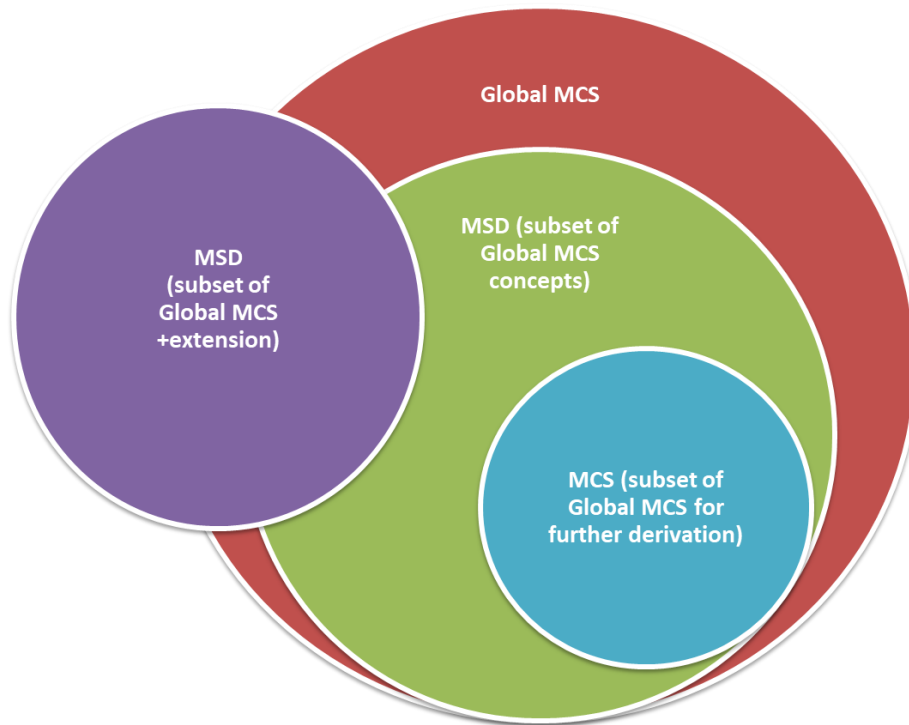


Figure 3: Examples of deriving MSDs/MCSs and extending the Global MCS concepts

The figure 4 below shows how the above MCSs and MSDs can be used for various implementations:

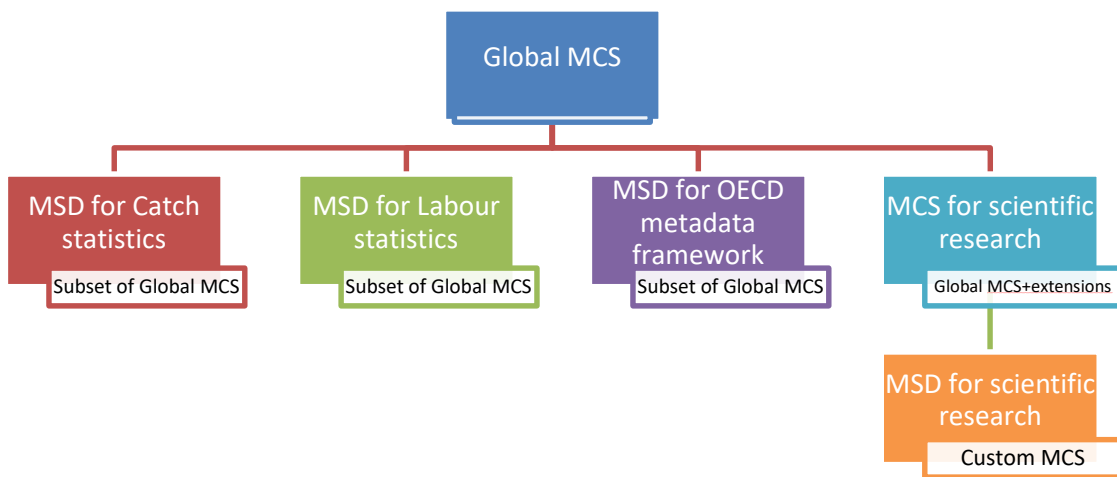


Figure 4: Examples of creating custom MSDs for example use cases.

The Global MCS is domain independent, and is designed to cover the typical cross-domain metadata frameworks that most official statistical agencies have implemented. In order to create and exchange metadata messages that can be validated, an MSD must exist. It is likely that metadata repositories and exchange frameworks only require a subset of all concepts, therefore custom MSDs will usually be created to limit the full set of concepts; for example, if a branch of social statistics only uses a subset of the Global MCS concepts, a custom MSD should be created for the social statistics branch reference metadata.



As mentioned above, the concepts in the Global MCS may be implemented as data message attributes. To make the choice, there are certain factors to consider as mentioned in *Table 1: Advantages of implementing reference metadata exchange using DSDs or MSDs*

There may also be some cases where an exchange program may have some reference metadata described by MSDs and some in DSDs; whichever architecture is chosen requires a thorough analysis beforehand.

Some example use cases that would require the creation of a MSD with concepts outside of the Global MCS (an extension) are:

- where the reference metadata concepts to exchange are very domain-specific, and/or;
- this version of the Global MCS does not cover the type of reference metadata (e.g. detailed quality metadata).

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In order to avoid a large impact on existing systems, this section describes how an agency can avoid changes to its metadata framework when implementing the recommendations in the guideline.

Figure 5 below shows the process involved in a theoretical implementation when sending metadata from a metadata provider (ILO) to a collector (OECD) using an MSD for Labour statistics that was derived from the Global MCS:

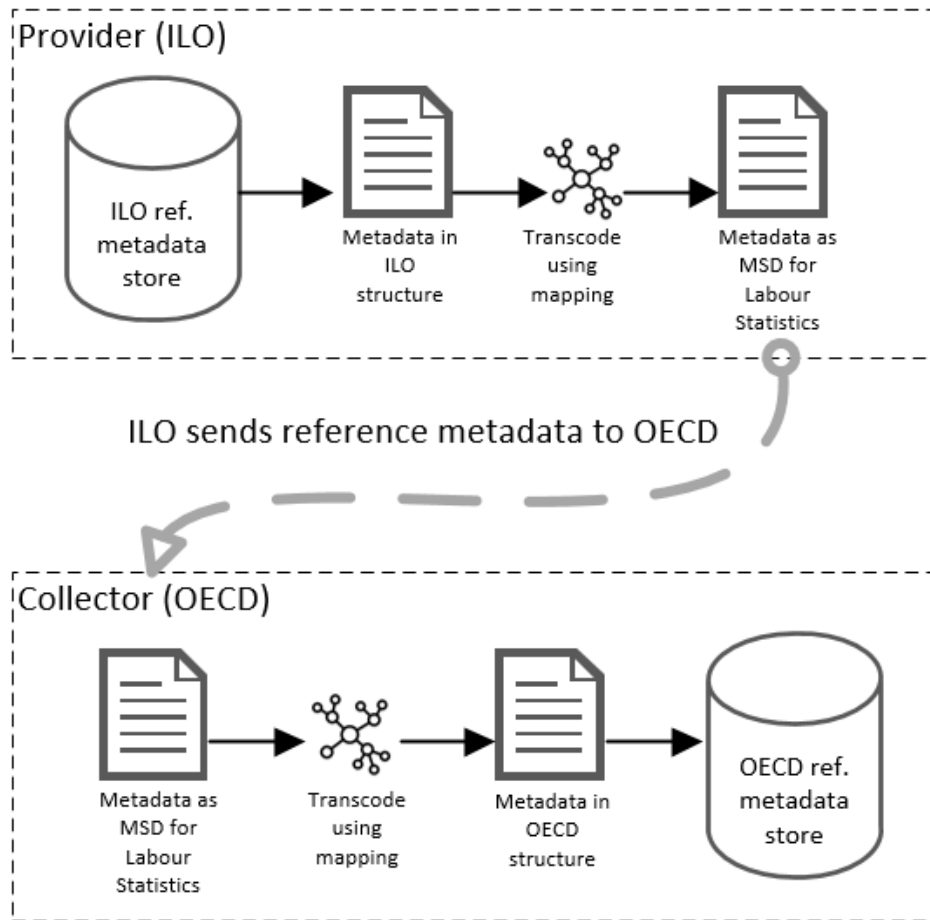


Figure 5: Mapping and transform processes in an SDMX metadata exchange using the Global MCS

Before starting the exchange, the provider (ILO) and collector (OECD) each identify a mapping to reuse, or create a mapping between their metadata frameworks and the MSD (which is derived from the Global MCS).

For each transmission, the metadata provider (ILO):

- extracts the metadata from their metadata store;
- transcodes it to the Labour MSD structure using a mapping between their local structure and the Labour MSD, and;
- sends the resulting SDMX metadata message to the collector.

The metadata collector (OECD) then:

- transcodes the received message (in the Labour MSD structure) to their local structure using their mapping;
- uploads the resulting ref. metadata to their metadata system.

It is recommended to use SDMX Structure Set artefacts for the metadata mappings and make them available in the SDMX global registry. The advantage of using SDMX Structure Sets is that they are part of

the SDMX Information Model and may be used in system implementation to convert the Global MCS structure to and from the local metadata frameworks.

The user stories below describe how the implementation can be made in more detail.

## Implementation User Stories

### Statistical agency/dissemination/reporting perspective

A statistical agency wishes to disseminate its reference metadata using a standard that can be easily used by metadata collectors, and using a system and metadata framework that can be reused across statistical domains while avoiding manual processing, and the agency recognises that the Global MCS provides this. Achieving these goals with a unified standard and automated system will save the agency time and money.

The agency currently stores its reference metadata in a database and has an extraction method to create XML files from it. The agency carries out the following work in order to disseminate its metadata:

1. Create a mapping between the agency's existing metadata concepts and the Global MCS, or MSD derived from it. This mapping is an SDMX Structure Set (which is used to map concepts and codes in different structures) and is stored and shared in the agency's SDMX registry;
2. create or adopt a system component that acts as a proxy to the existing agency's metadata component. The component does the following:
  - a. takes input from the agency's metadata component (the agency's metadata XML);
  - b. **transforms** the input XML to SDMX (the agency's metadata framework);
  - c. **transcodes** the SDMX by applying the mapping created in step 1. The result is an SDMX metadata message that matches the Global MCS, or MSD;
  - d. outputs the resulting SDMX with an SDMX web service

Later work could be considered for further efficiency gains:

- Change the agency's native metadata XML format to SDMX. This would avoid step 2b (transform);
- align the agency's metadata framework to the Global MCS. This would avoid steps 1 (create mapping) and 2c (transcoding).

### International organisation/collector perspective

An international organisation maintains many different systems and manual processes to collect and process metadata from its constituent agencies. A lot of time is spent extracting the metadata, some of it is missed, and mistakes are naturally made during the different manual processes. The organisation wishes to avoid these mistakes while saving time and money, maintain all of the different processes, while increasing the amount of metadata it can reuse, therefore allowing better interpretation of the statistical data.

The organisation stores its metadata in a production system. Many agencies provide their metadata by email, Word or Excel documents, and these are processed by several bespoke ETL processes that import the metadata into the production system. Other agencies publish metadata on their web sites, and the organisation's statisticians search the web sites and copy/paste the metadata into their production system.

The organisation carries out the following work in order to implement collection using the Global MCS:

1. Create a mapping between the Global MCS or MSD derived from it, and the organisation's metadata framework. This mapping is an SDMX Structure Set (which is used to map concepts and codes in different structures) and is stored and shared in the agency's SDMX registry;
2. create or adopt a new system component that does the following:
  - a. takes as input an SDMX metadata message that matches the Global MSC (or MSD);
  - b. **transcodes** the SDMX by applying the mapping created in step 1. The result is an SDMX metadata message that matches the organisation's metadata framework;
  - c. **transforms** the SDMX metadata message into the format understood by the organisation's metadata production system;
  - d. **imports** the message into the organisation's metadata production system.

Later work could be considered for further efficiency gains:

- Add an SDMX import function to the organisation's metadata production system. This would avoid step 2c (transform);
- align the organisation's metadata framework to a relevant subset of the Global Metadata Concept Scheme. This would avoid steps 1 (create mapping) and 2b (transcoding).

The concepts in the Global MCS are a subset of the concepts in the SDMX Glossary<sup>4</sup> (which defines the entire cross-domain concept scheme). Therefore, changes or additions to reference metadata concepts in the SDMX Glossary will result in a revision to the Global MCS. Conversely, requests to change the Global MCS will be considered in future revisions of the SDMX Glossary.

Requests to extend the Global MCS or change this guideline should be sent to the SDMX Statistical Working Group ([swg@sdmx.org](mailto:swg@sdmx.org)).

### **Associating Reference Metadata Concepts to SDMX Artefacts**

The metadata content has to be associated or “attached” to SDMX artefacts in two ways by stating:

1. (in an MSD) the associated SDMX artefact type, e.g. Dataset; Dataflow; Provision agreement;
2. the associated “level” within the artefact, e.g. for a Dataset: Dataset; Series; Observation.

These are some example attachments, others are possible:

- the “Contact” concept may be attached to a Dataset artefact at the Dataset level;
- the “Adjustment” concept may be attached to a Dataset artefact at the Series level;
- the “Statistical population” concept may be attached to a Codelist artefact.

This version of the proposal does not include an attachment recommendation for each concept. Recommended attachments may be provided in a future version of this guideline based on the feedback

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<sup>4</sup> [https://sdmx.org/wp-content/uploads/SDMX\\_Glossary\\_Version\\_2\\_0\\_October\\_2018.docx](https://sdmx.org/wp-content/uploads/SDMX_Glossary_Version_2_0_October_2018.docx)

and forthcoming implementations. If you have any questions on how to attach reference metadata, please contact the SDMX Statistical Working Group ([swg@sdmx.org](mailto:swg@sdmx.org)).

### List of Reference Metadata Concepts

As said earlier, the reference metadata concepts are a subset of the concepts in the SDMX Glossary (which defines the entire cross-domain concept scheme). The usage context, some examples, related terms and other fields for each concept are available in the SDMX Glossary.

Some metadata concepts may not be listed in this version of the Global MCS (for example, detailed quality metadata). However, they may be proposed as candidate concepts to include in a future revision of the Global MCS and SDMX Glossary.

### Mutually exclusive character of some concepts

The Global MCS containing the full list of metadata concepts used by international organisations, some of these concepts have overlaps. In such cases, this will be indicated under the “Recommended usage” section. As an example, organisations summarising all contact information (e.g. name, address, mail, etc.) into one property will use the generic property “Contact” while others wanting a more structured way of presenting the contact information will use atomic properties such as “Contact name”, “Contact organisation”, “Contact email address”, etc. This means that “Contact” on the one hand and “Contact name”, “Contact organisation”, “Contact email address”, etc. on the other hand are mutually exclusive

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Data source	Location or service from where data or metadata can be obtained.	DATA_SOURCE
Compiling agency	Organisation collecting and/or elaborating the data being reported. <i>Example usage: if an organisation receives data from a member agency and publishes it, the “Compiling agency” concept would be the member agency.</i>	COMPILING_ORG
Dissemination agency	Organisation disseminating the data being reported.	DISS_ORG

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Contact	Individual or organisational contact points for the data or metadata. <i>Recommended usage. Use:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Contact” concept but not the granular “Contact xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Contact xxx” concepts but not the “Contact” concept.</li> </ul>	CONTACT
Contact email address	E-mail address of the contact points for the data or metadata.	CONTACT_EMAIL
Contact fax number	Fax number of the contact points for the data or metadata.	CONTACT_FAX
Contact mail address	Postal address of the contact points for the data or metadata.	CONTACT_MAIL
Contact name	Name of the contact points for the data or metadata.	CONTACT_NAME
Contact organisation	Organisation of the contact point(s) for the data or metadata. <i>Example usage: if an organisation receives data from a member agency and publishes it, the “Contact organisation” concept would usually be the publishing organisation.</i>	CONTACT_ORGANISATION
Contact organisation unit	Addressable subdivision of an organisation.	ORGANISATION_UNIT
Contact person function	Area of technical responsibility of the contact, such as “methodology”, “database management” or “dissemination”.	CONTACT_FUNCT
Contact phone number	Telephone number of the contact points for the data or metadata.	CONTACT_PHONE

## LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Institutional mandate	<p>Set of rules or other formal set of instructions assigning responsibility as well as the authority to an organisation for the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Institutional mandate” concept but not the granular “Institutional mandate xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Institutional mandate xxx” concepts but not the “Institutional mandate” concept.</li> </ul>	INST_MANDATE
Institutional mandate – data sharing	Arrangements or procedures for data sharing and coordination between data producing agencies.	INST_MAN_SHAR
Institutional mandate - legal acts and other agreements	Legal acts or other formal or informal agreements that assign responsibility as well as the authority to an Agency for the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics.	INST_MAN_LA_OA
Confidentiality	<p>Property of data indicating whether they are subject to dissemination restrictions.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Confidentiality” concept but not the granular “Confidentiality xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Confidentiality xxx” concepts but not the “Confidentiality” concept.</li> </ul>	CONF
Confidentiality - data treatment	Rules applied for treating the Data Set to ensure that private information from individual units cannot be accessed and to prevent unauthorised disclosure.	CONF_DATA_TR
Confidentiality - policy	Legislative measures or other formal procedures which prevent unauthorised disclosure of data that identify a person or economic entity either directly or indirectly.	CONF_POLICY

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Professionalism	<p>Standard, skill and ability suitable for producing statistics of good quality.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>either the summary “Professionalism” concept but not the granular “Professionalism xxx” concepts,</i></li> <li>• <i>or the granular “Professionalism xxx” concepts but not the “Professionalism” concept.</i></li> </ul>	PROF
Professionalism - code of conduct	Provisions for assuring the qualifications of staff and allowing staff to perform their functions without intervention motivated by non-statistical objectives.	PROF_COND
Professionalism - impartiality	Elements providing assurances that statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in a neutral (impartial) manner, and that all users are given equal treatment.	PROF_IMP
Professionalism - methodology	Elements providing assurances that the choices of sources and statistical techniques as well as decisions about dissemination are informed solely by statistical considerations.	PROF_METH
Professionalism - statistical commentary	Elements providing assurances that the statistical entity is entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.	PROF_STAT_COM



Name	Definition	Concept ID
Cost and burden	<p>Cost associated with the collection and production of a statistical product, as well as the burden imposed on respondents.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Cost and burden” concept but not the granular “Cost and burden xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Cost and burden xxx” concepts but not the “Cost and burden” concept.</li> </ul>	COST_BURDEN
Cost and burden - efficiency management	Cost-benefit analysis, effectiveness of execution of medium term statistical programmes, and ensuring efficient use of resources.	COST_BURDEN_EFF
Cost and burden – resources	Metadata element providing assurances that staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing to undertake statistical production are commensurate with statistical programs.	COST_BURDEN_RES

## SCOPE

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Statistical population	Total membership or population or “universe” of a defined class of people, objects or events.	STAT_POP
Reference area	Country or geographic area to which the measured statistical phenomenon relates.	REF_AREA
Coverage	<p>Definition of the scope of the data compiled.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Coverage” concept but not the granular “xxx coverage” concepts and/or “Economic sector” concept,</li> <li>• or the granular “xxx coverage” concepts and/or “Economic sector” but not the “Coverage” concept.</li> </ul>	COVERAGE

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Geographical coverage	Characterisation of the statistical units according to geographical criteria. <i>Example usage: May exclude small parts of the national territory amounting to no more than 2% of the national population and the national territories.</i>	COVERAGE_GEO
Population coverage	Definition of the main types of population covered by the statistics.	COVERAGE_POP
Sector coverage	Sector(s) covered by the statistics.	COVERAGE_SECTOR
Economic sector	High-level grouping of economic activities based on the types of goods and services produced.	ECO_SECTOR
Time coverage	Period of time for which data are provided.	COVERAGE_TIME

## METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### *Data presentation*

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Data description	Metadata element describing the main characteristics of the Data Set in an easily understandable manner, referring to the main data and indicators disseminated.	DATA_DESCR

### *Other Methodological Information*

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Source data type	Characteristics and components of the raw statistical data used for compiling statistical aggregates.	SOURCE_TYPE
Data collection method	Method applied for gathering data for official statistics.	COLL_METHOD
Reference period	Timespan or point in time to which the measured observation is intended to refer.	REF_PERIOD
Base period	Period of time used as the base of an index number, or to which a constant series refers.	BASE_PER

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Base weight	Weights of a weighting system for an index number computed according to the information relating to the base period instead, for example, of the current period.	BASE_WEIGHT
Frequency of observation	Time interval at which observations occur over a given time period.	FREQ
Frequency of data collection	Time interval at which the source data are collected.	FREQ_COLL
Classification system	Metadata element used to a) list the classification(s) being used for a given Data Set or set of Data Sets, and b) describe how these conform to internationally agreed standards, guidelines, or good practices.	CLASS_SYSTEM
Statistical concepts and definitions	Definitions and descriptions of the main variables provided.	STAT_CONC_DEF
Statistical unit	Entity for which information is sought and for which statistics are ultimately compiled.	STAT_UNIT
Unit of measure	Unit in which the data values are expressed.	UNIT_MEASURE
Accounting conventions	Practical procedures, standards and other aspects used when compiling data from diverse sources under a common methodological framework.	ACC_CONV
Valuation	Definition of the price per unit, for goods and services flows and asset stocks.	VALUATION

## STATISTICAL PROCESSING

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Data compilation	Operations performed on data to derive new information according to a given set of rules.	DATA_COMP
Adjustment	Set of procedures employed to modify statistical data to enable it to conform to national or international standards or to address data quality differences when compiling specific Data Sets. <i>Recommended usage. Use:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Adjustment” concept but not the granular “xxx adjustment” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “xxx adjustment” concepts but not the “Adjustment” concept.</li> </ul>	ADJUSTMENT
Price adjustment	Statistical technique used to remove the effects of price influences operating on a data series.	PRICE_ADJUST
Seasonal adjustment	Statistical technique used to remove the effects of seasonal and calendar influences operating on a data series.	SEASONAL_ADJUST
Data validation	Process of monitoring the results of data compilation and ensuring the quality of the statistical results.	DATA_VALIDATION
Data revision	Change in a value of a statistic released to the public. <i>Recommended usage. Use:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Data revision” concept but not the granular “Data revision xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Data revision xxx” concepts but not the “Data revision” concept.</li> </ul>	DATA_REV
Data revision - policy	Policy aimed at ensuring the transparency of disseminated data, whereby preliminary data are compiled that are later revised.	REV_POLICY
Data revision - practice	Information on the data revision practice.	REV_PRACTICE

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Data revision - studies	Information about data revision studies and analyses.	REV_STUDY
Imputation	Procedure for entering a value for a specific data item where the response is missing or unusable.	IMPUTATION
Imputation rate	Ratio of the number of replaced values to the total number of values for a given variable.	IMPUTATION_RATE

## QUALITY

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Quality management	<p>Systems and frameworks in place within an organisation to manage the quality of statistical products and processes.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Quality management” concept but not the granular “Quality management xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Quality management xxx” concepts but not the “Quality management” concept.</li> </ul>	QUALITY_MGMNT
Quality management - quality assessment	Overall evaluation of data quality, based on standard quality criteria.	QUALITY_ASSMNT
Quality management - quality assurance	Guidelines focusing on quality in general and dealing with quality of statistical programmes, including measures for ensuring the efficient use of resources.	QUALITY_ASSURE
Quality management - quality documentation	Documentation on procedures applied for quality management and quality assessment.	QUALITY_DOC

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Accuracy	<p>Closeness of computations or estimates to the unknown exact or true values that the statistics were intended to measure.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Accuracy” concept but not the granular “Accuracy - overall”, “Non-sampling error” or “Sampling error” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Accuracy - overall”, “Non-sampling error” or “Sampling error” concepts but not the “Accuracy” concept.</li> </ul>	ACCURACY
Accuracy - overall	Assessment of accuracy, linked to a certain Data Set or domain, which is summarising the various components into one single measure.	ACCURACY_OVERALL
Sampling error	Part of the difference between a population value and an estimate thereof, derived from a random sample, which is due to the fact that only a subset of the population is enumerated.	SAMPLING_ERR
Non-sampling error	Error in sample estimates which cannot be attributed to sampling fluctuations.	NONSAMPLING_ERR
Coverage error	Error caused by a failure to cover adequately all components of the population being studied, which results in differences between the target population and the sampling frame.	COVERAGE_ERR
Measurement error	Error in reading, calculating or recording a numerical value.	MEASUREMENT_ERR
Non-response error	Error that occurs when the survey fails to get a response to one, or possibly all, of the questions.	NONRESPONSE_ERR
Processing error	Error in final survey results arising from the faulty implementation of correctly planned implementation methods.	PROCESSING_ERR

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Model assumption error	Error that occurs due the use of methods, such as calibration, generalised regression estimator, calculation based on full scope or constant scope, benchmarking, seasonal adjustment and other models not included in other accuracy components, in order to calculate statistics or indexes.	MODEL_ASSUMP_ERR
Coherence	<p>Adequacy of statistics to be reliably combined in different ways and for various uses.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>either the summary “Coherence” concept but not the granular “Coherence xxx” concepts,</i></li> <li>• <i>or the granular “Coherence xxx” concepts but not the “Coherence” concept.</i></li> </ul>	COHERENCE
Coherence - cross domain	Extent to which statistics are reconcilable with those obtained through other Data Sources or statistical domains.	COHER_X_DOM
Coherence - internal	Extent to which statistics are consistent within a given Data Set.	COHER_INTERNAL
Comparability	<p>Extent to which differences between statistics can be attributed to differences between the true values of the statistical characteristics.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>either the summary “Comparability” concept but not the granular “Comparability xxx” concepts,</i></li> <li>• <i>or the granular “Comparability xxx” concepts but not the “Comparability” concept.</i></li> </ul>	COMPARABILITY
Comparability - geographical	Extent to which statistics are comparable between geographical areas.	COMPAR_GEO
Comparability - over time	Extent to which statistics are comparable or reconcilable over time.	COMPAR_TIME

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Punctuality	Time lag between the actual delivery of the data and the target date when it should have been delivered.	PUNCTUALITY
Relevance	<p>Degree to which statistical information meets the real or perceived needs of clients.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Relevance” concept but not the granular “Relevance xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Relevance xxx” concepts but not the “Relevance” concept.</li> </ul>	RELEVANCE
Relevance - completeness	Extent to which all statistics that are needed are available.	COMPLETENESS
Relevance - user needs	Description of requirements with respect to the statistical output.	USER_NEEDS
Relevance - user satisfaction	Description of how well the disseminated statistics meet the expressed user needs.	USER_SAT
Timeliness	<p>Length of time between data availability and the event or phenomenon they describe</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Timeliness” concept but not the granular “Timeliness xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Timeliness xxx” concepts but not the “Timeliness” concept.</li> </ul>	TIMELINESS
Timeliness - source data	Time between the end of a reference period and actual receipt of the data by the compiling agency.	TIME_SOURCE



## DISSEMINATION

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Release policy	<p>Rules for disseminating statistical data to interested parties.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Release policy” concept but not the granular “Release policy xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Release policy xxx” concepts but not the “Release policy” concept.</li> </ul>	REL_POLICY
Release policy - release calendar	Schedule of statistical release dates.	REL_CAL_POLICY
Release policy - release calendar access	Description of how the release calendar can be accessed.	REL_CAL_ACCESS
Release policy - transparency	Statement describing whether and how the release policy is disseminated to the public.	REL_POL_TRA
Release policy - user access	Policy for release of the data to users, scope of dissemination (e.g. to the public, to selected users), how users are informed that the data are being released, and whether the policy determines the dissemination of statistical data to all users.	REL_POL_US_AC
Frequency of dissemination	Time interval at which the statistics are disseminated over a given time period.	FREQ_DISS
Dissemination format	<p>Media by which statistical data and metadata are disseminated.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Dissemination format” concept but not the granular “Dissemination format xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Dissemination format xxx” concepts but not the “Dissemination format” concept.</li> </ul>	DISS_FORMAT
Dissemination format - microdata access	Information on whether microdata are also disseminated.	MICRO_DAT_ACC
Dissemination format - news release	Regular or ad-hoc press releases linked to the data.	NEWS_REL

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Dissemination format - online database	Information about on-line databases in which the disseminated data can be accessed.	ONLINE_DB
Dissemination format - publications	Regular or ad-hoc publications in which the data are made available to the public.	PUBLICATIONS
Dissemination format - other formats	References to the most important other data dissemination done.	DISS_OTHER
Documentation on methodology	Descriptive text and references to methodological documents available.	DOC_METHOD
Documentation on methodology - advance notice	Policy on notifying the public of changes in methodology, indicating whether the public is notified before a methodological change affects disseminated data and, if so, how long before.	ADV_NOTICE
Recommended uses and limitations	Metadata element guiding users with limited knowledge of the statistics presented and helping them determine whether the product meets their requirements.	REC_USE_LIM

## MISCELLANEOUS

Name	Definition	Concept ID
Metadata update	<p>Date on which the metadata element was created or modified.</p> <p><i>Recommended usage. Use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either the summary “Metadata update” concept but not the granular “Metadata update xxx” concepts,</li> <li>• or the granular “Metadata update xxx” concepts but not the “Metadata update” concept.</li> </ul>	META_UPDATE
Metadata update - last certified	Date of the latest certification provided by the domain manager to confirm that the metadata posted are still up-to-date, even if the content has not been amended.	META_CERTIFIED
Metadata update - last posted	Date of the latest dissemination of the metadata.	META_POSTED
Metadata update - last update	Date of last update of the content of the metadata.	META_LAST_UPDATE
Comment	Descriptive text which can be attached to data or metadata.	COMMENT
Technical information	Technical details related to the data, for example the storage system used, or technical systems related to the exchange.	TECH_INFO