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⇄ SDMX-IMTS implementation framework [Toggle navigation]

Introduction

An inter-agency working group was established in the beginning of 2013 by Eurostat, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), with the objective of developing an *implementation framework of the SDMX standard in the field of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)*.

The purpose of the Working Group, which is chaired by UNSD, is to specify **uniform structures, concept definitions and code lists for the transmission of IMTS data and metadata**, taking into account the latest version of the SDMX standard (2.1), the updated international recommendations on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010), as well as the international statistical community's goal of expanding the use of SDMX (especially in the data transmission between countries and international organisations and among international organisations).

This website was originally created to supplement information distributed in the first content review of the SDMX-IMTS framework (see information note). And is currently updated with information to facilitate the technical implementation of the framework.

Why SDMX-IMTS?

Eurostat, the OECD and the UNSD receive trade data from countries around the world. This data is then shared between the three organisations and with others (such as the FAO, IMF, UNCTAD and ITC). However, the framework for these data and the metadata behind them often differ from region to region making international comparisons difficult. These complexities are only resolved through time-consuming and resource draining actions.

As a result of these challenges, international organisations have been looking at the SDMX standard to harmonise IMTS data exchange through the use of uniform structures and common concept and code list definitions. In recent years, SDMX has been increasingly used to structure and exchange statistical data across a range of statistical domains, across a number of international organisations and in a number of countries. Flagship projects include the use of SDMX in the National Accounts domain to underpin the global implementation of SNA 2008. The launch of the SDMX Global Registry in April 2014 has further facilitated the implementation of projects involving several international organisations by providing a central reference point for all global SDMX objects. These developments indicate that SDMX is mature enough to support the harmonisation and international data exchange needs in the IMTS domain.

See full business case for SDMX-IMTS implementation.

What is SDMX?

SDMX, which stands for Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange, is an ISO standard designed to describe statistical data and metadata, normalise their exchange, and improve their efficient sharing across statistical and similar organisations. It provides an integrated approach to facilitating statistical data and metadata exchange, enabling interoperable implementations within and between systems concerned with the exchange, reporting and dissemination of statistical data and their related meta-information.

See the SDMX-IMTS ver. 1.0 below and sdmx.org for further information.

SDMX-IMTS Version 1.1 Documents

- [Executive Summary](#)
- [TOR Working Group DSD for IMTS](#)
- [Maintenance Agreement](#)
- [Implementation Strategies](#)
- [Changes from version 1.0 to 1.1](#)
- [Report on pilot project in Mexico](#)
- [Report on pilot project in Morocco](#)
- [Output in version 1.1](#)
- [Matrix of SDMX-IMTS DSD 1.1](#)
- [SDMX-IMTS DSD 1.1 for HS2017](#)
- [SDMX-IMTS DSD 1.1 for HS2012](#)

SDMX-IMTS Version 1.0 Documents

- [Executive Summary](#)
- [TOR Working Group DSD for IMTS](#)
- [Maintenance Agreement](#)
- [Global Consultation](#)
- [Implementation Strategies](#)
- Trade SDMX Example [PDF](#) [XML](#)
- [SDMX-IMTS DSD XML version 1.0](#)

DSD matrix with examples

- [DSD Matrix illustrating 3 main data flows](#)
- [Full package - DSD (V1.1): DSD Matrix and all code lists](#)
- [Full package - DSD (V1.0): DSD Matrix and all code lists](#)

SDMX-IMTS Version 1.2 Documents

The SDMX-IMTS version 1.2 Data Structure Definition is now available in the Global Registry:
https://registry.sdmx.org/data/datastructure.html

- https://registry.sdmx.org/ws/public/sdmxapi/rest/datastructure/UNSD/IMTS/1.2
- https://registry.sdmx.org/ws/public/sdmxapi/rest/datastructure/UNSD/IMTS_AGGREGATES/1.2
- https://registry.sdmx.org/ws/public/sdmxapi/rest/datastructure/UNSD/IMTS_COMPACT/1.2

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