International Organization for Standardization
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STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN – ISO/TC 295

Executive summary

Audit of an entity's financial and financial related records is one way to promote compliance, authenticity and transparency of business and economic activities. It also can assist governments in performing their activities in accordance with the laws and regulations. The focus of ISO/TC 295, includes government audit, external independent audit, internal audit and other related regulatory activities which require the use of electronic information. The deliverables of ISO/TC 295 will elaborate data contents and techniques that may be used by auditors in the areas of public sector budget, financial reports, non-financial enterprises, tax and social insurance. The work products developed may be used by government departments, organizations and individuals for the purposes of economic and social activities in these areas.

Since the adoption of ERP systems and accounting software at the end of the last century, information systems have been widely used by auditees. Obtaining the correct data from these systems can greatly affect the efficiency and effectiveness of an audit. Although audit procedures and audit scope vary greatly by industries, one global challenge auditors and regulators face is to request and process data from information systems. The great diversity in the types and sophistication of auditees' information systems, has led to duplicate efforts and wasted efforts by both businesses and auditors.

Standardization is an effective way to level efforts to easily access, integrate and analyze data from different sources. In the two last decades, a number of organizations have made progress in standardization. These efforts included both AICPA and SAC releasing audit data standards for enterprise audit; OECD made progress on tax audit (SAF-T 2.0); and EU established a platform to exchange social insurance data (EESSI). With the tremendous efforts that have been made with these and other standards, we feel that there is a great opportunity to globalize the efforts and create standards that can apply more broadly to businesses.

PC 295 made important strides toward standardization of audit data extraction. Participants believe that TC 295 is the next necessary step to complete the journey started by the ISO 21378:2019 Audit Data Collection, which was released by PC 295 in 2019. TC 295 scope covers the content specification as well as the collection, pre-processing, management and analysis techniques for identification, communication, receipt, preparation and use of audit data. The audit data covers different areas including public sector budget, financial reports, non-financial enterprises, tax and social insurance, for the purpose of government audit, external independent audit, internal audit and other related regulatory activities.

According to participants' consensus, the main objectives and priorities in the work of TC 295 cover:

- ISO IS for the extension of ISO 21378:2019 by adding financial report and payroll;

- ISO TS for the implementation of ISO 21378:2019 for different file formats, ERP vendors and countries;

- ISO IS of data collection for Value added tax(VAT), Excise duties, Customs duties, Corporate income tax and Individual income tax;

- ISO TR of data collection for Public Sector Budget;

- ISO IS of data collection for Pension Insurance.

- ISO TR of data collection for public sector budget.

The above priorities related with ISO 21378:2019 and tax will be beneficial to improve quality and efficiency of audit, remove technical barriers surrounding knowledge of the data needed for international trade, cross-border supervision of inventory movements and tax payment. The priorities on pension programs and public sector budget could help ensure the efficiency of the pension funds collection and distribution, as well as confirming that public funds are distributed and used in accordance with the laws and regulations.

1 Introduction

1.1 ISO technical committees and business planning

The extension of formal business planning to ISO Technical Committees (ISO/TCs) is an important measure which forms part of a major review of business. The aim is to align the ISO work programme with expressed business environment needs and trends and to allow ISO/TCs to prioritize among different projects, to identify the benefits expected from the availability of International Standards, and to ensure adequate resources for projects throughout their development.

1.2 International standardization and the role of ISO

The foremost aim of international standardization is to facilitate the exchange of goods and services through the elimination of technical barriers to trade.

Three bodies are responsible for the planning, development and adoption of International Standards: ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is responsible for all sectors excluding Electrotechnical, which is the responsibility of IEC (International Electrotechnical Committee), and most of the Telecommunications Technologies, which are largely the responsibility of ITU (International Telecommunication Union).

ISO is a legal association, the members of which are the National Standards Bodies (NSBs) of some 164 countries (organizations representing social and economic interests at the international level), supported by a Central Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The principal deliverable of ISO is the International Standard.

An International Standard embodies the essential principles of global openness and transparency, consensus and technical coherence. These are safeguarded through its development in an ISO Technical Committee (ISO/TC), representative of all interested parties, supported by a public comment phase (the ISO Technical Enquiry). ISO and its Technical Committees are also able to offer the ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS), the ISO Public Available Specification (ISO/PAS) and the ISO Technical Report (ISO/TR) as solutions to market needs. These ISO products represent lower levels of consensus and have therefore not the same status as an International Standard.

ISO offers also the International Workshop Agreement (IWA) as a deliverable which aims to bridge the gap between the activities of consortia and the formal process of standardization represented by ISO and its national members. An important distinction is that the IWA is developed by ISO workshops and fora, comprising only participants with direct interest, and so it is not accorded the status of an International Standard.

2   Business Environment of the ISO/TC 295

2.1   Description of the Business Environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, and social dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of ISO/TC 295, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

(1) TC 295 will conform to local laws, regulations and international agreements. TC 295 serves government audit, external independent audit, internal audit and other related regulatory activities. The standards developed should be considered guidelines for data to be collected from auditees and are superceded by local laws and regulations and international agreements. The privacy and security of audit data may also be protected by local laws, regulations and international agreements and should be considered primary to any guidelines offered in the standards.

(2) TC 295 members have reached a consensus regarding the scope mentioned in executive summary. Government auditors from countries including Russia, Romania, Thailand and China are interested in public sector budget audit. Members like Netherlands, Japan, India and China pay close attention to tax and customs audit. Experts from Japan, Netherlands, Finland and China are interested in the improvements and implementations of the standard regarding ERP systems. And China and Netherlands show concerns on social insurance audit.

(3) ISO/TC 295 includes significant work in the areas of public sector budget, social insurance and tax. TC 295 will help to remove technical barriers surrounding knowledge of the data needed for international trade and cross-border supervision. Total global trade had grown 2.5 times to 39 thousand billion from 2008 to 2018. Public sector budget audit covers nearly all governmental departments. Tax and social insurance regulators shall audit most organizations and individuals in many countries. As presented in the World Social Protection Report 2017/19, 29 percent of the global population (about 2.1 billion) enjoys access to comprehensive social insurance, and 16 percent (about 1.2 billion) are partially protected.

(4) Information technology brings tremendous changes to auditees. It is expected that block chain may change the way to keep accounts, and financial robot could improve efficiency of accounting. Data management will be innovated by cloud storage. Moreover, data volume increases greatly. According to International Data Corporation (IDC) forecasting, the global data circle will grow to 175ZB by 2025. All these changes urge auditors to improve their capability on data processing and analysis.

(5) There is great diversity in types and sophistication of systems used by auditees. For instance, in some countries, enterprises are using more than 300 different versions of ERP systems and accounting packages. Difficulties in collecting, pre-processing, managing and analysing data from various systems are well known to auditors. These challenges have led to duplicate efforts and wasted efforts by both businesses and auditors. It is reported that the time spending on data collection and pre-processing has increased in recent years, with estimation as high as 60-70% of entire period for some audit projects.

(6) In the last decade, some countries and organizations made achievements in the audit data standardization in some specific audit areas. These achievements are regarded as

the starting point of ISO/TC 295. Some global vendors explicitly expressed their confusions on different standards. To begin the journey towards better global coordination, SAC proposed PC 295 "Audit Data Collection" in 2015. With the support of 36 countries and experts from around the world, the output ISO 21378:2019 of PC 295 specifies the data content and file format when collecting data from various accounting and ERP systems. TC 295 will continue to make more contributions to expand the scope and usability of audit data standards.

(7) Many international organizations realize that data collection and processing are increasingly critical for audit. However, the existing standards do not contain enough technical and data details needed for audit. For instance, social insurance audit requires more data besides the statistical data of 177 countries provided by International Social Security Association. Some organizations have issued guidelines instead of technical documents with specific data requirements. INTOSAI published many guidelines related to big data. OECD issued Guidance for the standard audit file, Standard for Automatic Exchange of financial Account Information (AEOI), and the full Common Reporting Standard (CRS) including the commentaries and the XML Schema. TC 295 could help to fill the above-mentioned gaps through developing standards on specific data content and techniques.

(8) The committees such as ISO/IEC/JTC 1/SC 27, ISO/IEC/JTC 1/SC 32 and ISO/TC 154 made great progress in standardizing the security and privacy protection, E-business, data interchange and data analysis. TC 295 will focus the development of the standards to meet auditor's needs for obtaining information. Relevant committees that have created standards for related purposes, include: to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27, ISO/TC 46, ISO/TC 69, ISO/TC 171, ISO/TC 154, ISO/TC 176 and ISO/TC 307. It is the intention of TC 295 to coordinate closely with these and other groups in areas of mutual interest.

(9) TC 295 covers the following stakeholders：

- Auditors: government, external independent, and internal auditors and other regulators.

- Other regulators: including regulators related to customs, tax, social insurance, and financial reporting regulatory agencies.

- Auditees: government institutions, enterprises (including small and medium-sized enterprises) and individuals.

- Vendors (including small and medium-sized enterprises): ERP, accounting packages, audit tools and other information systems that support business processes and controls.

2.2   Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

The following list of quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the ISO/TC:

The following quantitative indicators describe the business environment to provide adequate information to support actions of TC 295:

(1) Industry and global trends may serve as quantitative indicators of the business environment.

- Public sector budget audit related with government revenue and expenditure. According to 2018 statistics from World Bank, financial revenue and expenditure from public sector accounts for 24.7 and 27.1 percent of GDP respectively.

- The total number of enterprises is an important indicator for financial report audit, enterprise audit, tax audit and social insurance audit. It is reported that the number of listed enterprises companies in the world reaches to 32,500, and the total market value is 43,270 billion dollars.

- The tax revenue and the amount of tax evasion may be covered by tax and enterprise audit. World Bank stated that the world's total tax revenue as a percentage of GDP in 2018 was 14.94%. In 2016, OECD reported that BEPS practices cost countries 100-240 billion dollars in lost revenue annually, which is the equivalent to 4-10% of the global corporate income tax revenue.

- The scale of population is an important indicator for social insurance audit. As data presented in the World Social Protection Report, 45 percent of the global population could receive at least one social benefit, while the remaining 55 percent are unprotected. According to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2019 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), across 101 countries, 1.3 billion people (23.1 percent) are multidimensional poor. The UN's World Population Prospects 2019 shows that, by 2050, one in six people in the world will be over age 65 (16%), up from one in eleven in 2019 (9%).

- The number of auditors and audit institutions. IFAC compromises more than 3 million professional accountants worldwide. INTOSAI has 195 full members coming from the Supreme Audit Institution of countries.

- Many vendors engaged in ERP, accounting packages and other information systems. By July 30th 2020, SAP had 440 thousand customers in more than 180 countries, and got 202.3 billion dollars market value; Oracle's total market value got to 170.9 billion dollars; Yonyou's market value reached to 21.7 billion dollars covering over 3500 thousand users; Kingdee' ERP system was open to 3500 thousand customers with a market value of 9.3 billion dollars.

(2) In order to measure ongoing engagement of ISO/TC 295 with appropriate industries and stakeholders, TC 295 may review indicators such as:

- The number of participating and observing ISO Member Bodies on the TC and the number of active mirror committees at national level: Until September 2020, ISO/TC 295 has 11 P-members and 13 O-members.

- Stakeholder balance in national mirror committees and in delegations for TC meetings: Until September 2020, the representatives participating in ISO/TC 295 come from national standards bodies, government audit, customs and tax administrations, external independent audit and vendors.

- The number of organizations in liaison with TC 295: ISO/TC 154, ISO/TC 251 and ISO/TC 307.

- The continuity of active participation by ISO Member Bodies in work of TC 295: Since 2015, the countries including Canada, China, Japan, Finland, Netherlands, Romania, Russia and Kuwait have actively participated in the work of PC 295 and TC 295.

(3) In order to measure the use of ISO/TC 295 deliverables, TC 295 may review indicators such as:

- The number of standards (including machine readable standards) under the work programme of ISO/TC 295: 1 published standard ISO 21378:2019 Audit Data Collection

- Sales of ISO/TC 295 standards and other deliverables, including the machine-readable standards: China has bought 150 sets of standard above. (to be updated)

- The number of standards adopted by ISO Member Bodies and referenced in national programs: Until September 2020, SAC already received a proposal to adopt ISO 21378:2019 in China. (other countries to be updated)

- The number of standards and other deliverables translated into languages ISO Member Body countries and other locals used: Until September 2020, SAC already received a proposal to translate ISO 21378:2019 into Chinese. (other countries to be updated)

- The number of standards of TC 295 used in regulations or market-driven contracts at the national and international level. (to be updated)

- Conformance by service providers to ISO/TC 295 standards. (to be updated)

- Speed of developing and updating standards within the portfolio of ISO/TC 295: By September 2020, three NPs are under developing.

- The number of organizations implementing or certifying to standards of ISO/TC 295. (to be updated)

To obtain above data, TC 295 will cooperate with members. It may not be easy to gather data such as the number of officials and institutions working for internal audit, the number of vendors (including SMEs) working on ERP, accounting packages and other information systems, and the amount of financial fraud and tax evasion exposed by audit. TC 295 will make such data accessible through TC members depending on the transparency of data, and may draw on results from other industry surveys or studies, which are with access to such data.

3   Benefits expected from the work of the ISO/TC 295

Benefits expected to be realized by TC 295 include:

(1) The effects of TC 295 prioritized work are expected as below.

- The improvement and implementation of published ISO 21378:2019 are expected to help auditors and regulators obtain financial and transaction data.

- The standard of tax audit data collection can improve the efficiency of audit for enterprises and tax (customs), enhance the effectiveness of cross-border supervision of goods and taxes, and help to reduce the loss of government revenue.

- Standardization in audit data collection for pension insurance will highlight areas with potential legal compliance issues and improve the efficiency of pension insurance fund audits.

- Standardization in public sector budget may help to ensure legal compliance and effectiveness of government expenditure, and to supervise governments performing duties lawfully.

(2) The development of unified international data standards supporting audit may help to reduce non-tariff barriers, improve convenience of international trade and effectiveness of cross-border supervision of inventory movements and tax payment.

(3) The standardization of data content and data interchange formats can improve the accessibility and transparency for obtaining audit data.

(4) The standardization of audit data collection, pre-processing, management and analysis can enhance efficiency and quality of audit.

(5) The standardization of audit data services can reduce the duplicate efforts of auditees to meet different audit requirements. ~~It is particularly important for small and medium-sized enterprises.~~ For example, ISO 21378:2019 and its extensions are expected to meet data collection requirements from government audit, external independent audit, internal audit, tax and customs administrations and other regulators.

(6) The standardization of audit data services can help vendors provide audit data services in a consistent way, and reduce associated cost.

~~(6)~~(7) The standardization of audit data services can be particularly important for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). No matter the SMEs referring to auditors, auditees or vendors supporting ERP, accounting packages, audit tools and other information systems, TC 295 work could help to reduce associated cost. SMEs could more easily understand audit requirements, provide customized data services with lower cost, and more efficiently to deal with audit data.

~~(7)~~(8) TC 295 can facilitate coordination and implementation of related international standards and provide unified audit data services and technical support.

4   Representation and participation in the ISO/TC 295

4.1   Membership

The following homepage lists the members and Liaison-members of ISO/TC 295.
https://www.iso.org/committee/5648297.html

4.2   Analysis of the participation

The below membership summary and analysis are accurate as of 2020-09-18. Refer to the committee membership homepage for up to date information:

https://www.iso.org/committee/5648297.html?view=participation

Breakdown by region

Region	P-member (11)	O-member (13)
Africa	0	1: Tunisia (INNORPI)
Americas	1:Canada (SCC)	1: Ecuador (INEN)
Asia-Pacific	4： • China (SAC) • Japan (JISC) • Thailand (TISI) • India (BIS)	0
Europe	5： • Finland (SFS) • Italy (UNI) • Netherlands (NEN) • Romania (ASRO) • Russian Federation (GOST R)	9： • Austria (ASI) • Bulgaria (BDS) • Estonia (EVS) • France (AFNOR) • Germany (DIN) • Portugal (IPQ) • Serbia (ISS) • Sweden (SIS) • Spain (UNE)
Middle East	1: Kuwait (KOWSMD)	2: Iran, Islamic Republic of (ISIRI) Saudi Arabia(SASO)
NOTE: Russia has been classified as part of Europe.		

From the above table, it can be seen that the current membership of TC 295 is mostly from Europe and Asia-Pacific, and contains both developed and developing countries with an interest in advanced capacity in audit data extraction and information technology. There is notably little participation from Americas and Africa, with only Canada (P-member), Ecuador (O-member) and Tunisia (O-member) representing these regions. The Middle East also has limited participation so far, with just Kuwait (P-member), Iran (O-members) and Saudi Arabia (O-members) listed. It is the hope of TC 295 that as additional work is accomplished that more participation will be seen from the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas.

At present, there has been much interest from industries and external organizations to liaison with TC 295. TC 295 is actively engaging with industries, relevant organizations in the market to expand involvement and ensure global relevance.

Appropriate liaisons have been established with other ISO committees, and is expected to grow as the scope of our work expands. Individual members of TC 295 have opened dialogues to begin to work collaboratively with other ISO/IEC technical committees for the creation of synergies and broader applicability of future work products.

5 Objectives of the ISO/TC 295 and strategies for their achievement

5.1 Defined objectives of the ISO/TC 295

ISO 21378:2019 specifies the data content and file format when collecting data from various accounting and ERP systems. In developing ISO 21378:2019, ISO/TC 295 members realized that the timeframe allowed for a single project could not cover all audit areas. As such, public sector budget, tax audit, or other audit data services techniques (e.g. management and analysis). ISO/TC 295 will continue the standardization process to cover other pertinent areas.

ISO/TC 295 aims to standardize the data content as well as the collection, pre-processing, management and analysis techniques for the identification, communication, receipt, preparation and use of audit[1] data. The initial scope of TC 295 covers five areas: public sector budget, financial reports, non-financial enterprises[2], tax and social insurance, for the purpose of government audit, external independent audit, internal audit and other regulators.

The outline and objectives for each aforementioned area are described as follows:

1. Public sector budget area

Audit data service standards regarding public sector budget will specialize terminology, specific data elements, data collection modes, data formats and analysis methods of public sector budget, for the needs of public sector budget auditing and other regulatory agencies. In general, government departments, public enterprises, NGO, international organizations are regarded as a kind of public sector. The audit of public sector budget involves budget preparation and implementation, financial reports of public sectors.

1a) the initial development of ISO TR for public sector budget data collection, based on the feedback from government auditors in Russia, Romania and Thailand. From 2021 the secretariat will lead and coordinate members from Russia, Romania, Thailand, China and other interested countries to do pre-researches. The proposal will be prepared when the justification is done and the related resources are ready as well.

2. Financial[3] reports area

Audit data service standards regarding financial reports will specialize terminology, specific data elements, data collection modes, data formats and analysis methods of financial reports, for the needs of financial report auditing and other regulatory agencies and stakeholders. In terms of financial report auditing, auditees include both non-financial enterprises and financial enterprises.

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[1] *Audit: an official examination of an entity's financial and financial related records in order to check that they are correct. (Source: Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English 4th Edition, modified- company has been replaced by entity to cover government auditees and financial related records has been added.)*

[2] *Non-financial enterprises: enterprise that is primarily established to offer goods or perform services other than financial services. Some non-financial enterprises may have secondary financial activities such as providing consumer credit to their customers, or treasury functions. However, such enterprises will be classified on the basis of their main activity in the non-financial sector. (Source: ISO 9362:2014(en), 3.2, organization, institution and coorporation have been replaced by enterprise)the enterprises excluding bank.*

[3] *'financial' in financial reports refers to the information about the entity's economic resources, claims against the entity and changes in those economic resources and claims that is useful to primary users in making decisions relating to providing resources to the entity, such as the information about the entity's assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses. (Source IFRS)*

2a) the extension of ISO 21378:2019 by adding financial reports information of non-financial enterprises, considering the differences of accounting principles and information disclosure requirements in different countries. This work will be done in the project listed in 3a.

3. Non-financial enterprise area

Audit data service standards regarding non-financial enterprise will specialize terminology, specific data elements, data collection modes, data formats and analysis methods of financial and business management information regarding non-financial enterprises to meet audit needs. The financial and business management information includes financial report, general ledger, accounts receivable, sales, accounts payable, purchase, inventory, property, plant and equipment, payroll.

3a) the extension of ISO 21378:2019 by adding financial reports information and payroll. The new project "Audit Data Collection Extension: Government Regulated Financial Reports and Payroll" is under developing, which shall be completed by Sep 1, 2023. The existing TC 295/WG 1 is responsible for drafting this standard.

3b) Developing technical specifications for different file output formats, such as XML, JSON and XBRL. The new project " Exchange formats for the Audit Data Collection: XML and JSON" is under developing by TC 295/WG 1, which shall be completed by Sep 1, 2022. Proposals related to other formats are welcomed.

3c) Developing country and industry guidelines and following data pre-processing research of ISO 21378:2019. Industry includes manufacturing and construction. Data pre-processing includes audit data quality examination, data ingestion. The secretariat will closely follow the progress to implement ISO 21378:2019 in different countries and industries.

3d) Carry out the mapping and data modelling of ISO 21378:2019 with relevant standards.

4. Tax area

Audit data service standards regarding tax audit will specialize terminology, specific data elements, data collection modes, data formats and analysis methods of all tax-related information, for the audit performed by tax department and other regulatory agencies. According to the tax classification and statistics disclosed by IMF and OECD, the taxes in TC 295 mainly include VAT, Excise duties, Custom duties, Corporate income tax, Individual income tax, Property tax and other taxes.

4a) Developing data collection standards for VAT, Excise duties, Customs duties, Corporate income tax and Individual income tax. The new project "Audit Data Collection – Customs and Indirect Taxes Extension" is under developing, which shall be completed by Sep 1, 2023. The WG for this project will be decided at December meeting (update later).

4b) Developing TR or TS for data collection regarding other taxes and the implementation for specific industries.

5. Social insurance area

Audit data service standards regarding social insurance will specialize terminology, specific data elements, data collection modes, data formats and analysis methods related to social insurance funds contribution, usage/payment, investment and management. The social insurance includes pension insurance, health insurance unemployment insurance, maternity and work-related injury costs.

5a) Developing data collection standards for pension insurance. From 2021 the secretariat will lead and coordinate interested members to do pre-researches. The proposal will be prepared when the justification is done and the related resources are ready.

5b) Developing TR or TS for data collection regarding pensions for specific industries and groups.

The above 3a, 3b, 4a, 3c,1a , 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a and 5a are the main objectives and priorities in the work of TC 295 as described in Executive summary.

5.2   Identified strategies to achieve the ISO/TC 295's defined objectives

Strategies to be employed by TC 295 in achieving above objectives include:

(1) TC 295 covers five different areas including public sector budget, financial reports, non-financial enterprises, tax and social insurance. It is necessary to apply different strategies for each area according to its situation.

- For the area of non-financial enterprises, TC 295 will focus on the extension and implementation of ISO 21378:2019. For the other areas, works on data collection standards will be their priorities. Standards for data pre-processing, data management, data analysis will be considered only based on the sound development of audit data collection standard.

- ISO 21378:2019 is an important starting-point for areas including financial report, non-financial enterprises and tax. Joint work with WG1 is preferred.

- Diverse laws, principles and disciplines in different countries may affect the standardization in areas of public sector budget, financial report, tax and social insurance. For example, whether pension funds contain pillar 0 pension (pension schemes that are non-contributory and financed through taxes), and whether they are managed by private sectors varies across countries. There are also big differences in public budget management systems across countries. Although preliminary findings suggest that the standardization in audit data collection under the differences in policies and systems is possible, further investigations in the areas are necessary. Developing technical reports or forming ad hoc groups may be more practical at the beginning stage.

- The relationship between existing NPs and the five areas should be fully considered. A unified standard framework of audit data services should be developed and maintained.

- A new WG to complete the NP on tax is necessary, and members' participation is encouraged.

(2) The five areas of TC 295 are closely interrelated with each other, including:

- Common terminology for all areas;

- The relation between financial revenue and tax revenue;

- The relation between data collection standards for enterprise and tax audit;

- The relation between social security tax and social insurance funds;

- The relation between financial reports of public sectors and enterprises;

- The relation among payroll, the base of social insurance contributions/premiums and individual income tax;

- The relation between social insurance budget and public sector budget;

- The relation among business information and financial reports, VAT, excise duties, customs duties and corporate income tax.

Considering TC 295 works as a whole, it is necessary to establish an advisory group responsible for strategic planning and coordination on the premise of good accomplishment of standard making in each area. The advisory group will consist of committee officers, individuals nominated by National Bodies and/or, as relevant, by A-liaison organizations. It is also suggested to form a working group of terminology.

(3) As for the structure of TC 295, new working groups shall be formed in accordance with NWIPs and overall plan. Besides WG 1, it is suggested to set up an advisory group, two working groups of terminology and tax audit. The projects at the preliminary research stage are suggested to be managed directly by the secretariat of TC 295, and separate working group will be set up according to the process. Considering lack of experts in each area, it is suggested not to establish SC at present.

(4) In order to improve global usability of TC 295 standards, TC 295 will encourage more participation of members and attract more countries, especially countries from Middle East, Africa and Americas. It is an effective way to attract more members to actively introduce TC process in related activities, domestically and internationally.

(5) TC 295 will leverage works of related ISO/IEC technical committees when involving the technical standards, such as data collection, data pre-processing, data management, data analysis and data security.

(6) TC 295 will build liaisons with ISO/IEC technical committees and related international organizations, and improve the harmonization of existing standards.

- Enhance communication and cooperation with committees including ISO/IEC/JTC 1, ISO/TC 68, ISO/TC 154, ISO/TC 176, ISO/TC 184, ISO/TC 251, ISO/TC 307, ISO/TC 321, ISO/TC 322, ISO/TC 323 and ISO/TC 324.

- Develop communication and cooperation with INTOSAI, IFAC and IIA, follow their progress on standards and principles related to government audit, external independent audit and internal audit. Make more efforts to support their work on data collection, management and analysis.

- Gradually initiate communication and cooperation with other relevant international organizations. It is suggested to give priority to OECD and IMF, and follow status of EU, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization and XBRL.

(7) Convene meetings in multi ways, including but not limited to the following,

- At least one TC plenary meeting and 2 or 3 zoom meetings every year;

- Recommend working groups to have regular internet meetings and communication in E-mails if necessary and at least one plenary meeting every year.

- Impacted by COVID-19, face-to-face meetings shall satisfy ISO requirements.

6 Factors affecting completion and implementation of the ISO/TC 295 work programme

Factors that have the potential to negatively affect the work of ISO/TC 295 include:

(1) Diverse laws and disciplines in different countries may affect the feasibility of developing standards and the usability of published standards.

(2) The audit informatization may be mature in some countries and less in others. It is difficult for these groups to reach consensus on the requirements of specific standard. Moreover, lack of stakeholders for some projects.

(3) Members may have difficulty in reaching consensus on content and technical topics, due to the diverse market interests and the involvement of political issues.

(4) Interruption of projects by the intervention of some countries or stakeholders.

(5) Members have different views and rules for data security and privacy, which may influence the development of standards.

(6) Lack of funding for the research at early stages and the developing and testing of projects.

(7) The ISO committee Chairperson, Committee Manager, Secretary, Convenor or Project Leader positions is vacant.

(8) Lack of expert resources for certain projects.

(9) Limited experts are dispersed into many different WGs for the period.

(10) Related basic standards are under development/revising, which may affect the content and the target date of projects.

(11) Lack of basic acknowledge of advanced technology as well as specific experts for a project, which could affect projects' development.

(12) Difficulty in communication and coordination with related organizations and other committees.

7   Structure, current projects and publications of the ISO/TC 295

(1)Current structure

TC 295 currently has only one working group WG 1 named audit data collection.

(2) Current projects

Three NPs are under developing

- ISO/NP 5401 Audit Data Collection-Customs and Indirect Taxes Extension
- ISO/NP 5405 Audit Data Collection Extension: Government Regulated Financial Reports and Payroll
- ISO/TS 5409 Exchange formats for the Audit Data Collection Standard: XML and JSON

(3) Published deliverables

ISO 21378:2019 Audit Data Collection

(4)Relevant stakeholders

Government auditors, external independent auditors, internal auditors, tax and customs administrations, other related regulatory activities, ERP vendors, information technology companies and relevant international organizations.

Information on ISO online

The link below is to the TC's page on ISO's website:
https://www.iso.org/committee/5648297.html

Click on the tabs and links on this page to find the following information:
- About (Secretariat, Committee Manager, Chair, Date of creation, Scope, etc.)
- Contact details
- Structure (Subcommittees and working groups)
- Liaisons
- Meetings
- Tools
- Work programme (published standards and standards under development)

Reference information

Glossary of terms and abbreviations used in ISO/TC Business Plans

General information on the principles of ISO's technical work