

IPTT Inaugural Meetings (February 21, 2020)— Summary of Discussions¹

OPENING REMARKS AND DISCUSSION OF ITEMS IN THE AGENDA

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. IPTT members took note of the written comment sent by the Statistics Netherlands highlighting the need to focus on conceptual issues given the time frame of this task team (TT).
2. IPTT members indicated that work of this TT should concentrate on intellectual property products (IPPs) cross border issues, while also taking the lead where there are conceptual issues that overlap with the work done in other subgroups such as the Inter Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) globalization subgroup. The IPTT will report to the International Monetary Fund's Committee on Balance of Payments (BOPCOM) and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG).
3. IPTT members agreed to most of the issues highlighted in the introduction of the work program (relocation of IPPs across borders, global production arrangements by factory less goods producers, payments for "knowledge-based capital") but the issues of relocation of cross-border IPPs and ownership of IPPs would take high priority and the others lower priority. Also, an emerging issue was the treatment of intra multinational enterprises (MNEs) flows of IPP patents.
4. IPTT members also discussed the relevance of IPPs data and data reporting to the work of this task team. Although there is an overall agreement on the relevance of producing IPPs data, it was indicated that tackling these issues could extend beyond the timeframe currently envisaged for the IPTT's work.

ACTIONS AGREED

5. IPTT members to report to BOPCOM and AEG on the results of the work of this TT (October 2020).
6. IPTT members to give priority to issues of relocation of cross-border IPPs and ownership of IPPs in the work of this TT (during the preparation of the IPPs report).

¹ This task team was established in response to a recommendation arising from the October 2019 meeting of the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics. Initially termed the Task Force on Intellectual Property Products (TFIPP), it was redesignated as the Intellectual Property Products Task Team (IPTT) following the official launch of the *BPM6* and *SNA 2008* Updates in March 2020.

7. IPTT members to include data issues (including data reporting) in IPTT report to raise awareness for future work in this area (during the preparation of the IPPs report).

IPTT WORK PROGRAM AND TIMETABLE

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS

8. On the preparation and circulation of **assessments of the current methodological guidelines on IPPs**, the IPTT members would share various documents they prepared on IPPs issues, including the paper for the Russia country case prepared for the last BOPCOM, with the Chair.

9. The IPTT Chair will prepare an issue note and a list of questions to gather information about the challenges faced by countries represented on the IPTT in the collection and compilation of IPPs data.

10. The IMF mentioned that there will be a conference organized by the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth in August 2020 with a special plenary session on the update of the manuals covering the three of the subgroups (globalization, digitalization and well-being/sustainability) of the Task Force on the SNA Research Agenda. Given that the audience combines both users and compilers of macroeconomic statistics it is a good opportunity to raise the IPPs issues, if possible, to get more feedback on challenges to add to the current issues and how they are being dealt with.

11. The IMF indicated that there is an initial draft issue paper prepared by Eurostat for the globalization subgroup on economic ownership and recording of IPPs which was still in limited circulation. This will be circulated to the Chair and could be used as a brief summary of the issues and a review of the recording options considered so far in the existing literature.

12. With the aim of a more pragmatic approach to developing and implementing methodological standards, IPTT members stressed the importance of statistical compilation feasibility being a key anchor for its work and outcomes.

13. Other items of the workplan and timeline were accepted, and the next VC is planned for early-May about a month after the issues paper circulation to allow members to prepare adequately.

ACTIONS AGREED

14. IPTT members to share various documents they prepared on IPPs issues with the Chair, including country cases with challenges for the IPPs methodological standards implementation and the compilation of IIPs data (**Mid-March 2020**).

15. IPTT Chair will share an IPPs issue note and the list of documents with all other members for their review and comments. This IPPs issue note will include an inventory of relevant IPP cross-border issues and current country practices (**End-March 2020**).

16. IPTT members will provide comments to the IPPs issue note (**End-April 2020**).

17. Next IPTT VC (**Early-May 2020**).

18. IPTT members to raise the IPPs issues during the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth in August 2020, if possible, to get more feedback on challenges to add to the current issues and how they are being dealt with (**August 2020**).

INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED

- OECD (Chair)
- EUROSTAT
- ECB
- Central Bank of Russia
- Central Statistics Office of Ireland
- IMF (secretariat)
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (did not attend but provided written comments)
- Statistic Netherlands (did not attend but provided written comments)
- U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (did not attend)

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