

SUMMARY RECORD

4th Annual Meeting on International Transport Statistics

14-15 March 2017 OECD, Paris

Chair: Ms Patricia Hu, Director, US Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Item 1 - Welcome and objectives of the meeting

The Chair, Ms. Patricia Hu opened the session by emphasising the importance of transport data for policy making. She presented briefly the agenda items: Investment in Transport Infrastructure, Transport Satellite Accounts, Big Data, Understanding and Quantifying Accessibility, Data Visualisation Methods, Innovation in Transport Measurement and ITF projects.

M. Jari Kauppila, Head of ITF Statistics and Modelling Unit, welcomed all participants and introduced the meeting background and expected outcomes. The aim of the meeting is to contribute to the development of a more consistent and efficient international framework for transport statistics by promoting exchange between transport experts from different countries and to suggest/develop common solutions.

Item 2 - Approval of last meeting's minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Item 3 - Transport infrastructure investment and maintenance

3.1 ITF questionnaire on transport infrastructure spending

Ms. Ashley Acker presented preliminary results from the latest ITF survey which included a new variable on "Transport Infrastructure Capital Stock", as it was agreed during last year's meeting. Ms. Acker informed that we are still waiting for some data before we can disseminate preliminary results. So far, among the 40 country answers already received, 13 countries were able to provide data on capital stock value, which is a promising result showing that such information exists and can be collected.

3.2 Database on infrastructure investment in Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. Jeannette LARDE from the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC) presented the [INFRALATAM](#) database on infrastructure investments in Latin America and the Caribbean. The database covers infrastructures for 4 main themes: Energy, Telecommunication, Transport, Water Supply and Irrigation. She explained that the major challenges are to standardise definitions, disaggregate data, record private investments as well as processed maintenance, measure the infrastructure gap, and also capital stock. The project is ambitious and has many synergies with the work ITF is currently carrying out on investment in transport infrastructure. During the discussion, it was mentioned that collecting Public and Private Partnership data was a real challenge and this could be a topic to be discussed at the next ITF Statistical meeting.

3.3 ITF project to collect data on infrastructure costs

M. Kauppila explained that only a few countries have comprehensive procurement database. The general lack of available data limits our ability to make analysis and build the foundation for policy advice. The ITF launched an initiative to create a construction cost database for motorways. Many countries were interested in the project and expressed either their will or the possibility to support it. The ITF will keep the group informed as the project goes forward.

3.4 Other issues

Ms Alexandra Quandt from the Swiss Office Fédéral de la Statistique, provided an update on the evolution of their project to measure the cost and funding of transport. They use a full cost approach to measure the social cost of transport in compliance with the ‘polluters pays’ principle.

Item 4 – Transport Satellite Accounts (TrSA)

4.1 Report on a pre-workshop meeting and presentation of the project

M. Kauppila reminded the Group that at the last meeting a dozen countries expressed their interest in developing TrSA and asked the ITF to provide guidelines on how to proceed for that. He informed that the ITF will organize a workshop in Paris during the fall 2017 to discuss the issue. To prepare for that workshop, the ITF and the OECD National Accounts met last March with France and the USA which both develop and maintain TrSA on a regular basis. The aim of this pre-meeting was to start a discussion to set up a framework that would serve as a basis for the discussion at the workshop. It came out from the discussion that we should first create an ideal framework based on Supply/Use tables including all the information we would like to have, broken down by activities and including own account transport, household supply and use, physical data This framework would be presented at the workshop as a conceptual ideal and we would then move from that conceptual framework to the practical side in trying to complete it with what can be really collected.

4.2 Update on international progress on TrSA

M. Kevin Roberts from Canada presented their experience in TrSA. Statistics Canada has a long history of developing and disseminating satellite accounts on various sectors (Tourism, Culture, Environment ...) and he explained how TrSA could bring more clarity on the contribution of transport into the economy.

Item 5 – Big Data

5.1 the ITF Working Group on Big Data

M. Tom Voege explained that the ITF Big Data working group is an initiative to look for alternative solutions to collect transport data, given the burden traditional data collections represent, their low response rates and also the budgetary constraints Governments are facing. This initiative aims at trying to develop a framework for recommendations on how Governments could access to Big Data which are very often business oriented databases. Two main difficulties were pointed out, first how to gather the data and second how to evaluate its statistical validity. The final report will be provided to the group when available.

5.2 Statistical validity of Big Data

Ms. Ashley Acker presented the statistical validity issues related to using Big Data. Big Data has a lot of benefits but has still a long way to go before it matches the OECD Data Quality Standards given its incompleteness and noise, unrepresentativeness, data coverage consistencies and reliabilities.... Also it was pointed out that the concept of sustainability is very important to ensure continuity of time series and future data. Big Data is a new field with great potential, but it is still under development and most benefits are still to be discovered, as researchers adapt to working with this new medium. So there are many more

innovations to come when working with Big Data but for the time being quite some manipulations are to be done before Big Data series can be processed with the current statistical rigor.

5.3 Country experience with Big Data

Mr Hans Strelow from Eurostat presented a project within the European Statistical System (ESS) jointly undertaken by 22 partners, the [Essnet Big Data](#). The project has different packages and he focussed on the WP4 concerning Automatic Identification System data (AIS) to collect sea vessel movements. The presentation generated a lot of interest about AIS data since some countries are already using it and the Group decided to have a point on AIS in the agenda next year.

Item 6 - Understanding and quantifying accessibility

6.1 New global urban access measure

M. Nicolas Wagner presented the latest ITF work on measuring urban accessibility based on open data sources. The project covers 1600 cities but for public transport measurements it focusses on 20 cities only. The project tries to measure the ability to travel around in urban areas by combining the performance of the transport system (speed) with the density of the city (population / km²). The amount of available open sources is impressive but the quality of the information varies a lot and there are many data challenges. The project requires developing partnerships between the public and private sectors on the data collection side whereas on the analytical side specific skills are needed to manage the data.

Item 7 – Visualisation tool

7.1 ITF visualisation tool

Ms. Rachele Poggi introduced the “[Compare your country](#)” visualisation tool which is accessible from the ITF website. Countries pointed out the need to have a general introduction document and a list of all the available indicators, to facilitate the use of the tool.

7.2 Eurostat visualisation tool

Ms. Ruxandra Roman Enescu presented the Eurostat visualisation tool and also informed about the upcoming air passenger visualisation tool. She also mentioned the Eurostat Digital publication which is a new way of communicating statistics.

7.3 UK’s twitter experience

M. John Wilkins introduced the UK [twitter feed](#) program using infographics, charts. He explained how the use of twitter changed their communication policy and helped them to get their statistics to the right audience and increased significantly their visibility.

Item 8 – Innovation in transport measurement

A tour de table was organised so each country could inform and share its own innovation with the group. These are the various projects presented:

- Austria: Has a project to analyse transport data and re-direct road traffic flows accordingly, in case of disruption.
- Denmark: Since October 2016, they use mobile phone data to collect information on road freight statistics.
- Slovenia: The statistical office is preparing to conduct the 1st passenger mobility survey in autumn 2017. For data collection two methods will be used: web and CAPI. In addition to those two modes of

data collection they are developing an App to measure passenger mobility. This mode of data collection will be used as a test. They are also building methodology for calculation of VKM by using data from the Register of Vehicles and data from odometer readings at technical inspections.

- Slovakia: They are preparing a National Census for 2021 on passenger mobility using less questionnaires and more already existing data or information coming from mobile operators. In addition they aim at having a census every year. They are also building a model to measure freight transport.
- Finland: Has a project to measure passenger mobility using mobile phone accelerometer to determine the mode of transport.
- Greece: They would like to measure passenger mobility using mobile phones, tablets or household member interviews, to identify mobility patterns in the country.
- Italy: The National institute for Statistics (ISTAT) is making many efforts to investigate the possibility of using Big Data to improve quality of official statistics and reduce the burden on respondents. In particular, specific working groups activity started in the last months and feasibility studies are going on about the use of telephone traffic samples (e.g. in Road Accidents statistics geocoding) and other BD sources (e.g. for Air and Maritime transport statistics). A feasibility study on the use of the road worthiness register data to estimate V-km started in 2017.
- United Kingdom: Has a team working on Data Science Capability which includes various forms of cross working between organisations to improve the efficiency to analyse consultation responses, visualisation ...
- Ireland: Generated an API to pull information on inflation, house prices And for the transport sector they asked what people would like most and built a search engine to find out most popular cars, new trucks on roads, fuel type, electric/hybrid vehicles....any popular interest. Also they developed infographics of all vehicles (excluding bicycles).
- Chile/Mexico: Jari Kauppila informed that these countries are building a logistics observatory
- Canada: Did not report much as innovation since this year was a consolidation and planning year but appreciated all topics discussed (visualization, passenger mobility, twitter, infographics ...) and insisted on the importance to create a dialog between transport users and providers.

Item 9 – ITF projects

9.1 ITF transport Outlook

M. Vincent Benezech presented the ITF 2017 transport Outlook. He explained that the transport sector was very difficult to decarbonise. If transport demand decreases during the periods of economic crisis, as soon as fuel prices are low travel demand grows immediately. The ITF 2050 projections for transport demand indicate that surface transport will grow despite current policy measures. Technology progress and currently foreseeable policies to mitigate transport CO₂ are not sufficient to achieve climate ambitions. Accelerated innovation and radical policy choices on issues such as routing optimisation, shared mobility, changes in supply chains or new transport modes are required.

9.2 Transport indicators available in OECD.Stat

Ms Rachele Poggi updated the Group on the ITF latest available transport performance indicators. They provide a better benchmark of transport data and can be accessed or downloaded from the OECD.Stat.

9.3 ITF data collection

M. Mario Barreto briefed the Group on the latest data available from ITF transport statistics questionnaires.

9.4 The 5th edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics

M. Hans Strelow informed the Group about the plans for the 5th edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics. He explained that there is a need for new definitions, revisions and clarification of existing terms, addition of some illustrations and creation of a new chapter on maritime accidents. He asked countries to send to ITF Secretariat any input or suggestion for the 5th edition by the end of May so they can be presented at the next UNECE WP6 in Geneva.

M. Mario Barreto also informed the Group that there is a need to give the Glossary a worldwide coverage. Organisations such as Asian Development Bank or International Road Federation have volunteered to participate in the drafting of the 5th edition. Some countries made the following suggestions: add the definitions of TrSA, describe “non-motorised” transport and provide guidelines for passenger mobility.

Item 10 – International Co-operation

10.1 DG MOVE

M. Paolo Bolsi presented the recent transport policy developments at EU level. He mentioned the 2016 Low Emission Mobility Strategy, aiming at improving the efficiency of the transport systems, scaling up the use of low-emission alternative energy, moving towards zero-emission vehicles and establishing an enabling environment for low-emission mobility. The expected statistical needs for the future will cover these new types of mobility: on-demand mobility, sharing economy, autonomous driving, intelligent vehicles and so forth, which are most based on data-intense technologies. He also mentioned the launch of a study about internalisation of external costs in transport gladly welcoming ITF cooperation and expertise in infrastructure expenditure data.

10.2 Eurostat

Ms. Ruxandra Roman Enescu reported that in addition to legal acts that collect data in a harmonized way, they have two voluntary data collections i.e. the regional statistics and the Common Questionnaire. In addition they also have built modal split indicators, distance matrices for all transport modes, and are collaborating with all the EU Agencies to extend safety data to all modes of transport.

10.3 UNECE

M. Alexander Blackburn presented the transport activities at the UNECE. He mentioned their capacity building experiences and their will to develop them further more. He also informed that the next UNECE WP6 will take place in Geneva on 7-9 June.

10.4 UIC

Ms Favre introduced the work development at the UIC. She described their data and publications, their on-line consultation as well as their future projects.

10.5 IRF

M. Cristian Becerra informed about the organisation of the next World Road meeting in November 2017 in India. He indicated that this is an opportunity to promote transport statistics at that meeting and that there will be a session dedicated specially to discuss the Glossary for Transport Statistics. The whole event is a good opportunity to promote transport statistics and meet non-European countries.

Item 11 – Next steps and conclusions

During these two days of discussions the Secretariat received positive feedback from participants, underlining the rich and engaging exchanges, the good level of debates, the importance of sharing countries’ experiences and the benefits of sharing lessons learned from each other’s initiatives.

Ms. Patricia Hu invited participants in a ‘tour de table’ to express their views and topics they wish to discuss at the next meeting. The following topics were suggested:

- AIS (including river information) which can provides more resources to share;
- Transport Satellite Accounts (report on the fall 2017 meeting);
- Visualisation lightening talks, each speaker has 2-3 minutes to present their visualisation product;
- GIS information, many tools were mentioned, how we can use them, what sort of analysis we can make;
- Collecting data from Public Private Partnerships (PPP);
- Internalisation of external costs (user and polluters pays principle);
- Transport safety not only for road but for all modes;
- Origin/destination surveys;

All documents related to the meeting are available from the ITF web site at the following address:
<https://www.itf-oecd.org/4th-itf-meeting-transport-statistics>

The ITF Secretariat thanked all participants for the very fruitful discussion during the meeting.