

SUMMARY RECORD

3rd Annual Meeting on International Transport Statistics

17-18 March 2016 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 also advised the attendees that this year's meeting agenda reflected requests made at the last ITF statistical meeting (April 2015). The agenda items included, but were not limited to, Investment in Transport Infrastructure, Transport Satellite Accounts, Innovation in Transport Statistics, and Benchmarking Transport Performance.

Mr. Jari Kauppila, Head of ITF Statistics and Modelling Unit, welcomed all participants and introduced the meeting background and expected outcomes. The aims were 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 Follow up to the previous meeting conclusions

Mr. Jari Kauppila reported that the collaboration with the OECD National Accounts will continue but our expectation regarding the possibility of collecting capital stock data through national accounts may have to be revised down. Since there is a strong need to improve the information collected on this field, it was decided to continue to discuss this issue at future meetings.

3.2 US Value of Transportation Infrastructure Task Force

Ms. Patricia Hu briefed the main objectives of the US Task Force (TF) on valuing the value of transport system. The aim of that TF is to quantify the contribution of transport to the economy, e.g., why transport is important for politician and provide information on the value of transport services. Relevant Task Force documents are available at http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_3.2_hu_value_task_force.pdf.

3.3 Presentation of the ITF 2014 data collection

Mr. Mario Barreto presented the status of the latest ITF data collection on investment in transport infrastructure. He stressed the fact that despite the difficulty of this data collection, the response rate to the questionnaire is increasing each year, and both the quality and coverage of the data are also significantly improving. Mr. Barreto thanked all countries for their efforts in completing this survey. The presentation is available at http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_3.3_invest_2014_data-mario.pdf

3.4 Practical case study

Mr. Dejan Markovsek presented a concreted example on the use of ITF investment data. He demonstrated that despite the definition and methodology problems and the difficulty to collect these data, analyses are plausible to support policy decisions. The presentation is available at:

http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_3.4-dejan.pdf

3.5 Other works and next steps

Ms. Hu informed that she will share with the Group the final results of the TRB Task Force.

She also suggested that ITF looks into investment modal split available from other sources such as EIB, World Bank and private sources to complement the overall picture.

Mr. Jari Kauppila asked the Group if we could add 'Capital Stock' information in the questionnaire. Countries that disagree with this addition to the questionnaire should report back to the ITF. Mr. Kauppila also informed that the next questionnaire will include links to data definitions and coverage.

Item 4 – Transport Satellite Accounts (TrSA)

4.1 ICAO Aviation Satellite Accounts

Mr. Sainarayan Ananthanarayan from ICAO was not able to attend the meeting. Instead, Mr. Jari Kauppila presented this project which is a sectorial view of the contribution of aviation to the economy, using a methodology to be approved by the UN. The work is very relevant to the national plans to produce TrSA.

4.2 US TrSA and improvements put in place

Mrs Patricia Hu reported that U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics has developed a methodology to estimate U.S. TrSA by extending the information of the Input-Output Tables and by including in-house and household transportation activities. This approach measures comprehensively how transport services contribute to the economy, and not just focus on for-hire transportation services. The presentation is available at: http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_4.2_hu_trsa.pdf

4.3 Tourism Satellite Account

Mr. Alain Dupeyras of OECD briefed the Group on how OECD managed to develop Tourism Satellite Accounts. He explained that this exercise allowed the tourism industry to get a better recognition of their economy and to develop indicators such as the share of tourism of total GDP, what is the share of domestic tourism and more broadly to benchmark tourism with other related Satellite Accounts (environment, culture).

He advised the Group on how to proceed if we want to create a TrSA framework that is consistent across the countries. He recommended a consensus be reached on the methodological framework that is flexible enough to include country's specific transport aspects and that progressively countries will try to align with this methodology.

For more information see meeting documents: (LINK to page is to come) TSA methodology.pdf and TSA Keynote.pdf (also available in French).

4.4 Other projects

Mr. Mario Barreto presented the results of a short survey on how many countries are interested in developing TrSA and which ones would be willing to participate in a Task Force (TF) to develop the methodological framework. The results of the survey were very positive with 13 countries willing to participate in the TF, three of them having already developed TrSA. The presentation is available at:

http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_4.4_trsa_survey-mario.pdf

Mr. Jari Kauppila said that there was enough interest to create a more general Group or TF to work on methods to harmonized TrSA. He also suggested having a “mode” representation in the TF, using the ICAO project for aviation, for example.

Mr. Alain Dupeyras explained that the TF has to be multi-disciplinary with different expertise. The driving force will be transport policy makers and statisticians since both will benefit from such a tool.

It was decided that the ITF will create a TF and will invite its Member countries to participate, along with OECD experts from the National Accounts and Tourism as well as a representation of multi-disciplinary-specialists. The TF would have to define the basic framework for TrSA, definitions needed and draw border lines. The aim of the TF will be to develop a manual or report of common methodologies.

Item 5 – Innovation in transport measurement

5.1 Introduction to the ITF working group on Big Data

Mr. Jari Kauppila informed the Group on the Big Data Working Group that ITF is launching to assist countries in developing methods to leverage Big Data. The Working Group will consider available private sources and a series of available new tools such as mobile phones, social media, geospatial information etc. The Working Group will meet twice each year to prepare a report and guidelines to be delivered in 2017. The presentation is available at:

http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_5.1-tom.pdf

5.2 Introduction to Eurostat work on Big Data

Ms Anna Bialas-Motyl presented the work carried out by Eurostat where Big Data is used to monitor air and maritime transport. The presentation is available at:

http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_5.2-anna-eurostat.pdf

5.3 Cost and Financing Transport

Mr Christian Gigon described the methodology developed in Switzerland to define costs of transport based on the “polluter pay” principle. The presentation is available at:

http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_5.3-gigon.pdf

5.4 US Commodity Flow Survey results

Ms Patricia Hu presented the results and future plans of this survey that is carried out every five years. The presentation is available at: http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_5.4_hu_cfs.pdf

5.5 global framework for measuring urban access

Mr Christian Pollock explained how to use ‘OpenStreetMap’ and other open data sources to measure urban access and urban mobility. This is a part of the work to benchmark cities by adding layers of population, urban boundry and transport network. This allows measuring elements not measurable elsewhere with open and accessible source. The presentation is available at:

http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_5.5_urban_access.pdf

5.6 National experiences

Participants shared their country’s experiences in developing innovative ways to measure transport activities.

Korea: Developed a telephone application service at the attention of transport users once public transport services are closed. This allows “pick up” bus service be organised according to user’s requests.

Germany: Will carry out this April a mobility survey on a sample of one million households, the biggest household survey in Germany. This is part of a German infrastructure plan until 2050 that includes 1000 projects for around 250 billion euros.

Slovakia: Currently estimates passenger mobility modal split. They are looking for alternative methodology to calculate modal shares, specifically between passenger cars and buses. They would like to know if other countries have such a methodology that they could use or adapt. Ireland informed Slovakia that they have a national survey that has been recently completed with a quarterly new module and that the methodology is available. ITF will send an email to countries to take stock of existing methods and provide these contacts to Slovakia.

Austria: Has made a passenger mobility study to take over their current model to estimate transport demand.

Morocco: Has developed a comprehensive database covering multiple surveys in different transport modes including the logistics sector. They also have a survey on port movement of goods and another one on road transport sector. They recently launched a new model to measure the evolution of goods and passenger transport.

France: To better understand the use of vehicles, they are combining information from the national plates register and the technical controls to find out the total number of kilometres driven.

Turkey: Informed that they have no traffic demand model and must carry out mobility surveys to collect data for most projects

United Kingdom: Presented a whole series of projects such as a road safety model on weather impact which already resulted in 43 fewer fatalities. They also have a “national mapping provider” which combines transport statistics, highway authorities and mapping system to provide more roads networking information like speed limits, number of lanes.

Item 6. Data quality improvements and other ITF projects

6.1 to 6.4 ITF data collections

Ms. Rachele Poggi and Mr Mario Barreto presented the status of the different ITF data collections, including a new project to produce and disseminate a series of transport benchmarking indicators. They reported an improvement in the quality and coverage of all data collected and thanked countries for their efforts in completing ITF questionnaires. Mario Barreto also informed that the ITF will create a short version of the Common Questionnaire in Excel format to send to its non-European member countries. All four presentations are available at: <http://www.itf-oecd.org/3rd-international-transport-statistics-meeting> (items 6.1 to 6.4).

6.5 ITF Transport Outlook 2017

Mr. Kauppila presented the next edition of the ITF transport Outlook that will be published early 2017. He informed the publication will include three main parts: international freight, air passenger and urban mobility. The presentation is available at: http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_6.5_outlook.pdf.

6.6 ITF Web Development

Mr. Ronan Mac Erlaine presented the ITF new web development. He showed the ‘beta’ version of the statistics web page that will become live at the end of April this year. He invited countries to link to the ITF web address indicated at the end of this report and provide comments, by mid-April, by using the ‘feedback’ button.

6.7 Data quality improvements

Mr. Mario Barreto reported that a Task Force will be created by Eurostat/UNECE/ITF to draft the 5th edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics. He invited countries to provide the Secretariat with a list of suggested corrections, modifications and additions that they would like to see included in the new Edition of the Glossary and also nominate a transport mode expert willing to share his knowledge and experience with the Task Force and help in the drafting of the 5th edition of the Glossary. The presentation is available at: http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_6.7_glossary.pdf

Item 7 – International cooperation

7.1 European Commission, DG Move

Mr. Paolo Bolsi made a presentation on “Transport initiatives and evidence needs for policy making” that are needed in order to meet the 60% reduction of CO₂ by 2050 commitment. The presentation is available at: http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_7.2-paolo.pdf

7.2 European Commission, DG Regio

Mr Hugo Poelman presented headlines of an analysis described in a working paper that derived from rail timetables, regional and urban indicators on rail passenger services.

The working paper has just been made available and can be downloaded from the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/working-papers/2016/from-rail-timetables-to-regional-and-urban-indicators-on-rail-passenger-services.

7.3 International Union of Railways (UIC)

Ms. Snejana Markovic Chenais presented the mission and the role of the UIC and informed the Group on the status of UIC 2014 data collection and publications. The presentation is available at: http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/item_7.4-uic_markovic_chenais.pdf

Item 8 – 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 expect to discuss at the next meeting. From that ‘tour de table’, the following topics were suggested for our next statistical meeting:

- Intermodal connectivity and how to identify connectors,
- Innovative ways to measure transport activities and patterns (sensors, satellite images, drones ...),
- Asset management,
- Linkage between transportation and health data,
- How to measure the impact of deferred maintenance,
- Indices of infrastructure characteristics to measure evolution between the beginning and the end of political mandates,
- Visual analytics,
- Big data technology, data visualization and new softwares.

The Chair concluded that:

The ITF should continue to organise this meeting on an annual basis. The increase in participation from the previous meetings to more than 40 participants representing 20 countries and 7 international organisations was positively noted and the Chair encouraged the Secretariat to further develop the work to encourage more country representatives;

Several practical follow-ups were agreed:

1) Investment Statistics

- ITF will add ‘capital stock’ information in its next questionnaire unless countries report back to the ITF their disagreement on this. The questionnaire will also include links to data definitions and coverage.
- ITF will look into private sources to complement the overall picture of investment modal split.

2) Transport Satellite Accounts (TrSA)

- ITF will convene a Task Force with the member countries, national accounts experts and tourism satellite accounts specialist to define the basic framework for TrSA.
 - Countries are invited to suggest modal or multi-disciplinary experts to participate to the TF
- 3) Benchmarking transport performance**
- The ITF initiative received positive feedback, and indicators were very relevant for policy decision. Countries are invited to comment and provide suggestions on the list of indicators the ITF intend to develop.
- 4) Innovations in transport statistics**
- The next meeting will dedicate more time to this item, so countries will be able to detail more of their projects.
 - The ITF will survey countries to see if their experience in calculating passenger transport modal share can help Slovakia in its project.
 - ITF Secretariat remains at member countries' disposal for specific projects and can help in methodological issues through the worldwide network of transport experts.
- 5) ITF new web site**
- Countries are invited to comment and send remarks by mid-April on the Beta version of the new ITF web site.
- 6) The 5th edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics.**
- Countries are invited to name an expert to participate to the Task Force that will draft the new edition of the Glossary.

All documents related to the meeting will be available from the ITF web site at the following address:
<http://www.itf-oecd.org/3rd-international-transport-statistics-meeting>

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