

Online worldwide consultation on the new proposed COICOP

September 2016

Quick guide to the online questionnaire

Version 1

NOTE: Please also read the more detailed instructions at the beginning of the online form.

Background

During a first worldwide consultation in 2012 which was conducted by the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications a large number of countries and international organisations supported the idea of a revision of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) to ensure that it continues to provide an adequate tool for the recording of households' consumption expenditures. In particular, it was felt that an update was needed to reflect the significant changes in goods and services in some areas. In general, the countries called for more detailed guidelines. Following up on this consultation, the Expert Group's Technical Subgroup for COICOP (TSG-COICOP) worked on the issues raised during this first consultation and presented its final report at the EG meeting in 2015 in which it recommended to launch a full revision of COICOP as there are enough and sufficiently important requests for change. As a result, in 2016 the UN Statistical Commission asked the Expert Group to start a full revision of COICOP.

What is the purpose of this questionnaire?

At its meeting in March 2016 the TSG-COICOP discussed the time frame for this revision and has drafted a first proposal for a new revised structure of COICOP. During that meeting the TSG also agreed that a broad participation in the revision process is a crucial factor for its success. Although classification experts from a number of different countries and international organisations are represented in the Expert Group and its Technical Subgroup, we realise that a much wider participation in the revision process of an international classification would be desirable. In order to allow all interested parties to participate and provide feedback on the different proposals of change, the Expert Group and the TSG concluded that all countries should be given the opportunity to comment on the new draft structure.

To ensure that the classification remains a useful tool for compiling statistics at the national level and for international comparison, input from a variety of users of the classification into the revision process is necessary.

A questionnaire has been developed asking for concrete feedback on the draft revised classification. The TSG will use this information to come to a conclusion on the changes and will finalise the new COICOP structure based on the feedback received.

The questionnaire solicits feedback on a range of topics including:

- General conceptual and structural issues
- Cross-cutting issues
- Feedback on specific proposals for a new structure of COICOP
- Feedback on the preferred solution for some specific issues where the TSG COICOP came up with various possible alternatives

How do you participate in this worldwide consultation?

The responses to the online questionnaire will serve as inputs to the ongoing work on COICOP. Your input is therefore extremely important.

This questionnaire should be discussed and coordinated with a wide range of users of COICOP in your office or in your country, including analysts, classification experts and producers of statistics using this classification.

The online questionnaire should be completed by 15 October 2016 to allow for a prompt evaluation of all responses.

Please submit your comments by following this link to the online questionnaire:

<https://goo.gl/forms/mpybylG5q7qfD8jK2>

An email address and some basic information about you are required. You can always interrupt and continue the completion of the form at a later point. Just go to the end of the online questionnaire and submit the form on the last page of the questionnaire. You will then receive a confirmation email with a link to the partially filled-in form. If you want to change or amend the information click on the link provided you can continue editing. If you need to interrupt again, please proceed again to the end of the online questionnaire and submit the data again. It will then be saved.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO CLICK "submit" ON THE LAST PAGE EVERY TIME YOU WANT TO INTERRUPT THE EDITING PROCESS. Otherwise your data will be lost.

Once you have finished the editing process completely please answer the last question ("Questionnaire is completed (mark "yes" if you wish to submit your complete answer now or "no" if you want to submit and save your data for later)") with YES. This helps us to identify your submission as final.