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Data Access Policy

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2nd Executive Board Meeting
February 21, 2010

New York

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DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE ICP DATA ACCESS POLICY AND STRATEGY

Dennis Trewin
Chairman of the 2005 ICP Executive Board

I. Background

The International Comparison Program (ICP) is a worldwide statistical initiative to collect comparative price data and estimate purchasing power parities (PPPs) of the world's principle economies. Using PPPs instead of market exchange rates to convert currencies makes it possible to compare the output of economies and the welfare of their inhabitants in real terms - that is, controlling for differences in price levels.

The 2011 ICP is underway and is expected to be the largest ICP round to date, covering up to 170 economies from five geographic regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia, and the countries of the regular PPP program managed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Statistical Office of the European Union. A regional implementing agency will coordinate the project in each of the five geographic regions, while the OECD and Eurostat will coordinate their regular PPP program. The ICP Global Office will consolidate regional results and publish the final ICP Global Results by the end of 2013.

The ICP entails large price data collection and detailed national accounts expenditure data compilation. The resulting ICP databases at the participating countries, the regional coordinating agencies, and the ICP Global Office contain valuable price and national accounts information, which could support the empirical research of many international, regional, and national agencies, as well as universities and research centers. However, some countries are concerned about the confidentiality of their price data.

In the 2005 round, the Data Archive and Access Policy strongly limited the researchers' access to below basic heading level data. Also, in some regions, the memoranda of agreement between the regional coordinating agencies and the countries restricted researchers' access to detailed price data. However, at the end of the 2005 round, it was clear that researchers were mostly interested in the average price and detailed data collected.

Based on the experience of the 2005 round, the 2011 round will attempt to achieve two fundamental goals in the area of data access: (1) securing the confidentiality and security of data, and (2) ensuring effective dissemination and use of data. Although a trade-off could arise between achieving those two goals, the 2011 round will try to strike a balance between participating countries' confidentiality requirements and the users' needs for access to detailed data.

Also, this new ICP round will focus on collecting, archiving, and providing access to metadata, to increase the quality and utility of the data collected. Efforts are underway to provide countries with the standards and platforms to archive detailed metadata on their price surveys and national accounts data.

One of the innovations of this round will be the development of a new methodology to link the regional results. This methodology involves putting in place a global list of products and services that will be priced by all participating countries, including the countries of the OECD/Eurostat PPP program. This will be a unique exercise that will result in a database of comparative price data from more than 160 countries for more than 350 products and services. This database of average prices will be extremely valuable to researchers around the world.

Given the new direction of the 2011 round in terms of responding to user's needs by providing wider access to detailed data and increasing the focus on metadata, and given the new innovations of the round that will result in valuable price and national accounts information, there is a need to revisit the 2005 ICP data access policy and to prepare a strategy paper on data access for the 2011 round.

II. Purpose of the Paper

This paper should be treated as a discussion paper that (a) sets out the key issues, (b) outlines preliminary conclusions based on desktop research and discussions with researchers and other key stakeholders, and (c) identifies areas for discussion and feedback by the 2011 ICP Executive Board. The primary goal is to address what needs to be done to satisfy the needs of ICP researchers and other users, as this is the source of most criticism of the data access policy. Main researchers may come from the World Bank, regional development banks, other international and regional institutions, national institutions, and research institutes; other users include international corporations and non-governmental organizations.

Attachment A is the 2005 ICP Data Access policy.

Attachment B is the current Eurostat policy. Although it will be necessary to have some detail in the Data Access Policy and Strategy document, it is also important to have an easily digestible summary of the data access arrangements as shown in the Eurostat document.

Attachment C is a brief description of the different types of ICP data that needs to be considered in a Data Access policy. Metadata is listed as one of the data types without any further detail. However, considerable work will need to be done to work through the type of metadata that needs to be archived and potentially available to data users.

III. Modus operandi

The analysis of issues and preliminary conclusions outlined in this discussion paper were based on desktop research and discussions with the Global Office (which has been responsible

for handling the requests of ICP data users), a small number of researchers and key users at the World Bank, as well as some data providers from Regional and National Offices.

More extensive discussions will take place before finalizing the Strategy Paper and Policy Statement. These discussions will involve more contact with the Regional Offices before finalising the policy statement. The Regional Coordinators meeting in Washington DC in April 2011 will provide an opportunity to get direct feedback. Furthermore, the draft strategy paper and policy statement will be reviewed by some key stakeholders before submission to the Executive Board. The draft paper will reflect the comments of these stakeholders.

It would be also useful to have the draft paper reviewed by the TAG, especially as some of the more significant users are members of TAG.

IV. 2005 ICP Data Access Policy

The following extract from 2005 ICP Data Access Policy is relevant.

“Two kinds of data access will be allowed. First, the World Bank, regional, and national coordinating organizations may commission research to evaluate the methodology and suggest where improvements can be made for the next round of the ICP. If this work is done by consultants under contract to these organizations or the World Bank, they should be given access to the full set of regional and global prices and quantity data as well as basic heading PPPs and expenditures providing they sign a declaration of confidentiality.

The second level of access comes from individuals or organizations outside the ICP framework requesting access for research purposes. This type of access should be allowed since it increases the knowledge base on the uses of PPPs and may provide valuable input for future improvements in data quality.”

This suggests that access to national average prices at the product level is possible for specific type of researchers. However, lack of access to this data is the main area of criticism. It begs the question as to whether the group of researchers, who could access price data below the basic heading level, was defined too narrowly. Expanding this group to include key researchers working on poverty analysis, for example, may reduce a lot of the criticisms.

V. Research Uses of the ICP

The focus here is on research uses that require access to more detailed data. Some of the more important uses are set out below. There may be others that emerge from more detailed discussions.

- (i) Poverty analysis – this requires national average price data at the product level with some disaggregation by region (especially a major city/other breakdown) and store type to better understand the prices paid by the poor and how they differ from average national prices.

- (ii) Understanding how the ICP works with the objective of improving understanding of results as well as improving methods. Research into alternative methods, including aggregation methods, requires access to more detailed data. These researchers tend to have strong links to the ICP (possibly as a member of TAG) and their main objective is to improve ICP methods although some no doubt also hope to have their work published in peer-reviewed literature.
- (iii) Understanding cost comparisons across countries in areas such as public sector wages, health and education to support policy analysis and international comparisons in these areas requires data on national average prices at a more detailed level than currently published.
- (iv) Research into the price behaviour of tradeable goods and services to better understand the influence of tax barriers etc requires price data at the product level.

VI. Key Issues

From the point of view of the researchers, there is insufficient access to the more detailed ICP data they require to undertake their work. They do not believe confidentiality is an issue as they are largely not interested in individual price data. National average price data for products, with some disaggregation to better understand the prices paid by the poor, would satisfy most of their needs. Almost all of these researchers are working closely with the World Bank or the regional development banks or are staff members.

Data on national prices for products would provide most of the needs of those researchers looking into the methodology for the ICP. For some of the investigations into price index aggregation methods, access to individual price data may be desirable, but these requests for individual price data are rare and access to this level of detail would depend on the legal constraints of the countries in question.

From the point of view of regional and national offices, the stated concern about providing access to more detailed data is confidentiality. However, the prime concerns are really around data quality. There are two aspects to this. First, there are concerns that the quality of data at the detailed level is not good enough to support research uses. Second, there are concerns that regional and national offices might be publicly criticised because of these shortcomings. There might also be concerns that the ICP itself might be criticised because of the greater exposure to quality weaknesses.

This outlines the main issue that has to be managed in providing broader access. Criticisms of quality are likely to be more difficult to manage than confidentiality. However, it is something that official statistical agencies, that provide access to micro data, need to currently manage. It is much easier if there is a close working relationship with the researchers – more of the way of a partnership.

There is another issue that might be of concern to some countries. If access to more detailed data is provided through the ICP, there may be some expectations that the level of access would be provided through their CPI data.

Part of the reason for a restricted policy on data access in the 2005 round was that regions had already made decisions, and formal agreements with countries, that could not be unwound. It is important that leadership on Data Access Policy and Strategy come from the 2011 ICP Executive Board whilst taking account of the interests of the regions and countries.

There may be other issues but those described above are the most important that have to be considered in developing the Data Access Policy.

VII. Conclusions

The following outlines the main conclusions from the desktop research and interviews with stakeholders and researchers done so far.

- (i) Access to the more detailed data in the 2005 ICP round was too restrictive and the ICP stakeholders were too conservative in the level of access provided to well-credentialed researchers. As a consequence, considerable value from the data collection and processing effort was lost and data from the 2005 ICP round was under utilised. A less restrictive policy should be developed for the 2011 round.
- (ii) Early decisions need to be made on the Data Access Policy for the 2005 round so that the procedures adopted by regional and national offices conform to the agreed global policy.
- (iii) Two broad class of researchers need to be recognised. For convenience they will be referred to as general researchers and approved researchers. For general researchers, a product should be available through the web site (i.e. national average prices for agreed combinations of Basic Headings) although it may be prudent to require an approval process before they are given access to that part of the web site. This should reduce the effort required by the Global Office in the approval of individual requests. Approved researchers should be provided with access to national average price data at the product level with some disaggregation by geography (e.g. urban/rural and outlet type). Also, it is for the approved researchers where more detailed procedures need to be developed for applications and approvals.
- (iv) Breaches of undertakings by researchers should be taken seriously. Individual researchers who should breach their undertaking should have their access denied. The breach should be reported to their institution. Furthermore, consideration should be given to suspending access by the institution itself for a period of time.
- (v) The database to support researchers should be archived and managed by the Global Office although the agreement of Regional offices may be required before some requests are approved. This database might also be used by the Regional offices for requests for regional data that satisfy the Data Access policy. Metadata is essential element of the content of this database.
- (vi) There needs to be an agreed information model for individual price data that should be implemented in each individual participating country. This information model should also

underpin the average national price data used by the Regional and Global Offices and potentially accessible by other users.

For the 2005 round, the Ring price concept was introduced and there was a special Data Access policy item associated with this concept. For the 2011 round there will not be a Ring comparison as such. Rather, all participating countries will collect as many as possible of an agreed subset of more than 350 ICP items of a Global Core list of products and services. There does not seem to be a need for a special policy associated with those products. It should be the same as the general policy but it can be expected that there will be much greater interest in this data and this should be taken into account in the design of the database and the archiving arrangements.

There may be one exception where there is a need for a special policy in respect of the Global Core list, because of the importance of having an indicator of geography and outlet type as part of the information model (discussed in Section VIII (i)). If this is not possible for all items, it might be imposed for the Global Core list items only as they are likely to be at the centre of much of the poverty analysis based on ICP data. This recommendation does not imply though that the Global Office provides researchers access to individual price observations collected without the consent of the countries in question

Attachment B shows the January 2010 version of “*Access rights to Eurostat PPP data*”. This document is largely consistent with these conclusions, and would be an excellent starting point for the 2011 ICP Data Access Policy.

VIII. Analysis of Broad Conclusions

(i) A less restrictive data access policy

One of the main goals of the 2005 round was to support poverty analysis. The production of national PPPs was a major step forward in meeting that objective. It was also agreed that the quality of the 2005 round was a major improvement on the previous rounds. However, it is now known that there are some important weaknesses in the design of the 2005 round from the point of view of poverty analysis. These include:

- (a) inconsistencies in the way national average prices were calculated across countries especially when the price sample was concentrated in the major cities or the major cities were over-represented in the sample;
- (b) insufficient information being recorded in some countries (e.g. geographic region, outlet type) to support more detailed analysis of the prices paid by the poor; and
- (c) access to more detailed data was being restricted even to approved poverty researchers.

Whilst (a) is not within the scope of this Discussion Paper, items (b) and (c) are within scope and adjustments need to be made to the information model and the Data Access Policy to address these weaknesses in the 2005 round.

Point (b) is crucial to poverty researchers who want to review the products priced to narrow their research to those prices most likely to be paid by the poor. A major city/other urban/rural split would assist. Furthermore, they would like to further refine to focus on those outlet types or outlets most likely to be used by the poor.

The development of a less restrictive policy should not be unduly controversial. It will not breach confidentiality in the sense that data about individual businesses and organizations can be identified. Furthermore, the Eurostat policy is less restrictive than the 2005 ICP policy and seems to have been well accepted. The main concern for ICP Executive Board consideration may be criticisms of quality, rather than confidentiality, if more detailed data is provided for research analysis. Ways of managing this are discussed in the next section.

A core component of a less restrictive data access policy is the identification of two types of researchers, which are referred to as general researchers and approved researchers. The current policy recognises two types of researchers although some would argue that the class of researchers who can access more detailed data is too narrow.

For general researchers, it is suggested that they be provided with PPPs, price level indexes, expenditures, and volume data at an agreed level of detail. Eurostat refers to these as being at the “analytical level” and releases data for about 60 analytical categories. The analytical levels are based on combinations of data at the Basic Heading level. A similar approach should be used for the ICP. The quality of data at the analytical level should be sufficient (it does not need to be perfect) to justify release to general researchers. The goal should be to maximise the amount the data that can be released although current Eurostat and OECD decisions on analytical categories may provide something of a constraint on what can be done for the ICP.

For approved researchers and data users, the additional data that should be provided are (a) the same data at the Basic Heading level as for general researchers, (b) average prices at the product level, and (c) related detailed metadata. For some research and data use it may be necessary to have disaggregation of average prices by geographic regions and outlet types. Approval decisions need to be on case by case depending on the merit of the research (e.g. is it furthering the objective of the ICP and the use of ICP data), the credibility of the research team, and whether the quality of data is sufficient to support the research. It should be kept in mind that sophisticated researchers are used to working with data that has errors and often have techniques for managing such data.

Criteria will need to be developed on which to base the decisions outlined in the previous paragraph. These criteria should be part of Data Access policy. Furthermore, an Expert Review team should be established to assist with decisions concerning approved researchers and their access. It should be advisory in nature. The final decision should be the responsibility of the ICP Global Manager or the Regional Coordinator in the case of Regional data sets.

There is some demand for access to individual price observations particularly for the Global Core product list. The ICP Global Office will be responsible for archiving the data collected for the Global Core product list. Many countries, by law, will not be able to provide individual price observations to any external party including the World Bank. Thus it is recommended that the ICP Global Office and Regional Coordinators communicate with all the countries to determine whether it is possible by law for them to send individual price observations and, if so, which data access process should be applied to their micro data. If countries cannot provide individual price observations the fall back is national average price data at the product level. If researchers need to access micro data, they would submit a data access request to the Global Office, who would liaise with the Regional Coordinators, and possibly the countries, and apply the data access process agreed with the countries in question.

(ii) Early decisions on data access policy

The 2005 policy was significantly influenced by decisions that had already been made by some regions. As a consequence, the policy was sub-optimal. This should not occur for the 2011 round. For example, in some regions the memorandum of agreement between the regional coordinating agencies and the countries restricted researchers access to detailed price data. For the 2011 round, the global policy should be decided first, with input from ICP regions.

(iii) Two types of researchers

This is discussed under (i). It is worth noting from Attachment B that Eurostat has two types of researchers – the first group (equivalent to general researchers) have access to a freely accessible database on Eurostat’s web site. The second group (equivalent to approved researchers) have special access rights but have to have their access approved on a case-by-case basis and there are limits on what they can publish.

What should be the restrictions on each of these types of researchers? It will be very difficult to control the outputs of the general researchers except through a statement they might sign before being provided access to the relevant part of the database. The main thing that should be controlled is public criticisms of the quality of the ICP as these might undermine public confidence of the ICP. Of course the Global Office should welcome any feedback on the quality and should take responsibility of providing sufficient information on the quality (consistent with good official statistical practice) to enable users to use the ICP data in an appropriate way.

There should also be an expectation that they will forward the results of their research to the ICP Global Office so that knowledge can be used to improve future rounds.

Approved researchers will need to apply for access and go through an approval process. It is easier to impose conditions on their access. The above comments on public criticism of the quality should hold. In the current policy there is confidentiality agreement that is sound. The core elements are:

- (a) The data will be used only for statistical purposes, and the results of the research will either be published or made available upon request.

- (b) The data will never be disseminated in the public domain in any form and will not be provided to third parties.
- (c) The results of the research will be published only at the aggregate level as established for the ICP global publication unless permission has been granted to publish in greater detail. For that purpose, the version of the research to be published should be provided to the World Bank prior to publication to verify compliance.
- (d) The calculations and documentation underlying the research will be provided to the World Bank if requested.
- (e) Non-compliance to these rules will exclude the requesting organization from any further access to detailed information.

These should form the basis of the new policy. The exception may be to the third bullet point. If general researchers are provided access at the “analytical level”, and there is no requirement for them to seek the approval of the World Bank before publication, the same should apply to approved researchers. That is, permission to publish should only apply to data they propose to publish at a more detailed level.

(iv) Take breaches seriously

Inevitably there is some reliance on researchers to do the right thing. Generally they will especially if the reasons for the conditions are carefully explained. However, if breaches do occur they should be taken seriously, and publicised, to minimise the chances of future breaches.

Legal redress is unlikely to be possible unless the breach is made by staff of the World Bank or one of the participating regional institutions. The best way of dealing with breaches is to:

- (a) deny future access to the researcher (and ask them to return data they currently hold);
- (b) Advise their institution of the breach (and perhaps suggest the institution take further action); and
- (c) Possibly suspend access to the institution unless it appears they have taken reasonable steps to address the problem.

(v) ICP data should be archived at the Global Office

This is not just for the sake of convenience although that is important. It is invariable that most requests for research access at the global level will come to the Global Office and co-ordinating data supply across the regional data bases can be very time consuming. Furthermore the World Bank has the facilities, culture and track record to manage a database of this type under agreed conditions. For the 2005 round, the data archived by the World Bank was given a security classification of “strictly confidential” and managed accordingly. In particular, the data was kept in a secure directory with limited internal access and administered by a designated data custodian.

The data will also be more secure from disaster and accidents if the custodian has the facilities and practices that provide back up and recovery services. The World Bank complies with these requirements.

Regional Offices may want to archive copies of the data set for their own region. Clearly Eurostat and the OECD would require their own databases given their more frequent collection of comparative price data. This would not be precluded by the Global Office taking responsibility for the global database.

High quality metadata is an essential part of the archiving arrangements. It will not be possible to fully understand the qualitative data without supporting metadata. It is pleasing to note that the 2011 round will be special emphasis on the metadata. This is most welcome. There have been criticisms about the lack of metadata in some areas. For example, one important user complained about the unavailability of the product list for one region and details on housing imputation.

(vi) A global information model

The basic building block is the individual price observation. It would be preferable if the information model were agreed at that level. Implicitly an information model already exists although it has not been formalised. In addition to the standard data collected for individual price observations, researchers have also recommended that price observations contain a geographic indicator and type of outlet indicator. These are required to support poverty analysis in those countries where poverty analysis is likely to be undertaken.

If for some reason an information model cannot be applied at the individual price observation level, it should be applied to average prices. An agreed information model should ensure national data are in a consistent form for submission to regional coordinators thereby making their task so much easier.

IX. Managing data quality

The first suggestion is that research and other users must have realistic expectations about the quality of data. All large data collections will have data imperfections no matter how much effort is put into ensuring the data quality is good. This is a fact of life.

This is particularly true for the data from the less developed statistical offices some of which are participating in the ICP for the first time. They do not have the resources or the experience of the OECD and Eurostat countries.

The better researchers can manage data quality errors and have techniques for dealing with many types of error. However, they often require additional information (metadata) to enable them to do this. For example, they would find knowledge of the sampling frame to be very useful. This has to be considered as part of the release. Some things that have been mentioned to me are details about the sample design and frame, etc.

The second suggestion is that the Global Office should listen and respond constructively to feedback on the quality of the ICP data. The vast majority of users will not want to go public about data quality concerns and will be even less inclined to do so if they feel their concerns are being recognised.

The third suggestion is try to manage quality criticisms through the agreements made with researchers - see Section VIII (iii).

X. Issues for Discussion

Feedback from the 2011 ICP Executive Board on the following issues would be very useful to the drafting of the Strategy Paper and Policy Statement.

- (i) Is the proposed modus operandi appropriate or does the Executive Board propose that some alternative or additional steps be undertaken?
- (ii) Is it agreed the most important research uses are those listed in Section IV?
- (iii) Is there agreement to the broad conclusions listed in Section VII?
- (iv) Is it agreed that it is not necessary to have a separate data access policy for national average prices for those products on the global product list?
- (v) What should be the policy with respect to individual price observations taking into consideration legal and other constraints of the participating countries?
- (vi) Are the proposed changes to the research access arrangements broadly acceptable (recognising that more detail will be provided in the Data Access Policy statement)?

Annex A. Data Access and Archive Policy for the 2005 ICP Round, June 2008

I Overview

The purpose of this paper is to define the ICP results to be archived by the World Bank, define the data which can be accessed by researchers, and detail the procedures necessary to obtain access. The paper also covers the data access policy as approved by the ICP Executive Board and documented in Board Policy Paper number 3.

Section II describes the data from the regional and Ring programs to be archived by the World Bank and the security provisions for those data. Section III defines the approval authority to grant access to the regional and global results. Annex A describes the steps researchers must follow to gain access and the limitations on the use of the data.

II Data and ICP material to be archived

The data to be archived by the World Bank Development Data Group will be given a security classification of “strictly confidential”. The data will be in a secure directory with limited internal access and administered by a designated data custodian. Access to the data (or any portions of the data) will be subject to approval as specified in section III. The following paragraphs define the data to be archived from the regional and global programs

A. Data from Regional Programs.

- a. National annual average prices used to compute basic heading purchasing power parities (PPPs) in each of the regional programs. These have been archived for Africa, Asia, South America, and West Asia and include the prices for consumer goods and services from the regional product lists plus the price or quantity data for the global product lists for housing, government, equipment, and construction. The CIS and Eurostat-OECD are responsible for archiving the price data for their participating countries.
- b. Basic heading PPPs and expenditure weights. These were the final regional data used in the computation of the global PPPs as submitted by all ICP regions including the CIS plus Eurostat-OECD.
- c. Metadata describing reference and imputed basic heading PPPs. Reference PPPs are PPPs that are used for basic headings for which no prices were collected by design. Imputed basic headings PPPs are those computed for countries not able to furnish complete prices to allow PPPs at the GDP level to be estimated. The choice of reference PPPs or the degree of imputation varied by region. The metadata provides a mapping of imputed PPPs either by the reference source or the imputation method used.

B. Global Data

- a. Ring national annual average prices. These are the prices submitted for consumer goods and services by the 18 Ring countries for the Ring list. The housing, government, equipment, and construction price and quantity data used for regional comparisons were also used for the Ring comparison. These data have been archived with the regional price and quantity data. The exception is the price and quantity data for the Eurostat-OECD Ring countries, which are archived with the Ring prices for consumer products.
- b. Ring product specifications. The Ring product specifications for consumer goods and services that are archived are from the Ring list: the Ring product specifications for equipment and construction that are archived are from the global list. The complete specifications for government are documented in chapter 8 of the *ICP Handbook*; chapter 10 provides the specifications for housing.
- c. Basic heading global PPPs and expenditure weights for all countries including Eurostat-OECD. Since not all regions submitted PPPs for all 155 basic headings, it was necessary to combine basic headings across all regions before between-region PPPs were computed and aggregated. There are 132 basic heading PPPs calibrated to the US = 1 and expenditure weights.
- d. Metadata. The metadata provides the mapping of the regional PPPs and expenditure weights to the global set of 132 basic headings and includes PPPs based upon reference data. There will not be a one-to-one correspondence between all regional and global basic headings.

III Data that can be accessed and authority to grant access

Two kinds of data access will be allowed. First, the World Bank, regional, and national coordinating organizations may commission research to evaluate the methodology and suggest where improvements can be made for the next round of the ICP. If this work is done by consultants under contract to these organizations or the World Bank, they should be given access to the full set of regional and global prices and quantity data as well as basic heading PPPs and expenditures providing they sign an a declaration of confidentiality as defined in Section B in Annex A.

The second level of access comes from individuals or organizations outside the ICP framework requesting access for research purposes. This type of access should be allowed since it increases the knowledge base on the uses of PPPs and may provide valuable input for future improvements in data quality.

- A. Access to regional data. Requests for region-specific prices and basic-heading PPPs and expenditure weights will be forwarded to the relevant regional coordinator for approval unless the region delegates that authority to the World Bank. Researchers requesting access to regional data will be required to follow the procedures outlined

in Annex A. In this context, researchers requesting access to Eurostat and OECD data will have to follow their established policies and procedures.

B. Access to Ring data.

- a. Ring prices. Ring prices will be made available only to those under contract with the World Bank, regional or national offices for the specific intent to review and improve the Ring methodology.
- b. Ring product specifications. A generic version without brand names will be prepared for the ICP website.

C. Access to global basic heading PPPs and expenditure weights. Researchers requesting access to these data will be required to follow the procedures outlined in the Annex.

Once a request for access has been submitted in accordance with Annex A, the World Bank will forward the request to the appropriate region(s) with a recommendation to approve or not approve the request. Approval will be granted only if the results of the project/research will contribute to the knowledge base of the PPP methodology (or a related area of research) and the data will be used only for statistical purposes.

Each region must provide a contact person and a deputy for purposes of communication related to data access requests. Regions will have ten working days to respond to each access request. A non-response will be considered to be approval of the request. Regions should notify the World Bank within the time frame if they need more time to evaluate a specific request.

Request for Data Access and Statement of Confidentiality

2005 International Comparison Program

Date:

From:

To: Shaida Baidee, Director
Development Data Group
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433

Subject: Request for access to unpublished results (PPPs, expenditures and related indices) or micro data (prices, quantities, basic heading PPPs and expenditures) from the 2005 International Comparison Program.

The following sections outline information, which must accompany any request for access to **unpublished results or micro data** and define the limitations to the use of those results or micro data.

A. Submit a written proposal to the World Bank that includes the following information:

- a. Define the data and countries or regions for which access is requested.
- b. Detailed project description including:
 - The context of the research proposal;
 - The state of the literature on the topic;
 - Statement of expected benefits to ICP global comparisons; and/or ICP regional comparisons,
 - Expected results, intended use, and dissemination plans.
- c. Research team:
 - Brief curriculum vitae of the researchers involved in the research.

B. Declaration of confidentiality. The responsible senior management of the organization sponsoring the researcher must include a declaration of confidentiality stating that:

- The data will be used only for statistical purposes, and the results of the research will either be published or made available upon request.

- The data will never be disseminated in the public domain in any form and will not be provided to third parties.
- The results of the research will be published only at the aggregate level as established for the ICP global publication unless permission has been granted to publish in greater detail. For that purpose, the version of the research to be published should be provided to the World Bank prior to publication to verify compliance.
- The calculations and documentation underlying the research will be provided to the World Bank if requested.
- Non-compliance to these rules will exclude the requesting organization from any further access to detailed information.

Annex B. Access rights to Eurostat PPP Data, January 2010

1. Introduction

Access rights to PPP information had been formally agreed between the NSI and Eurostat at the PPP Working Group. This document summarizes the current procedures in place.

Annex A to this paper provides the list of analytical categories currently in place. The list of basic headings is available from annex II of the [PPP manual](#).

2. Public data

The public output of the PPP exercise is disseminated through the freely accessible database on Eurostat's website. Click [here](#) for a direct link to the PPP datasets. PPPs, PLIs, expenditure and volume data are published at the level of about 60 analytical categories (see annex A). The level of detail is slightly higher for PPPs and PLIs than for expenditure and volume data.

3. Access rights by type of user

The table below gives an overview of the access that different users and parties in the PPP program have to different levels of data. E.g. only Eurostat and OECD have access to individual price observations of countries. These will never be distributed to other users, as they fall under confidentiality restrictions.

Average prices and basic heading information are shared among the NSIs participating in the program and may be provided to external users under the special access rights procedure outlined in the next paragraph.

	GDP, main aggregates, analytical categories PPP, PLI, volume index and weights	basic heading PPP, PLI, volume index and weights;	average prices	individual price observations
Eurostat, OECD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
NSI	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Other Commission services, Government departments of the Participating Countries in the ECP	Yes	special access rights, no publication	special access rights, no publication	No
Scientific institutes, researchers	Yes	special access rights, no publication	special access rights, no publication	No
The public	Yes	No	No	No

3. Procedure for granting special access rights

All data below the level of analytical categories are not for publication, but are available for research purposes. Interested users can fill in a form that is available on the Eurostat website (see the box “Access to detailed data” on the right side of [this](#) page) to request access. The form is included here as annex B.

To gain such access, the legal or natural persons applying for special access rights firstly have to provide a project description, based on which the decision is taken if the project is worth to be supported. Secondly, the persons who get special access rights have to sign a declaration outlining that they will not make public in any form the information provided and that the results of the research work undertaken are not published more detailed than at analytical category level.

Concerning granting selective access rights, the following procedure is currently in place:

1. If only data for one country are requested, the NSI of this country decides.
2. As soon as several countries are concerned, Eurostat decides, after consultation of the respective countries. This particularly applies if the request concerns more detailed information than at the basic heading PPP and weights.
3. If all countries are concerned, Eurostat decides.
4. If OECD receives requests for special access rights, involving data of countries coordinated by Eurostat, the request is referred to Eurostat.

List of analytical categories currently used by Eurostat

For the codes in italics, only PPP and PLI information is published (not expenditure or volume)

Code	Title
00	Gross Domestic Product
a01	Actual individual consumption
a0101	Food and non-alcoholic beverages
a010101	Food
a01010101	Bread and cereals
a01010102	Meat
a01010103	Fish
a01010104	Milk, cheese and eggs
a01010105	Oils and fats
a01010106	Fruits, vegetables, potatoes
a01010199	Other food
a010102	Non-alcoholic beverages
a0102	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics
a010201	Alcoholic beverages
a010202	Tobacco
a0103	Clothing and footwear
<i>a0110301</i>	<i>Clothing</i>
<i>a0110302</i>	<i>Footwear</i>
a0104	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels
<i>a010405</i>	<i>Energy</i>
a0105	Household furnishings, equipment and maintenance
<i>a010501</i>	<i>Furniture</i>
<i>a010503</i>	<i>Household appliances</i>
a0106	Health
a0107	Transport
a010701	Personal transport equipment
<i>a010703</i>	<i>Transport services</i>
a0108	Communication
a0109	Recreation and culture
<i>a010901</i>	<i>Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment</i>
a0110	Education
a0111	Restaurants and hotels
a0112	Miscellaneous goods and services
a04	Actual collective consumption
a05	Gross fixed capital formation
a0501	Machinery and equipment
<i>a050101</i>	<i>Metal products and equipment (excl. electrical and optical)</i>
<i>a050102</i>	<i>Electrical and optical equipment</i>
<i>a050103</i>	<i>Transport equipment</i>
a0502	Construction
<i>a050201</i>	<i>Residential buildings</i>
<i>a050202</i>	<i>Non-residential buildings</i>

Code	Title
<i>a050203</i>	<i>Civil engineering works</i>
<i>a0503</i>	<i>Software</i>
e01	Final consumption expenditure
e011	Household final consumption expenditure
e012	Government final consumption expenditure
e0121	Collective consumption expenditure
e0122	Individual consumption expenditure
p01	Total goods
p0101	Consumer goods
p010101	Non-durable goods
p010102	Semi-durable goods
p010103	Durable goods
p0102	Capital goods
p02	Total services
p0201	Consumer services
p0202	Government services
p020201	Collective services
p020202	Individual services

Data Request Form - Eurostat



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Data Request Form

Please fill out this form, sign it and send it by regular mail or fax to the following address :

Eurostat unit C6

att. Jean-Claude Roman

Rue A. Weicker 5

L-2921 Luxembourg

Fax: (352) 4301 30770

Please also send the form by email to estat-c6-ppp@ec.europa.eu.

Data requested by :

Organisation :

Contact person :

Address :

E-mail :

Tel :

Fax :

Requested data :

Purchasing Power Parities at basic heading level

Price Level Indices at basic heading level

Expenditure data at basic heading level

Average prices of individual products

Other data (specify) :

Requested years :

Requested countries :

Requested basic headings or products :

Declaration of confidentiality

Herewith we confirm that we will not use the data, specified here above, from the common Eurostat/OECD PPP programme, for any kind of publication and will not make them public in any form. We are aware that we can use the data only for our internal research purposes and we will refrain from providing the data to other legal or natural persons.

Any publication of the results of our research we will limit to the level of detail that is published in the PPP domain of Eurostat's free dissemination database, which contains the following categories:

Gross Domestic Product	Household furnishings, equipment and maintenance	Government final consumption expenditure
Actual individual consumption	Health	Collective consumption expenditure
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Transport	Individual consumption expenditure
Food	Personal transport equipment	Total goods
Bread and cereals	Communication	Consumer goods
Meat	Recreation and culture	Non-durable goods
Fish	Education	Semi-durable goods
Milk, cheese and eggs	Restaurants and hotels	Durable goods
Oils and fats	Miscellaneous goods and services	Capital goods
Fruits, vegetables, potatoes	Actual collective consumption	Total services
Other food	Gross fixed capital formation	Consumer services
Non-alcoholic beverages	Machinery and equipment	Government services
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	Construction	Collective services
Alcoholic beverages	Final consumption expenditure	Individual services
Tobacco	Household final consumption expenditure	
Clothing and footwear		
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels		

Furthermore, we are aware that acting against this declaration may have legal consequences and will exclude us from any future special access rights to detailed information from the Eurostat/OECD PPP programme.

Together with this declaration, I will also send a description of the research project for which I need this data.

Signature :

Annex C. Types of Data

A. Data from Regional Programs.

- a. Individual price observations at the product level (micro data).
- b. National annual average prices used to compute basic heading purchasing power parities (PPPs) in each of the regional programs. These include the prices for consumer goods and services from the regional product lists plus the price or quantity data for the global product lists for housing, government, equipment, and construction.
- c. Disaggregated national annual average prices (according to agreed levels of disaggregation).
- d. Basic heading PPPs and expenditure weights.
- e. Price Level Indexes at the basic heading level.
- f. PPPs, Price Level Indexes and expenditure weights at the agreed analytical level.
- g. Population data and exchange rates.
- h. Metadata.

B. Global Data

- a. Individual price observations at the product level (micro data) for the products on the Global Core list.
- b. National annual average prices for the products on the Global Core list. These include the prices for consumer goods and services from the Global Core list plus the price or quantity data for the global product lists for housing, government, equipment, and construction.
- c. Disaggregated national annual average prices (according to agreed levels of disaggregation).
- d. Basic heading Global PPPs and expenditure weights for all countries.
- e. Population data and exchange rates for all countries.
- f. Metadata.