An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

Memorandum of Understanding

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

and

Central Statistics Office

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to set out areas of mutual responsibility and shared interest between the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

Signed:

Pádraig Dalton
Director General
CSO

Date: 28/07/16

Signed:

Mr. Jim Gannon
Chief Executive Officer
SEAI

Date:

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is intended to provide a framework for enhanced cooperation in areas of mutual interest, leading to greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of the respective work programmes of both organisations.

SEAI

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland is an independent public body established as Ireland's national energy authority under the Sustainable Energy Act 2002.

SEAI's mission is:

> *"To play a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies, and practices".*

SEAI has a lead role in developing and maintaining comprehensive national and sectoral statistics for energy production, transformation, and end use. These data are a vital input into meeting international reporting obligations, for advising policy makers, and for informing investment decisions. The Energy Policy Statistical Support Unit (EPSSU) is SEAI's specialist statistics team. Its core functions are:

- Collection, processing and publication of energy statistics to support policy analysis and development in line with national needs and international obligations;
- Statistical and economic analyses of energy services sectors and sustainable energy options; and
- Contribute to the development and promulgation of appropriate sustainability indicators.

CSO

The CSO's mandate as set out in the Statistics Act 1993 is:

> "*the collection, compilation, extraction and dissemination for statistical purposes of information relating to economic, social and general activities and conditions in the State*".

The CSO is also responsible for co-ordinating official statistics of other public authorities and for developing the statistical potential of administrative records. As part of the European Statistical System, the CSO participates in the development and harmonisation of European and International statistics. An explicit requirement in amendment to Regulation 223/2009[12] on European Statistics (article 5) requires the CSO to take a formal coordination role in relation to the compilation of European Statistics.

---

[1] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:087:0164:0173:en:PDF
[2] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R0759&from=EN

Purpose and Adoption

The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework for SEAI and CSO cooperation and assistance in energy statistics. Its implementation shall facilitate the free and timely exchange of relevant information and data; will support our respective EU and other international reporting responsibilities; promote best practice in areas of common interest; improve quality; and be without prejudice to the statutory responsibilities and obligations of both organisations. Cooperation shall also lead to efficiencies for both organisations, as well as for industry and others, in relation to the potential to maximise the use of available data, and survey streamlining (avoiding duplication of effort).

The MoU is in line with the recommendations of the National Statistics Board in its Strategy for Statistics 2015-2020 in regard to according a high priority to the development of environment statistics and working with other public authorities in order to avoid overlaps in data collection. It is consistent with EU and Irish government policies of reducing administrative burden. It is also fully consistent with the proposal contained in the European Statistics Code of Practice that administrative sources of data be used wherever possible to avoid duplicating requests for information.

The adoption of this MoU will facilitate work in existing areas of shared interest and cooperation such as energy consumption by the various sectors of the economy including households. This MoU will come into force on the date of signing and shall remain in force until replaced or withdrawn by mutual consent.

General Principles of Cooperation

SEAI acknowledges a stakeholder role for the CSO in those SEAI data holdings required as inputs into statistical processing. The CSO shall use the data provided by SEAI for statistical purposes only in accordance with the Statistics Act 1993 and EU statistical law. The CSO will ensure that all linking of SEAI data with other data sources, both CSO and non-CSO, will be carried out in accordance with the CSO Data Protocol.

The CSO acknowledges that it is a key data provider and that SEAI has statistical data requirements, and agrees, where feasible and in line with the Statistics Act 1993, to try to meet these requirements by providing statistical analyses of CSO data and other administrative data holdings in the form of non-confidential, aggregate-level data. The SEAI shall use any such data provided by CSO for statistical and data reporting purposes only, in accordance with the Statistics Act 1993 and EU statistical law.

Operational Liaison

The CSO and SEAI shall establish the CSO/SEAI Energy Statistics Liaison Group (ESLG) as a formal, high-level mechanism for consultation and communication between both organisations. It shall be the responsibility of the ESLG to consider all issues of mutual interest.

The Liaison Group will include SEAI staff from the Energy Policy Statistical Support Unit, and staff from the various CSO Divisions working with or using energy-related statistics.

The Liaison Group will meet at least annually to review areas of cooperation and progress regarding same, as well as to devise action items where relevant. Minutes of these meetings will be agreed and held by both organisations.

The effective operation of this MoU may be subject to change or revision following a review by the Liaison Group. Recommendations for change will be submitted to the respective signatories.

Data Protection

The CSO and SEAI respectively undertake that all data received from each other shall be treated as strictly confidential and shall be used for statistical purposes only, in accordance with national and EU statistical law, and also in conformity with the Data Protection Acts.

Statistical Quality

SEAI and the CSO agree to cooperate in examining the quality and appropriateness of SEAI data for statistical purposes. Recommendations towards improvement in the statistical quality of SEAI data will be implemented where feasible.

End.