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Bávaro, Dominican Republic

16-18 November 2011

**FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY ON INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS
IN LATIN AMERICA**

BACKGROUND

During the Regional Seminar on the Exchange of Experiences on Classifications and Nomenclatures held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in December 2010, a proposal was put forward to create a working group on international classifications within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. The Commission would act as the technical secretariat of the new working group.

The Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC prepared the terms of reference of the proposed working group, in conjunction with the initiative committee for the creation of the group, which was made up of the following countries and institutions:

- i) National Institute of Statistics of Chile
- ii) Andean Community
- iii) National Institute of Statistics and Census of Costa Rica
- iv) National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico
- v) United Nations Statistics Division

On 6 April 2011, the terms of reference of the working group were presented at the tenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which approved the formation of an initiative committee for the creation of a working group on international classifications, whose overall objective would be to support the countries of the region in the adoption or adaptation of new versions of international classifications with a view to strengthening official statistics.

Before this working group can be created, a programme of activities must be prepared and submitted for the consideration of the Conference at its sixth meeting, to be held from 16 to 18 November in the Dominican Republic.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY

The aim of the survey was to identify the principal challenges and needs of the countries in the region and conduct an initial analysis to rank in order of priority the topics to be covered by and the main activities of the working group.

ACTIVITIES

To that end, a survey on international classifications was sent to 25 institutions, including central banks and national statistics offices, in 18 countries in the region. Eighteen responses were received from 15 countries, that is, an 83% response rate.

The survey was sent to the following countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

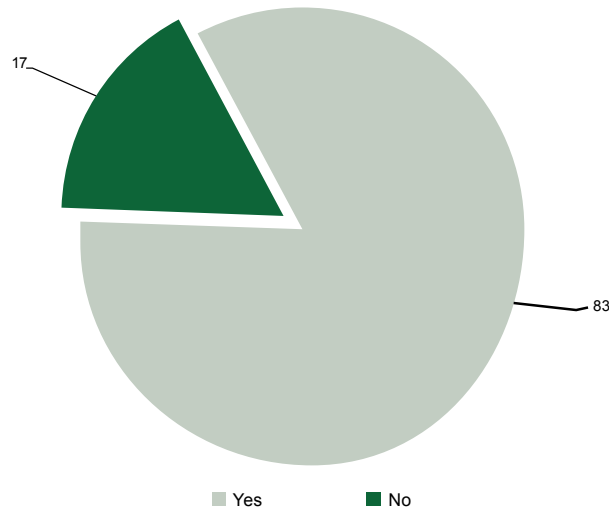
The questionnaire was made up of 139 questions, organized into 9 sections.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

General questions (questions 130 to 139)

Institutions' familiarity with the Statistical Conference of the Americas

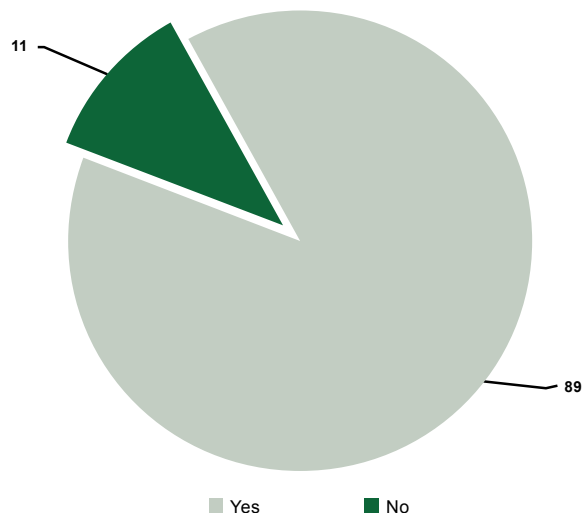
Figure 1
PROPORTION OF INSTITUTIONS SURVEYED THAT ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Institutions interested in participating in the working group on international classifications after reading the terms of reference

Figure 2
**PROPORTION OF INSTITUTIONS SURVEYED INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING
 IN THE WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS
 AFTER READING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**
(Percentages)



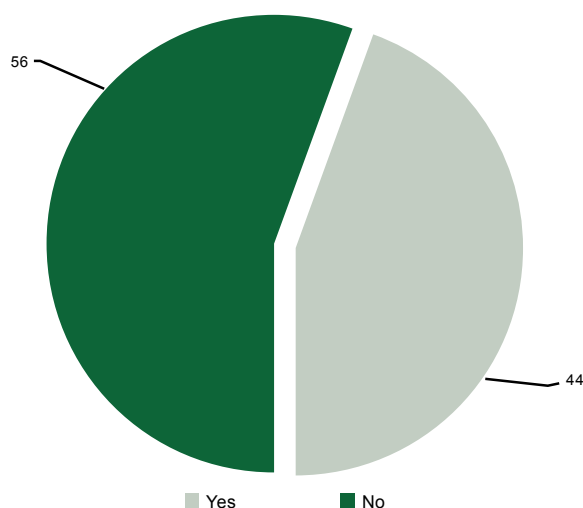
Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Institutions' preferred modalities for participation and suggested activities

- Participate through a forum of experts to resolve queries and take advantage of other countries' classifications experiences
- Report on the country's experience of national and international nomenclatures, with a view to contributing to the improvement and revision of existing international classifications, or proposals for new ones
- Exchange experiences on the use of statistical classifications, for example, in relation to the adaptation of classifications, the drafting of explanatory notes, the definition of observation statistics units and subsequent codification, and training on cross-cutting variables such as economic activity or employment
- Draft documents that help solve countries' problems in connection with the development, adoption or incorporation of classifications
- Participate in meetings to exchange experiences among countries in relation to the development, adoption or incorporation of classifications
- Participate actively in the activities needed to contribute to the initiative and bring it to fruition, for example, through the initiative committee of the working group on international classifications
- Training and technical assistance

Institutions with units responsible for methods and classifications

Figure 3
PROPORTION OF INSTITUTIONS WITH A UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR METHODS AND CLASSIFICATIONS
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

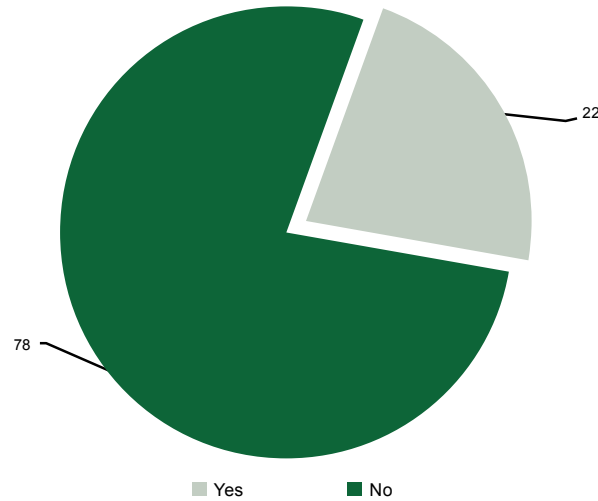
Number of specialists working on international classifications in the institutions surveyed

On average, there are eight specialists working on international classifications per institution. The institution with the largest number of specialists in this area is found in Colombia, the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), with approximately 30 specialists. The breakdown of specialists per institution is as follows:

- 1 institution with 1 specialist
- 3 institutions with 2 specialists
- 4 institutions with 3 specialists
- 1 institution with 5 specialists
- 2 institutions with 7 specialists
- 2 institutions with 10 specialists
- 2 institutions with 15 specialists
- 1 institution with 18 specialists and 18 support staff
- 1 institution with 30 specialists

Institutions' budgets for adapting and adopting international classifications

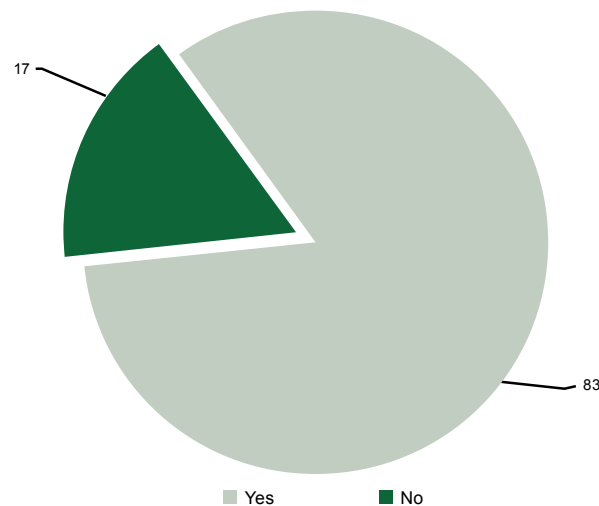
Figure 4
**PROPORTION OF INSTITUTIONS WITH BUDGETS FOR THE ADAPTATION AND ADOPTION
 OF INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS**
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Institutions' involvement in the development of classifications

Figure 5
**PROPORTION OF INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL INITIATIVES
 RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLASSIFICATIONS**
(Percentages)



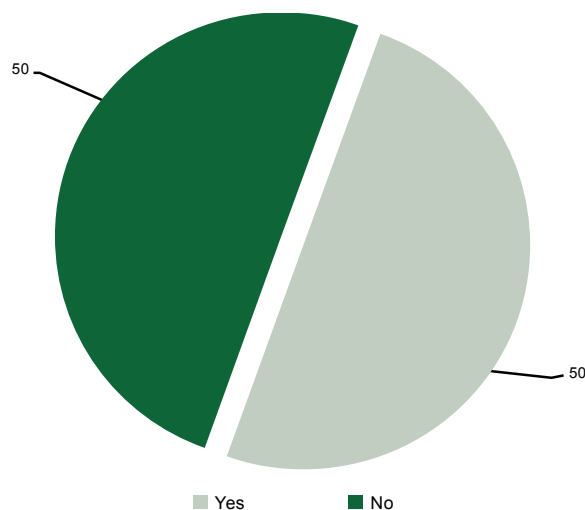
Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The institutions surveyed are participating in the following international and regional initiatives:

- Working group GT 7 (Classifications and Nomenclatures) of the European Union-MERCOSUR Project on Statistical Cooperation
- United Nations Expert Group on International Classifications
- United Nations meetings on changes to classifications
- Regional initiatives through the MERCOSUR working groups
- Online forums of the Working Group on International Classifications
- Working Group on International Classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas
- Training workshops
- Group of experts of the Andean Community on the Andean Nomenclature of Manufactured Products related to Trade (PRODCOM-CAN)
- Statistical Conference of the Americas

Technical assistance on international classifications provided to institutions

Figure 6
PROPORTION OF INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE RECEIVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The following technical assistance on international classifications has been provided to institutions:

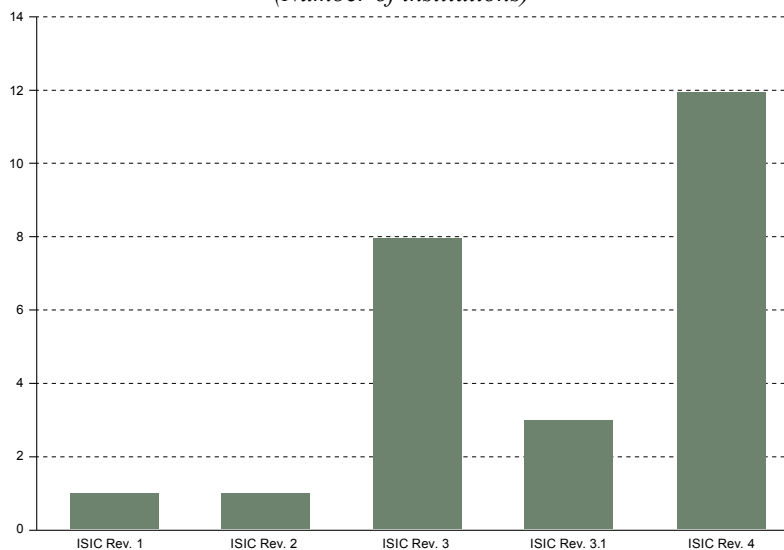
- Adaptation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Revision 4. Agency: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Type: external consultancy.
- Horizontal cooperation provided by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru on classifications and computer-assisted coding, 2010.

- One-week internship at the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute on computer-assisted coding, 2011.
- Specialists from the national statistics institutes of Chile and Uruguay provided assistance to the Dominican Republic
- National Institute of Statistics of Spain
- Direct contact with international organizations, such as the United Nations, International Labour Organization and ECLAC since 1997.
- Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID): mainly seminars on specific classifications and exchange of experiences and good practices among countries.
- Queries sent via e-mail to the United Nations and to experts from the National Institute of Statistics of Spain
- As part of the process of adopting the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) (12 categories for the consumer price index), ECLAC provided technical assistance within the framework of the project on changing the base of the consumer price index.
- In the case of ISIC (Rev.4) and the Central Product Classification, technical assistance was provided by an international consultant specializing in national accounts, who advised the relevant national institutions as part of a project on changing the base year of national accounts.

**A. INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION
F ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND CENTRAL PRODUCT
CLASSIFICATION (QUESTIONS 2 TO 24)**

Institutions' use of the different versions of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)

Figure 7
**VERSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF
ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (ISIC) ADOPTED AND USED BY THE INSTITUTIONS**
(Number of institutions)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 1
**BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING EACH VERSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
 INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (ISIC)**
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Version of ISIC used	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	25	100
ISIC Rev. 1	1	4
ISIC Rev. 2	1	4
ISIC Rev. 3	8	32
ISIC Rev. 3.1	3	12
ISIC Rev. 4	12	48

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

According to the information it submitted, the Central Bank of Ecuador uses all of the versions of ISIC.

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the adoption or adaptation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)

- Problems migrating databases and statistical series from ISIC (Rev. 3) to ISIC (Rev. 4) as there is not a one-to-one correspondence in all cases.
- Lack of United Nations explanatory notes in Spanish
- In section J on information and communication, the changes are structural and heterogeneous
- Need for meetings with institutions or organizations that have had experience with the previous versions of ISIC
- Incorrect interpretation of activities as a result of different connotations in the translated version of the classification
- Some activities are explicitly mentioned in more than one category without specific details to differentiate them
- Errors owing to the lack of precise definitions of certain activities
- Undefined criteria for determining the correct classification of combined activities (for example, growing and production)
- Toll roads and valet parking services, among other specialized activities, are not described in the classification and are therefore difficult to classify

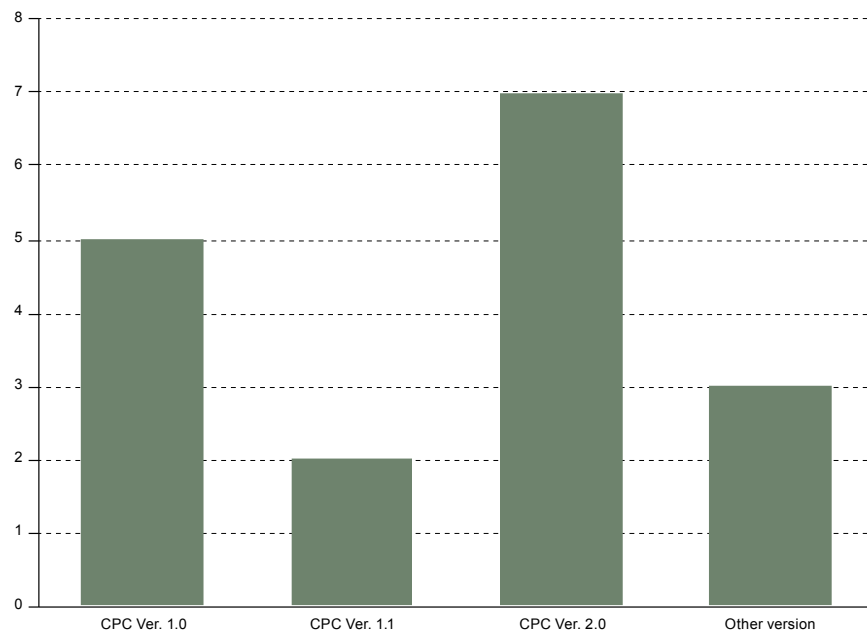
Main difficulties encountered in relation to the application of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)

- Reconstruction of time series
- Updating of business registers
- Coding problems as a result of unclear and ill-defined descriptions of economic activities
- The compiled information is in different formats, which makes it difficult to compare

- The classification of the statistical units is based on an accurate description of the main economic activity; however, users can find it difficult to obtain that information from businesses, thus detracting from the quality of the classification
- Problems in the reconstruction of correlation tables
- It is essential to teach users about the correct use of classification in terms of scope and content

Institutions' use of the different versions of the Central Product Classification (CPC)

Figure 8
**VERSIONS OF THE CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (CPC) ADOPTED
 AND USED BY INSTITUTIONS**
(Number of institutions)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 2
**BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING EACH VERSION OF THE CENTRAL
 PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (CPC)**
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Version of CPC used	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	17	100.0
CPC Ver. 1.0	5	29.4
CPC Ver. 1.1	2	11.8
CPC Ver. 2.0	7	41.2
Other version	3	17.6

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

According to the information it submitted, the Central Bank of Ecuador uses all of the versions of the Central Product Classification (CPC).

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the adoption or adaptation of the Central Product Classification (CPC)

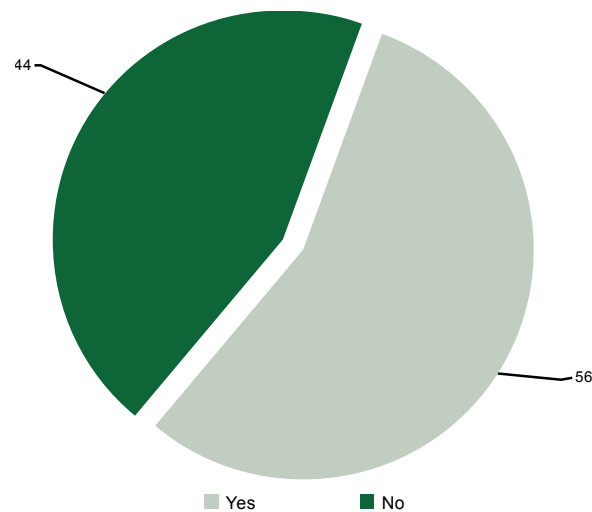
- Lack of explanatory notes on transportable goods (sections 0 to 4)
- Very brief explanatory notes on some services
- Lack of an official Spanish translation of the publication (structure, explanatory notes and alphabetical index)
- Lack of training on classifications by the international organizations responsible for classifications
- Lack of contact with other countries to share experiences and provide mutual support
- The CPC subclasses include very broad collections of products, giving various options when relating them to the activities classifications
- The adoption and adaptation of classifications require institutions to make a significant effort and invest substantial economic resources, which can lead to a high opportunity cost in the face of more pressing needs that the entity might have

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the application of the Central Product Classification (CPC)

- A product classified under the CPC system can come under various corresponding ISIC groups, which represents a problem when preparing input-output tables
- In some cases it is difficult to compile and codify the information because of the level of detail required by the classification
- Bias in the statistical data because some products or services have not been defined to seven digits
- The product level is the most complex and it is therefore not easy to standardize the criteria and reach a consensus on classification
- Need to expand the explanatory notes, especially those referring to industrial services, in order to prepare for when greater disaggregation becomes necessary
- The information gathered through institutional surveys is difficult to classify by level of breakdown in CPC.
- Need to create a dictionary that shows the previous classification categories and their codes alongside the new ones

Use of the original structure of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC)

Figure 9
PROPORTION OF INSTITUTIONS USING THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (ISIC) AND THE CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (CPC)
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

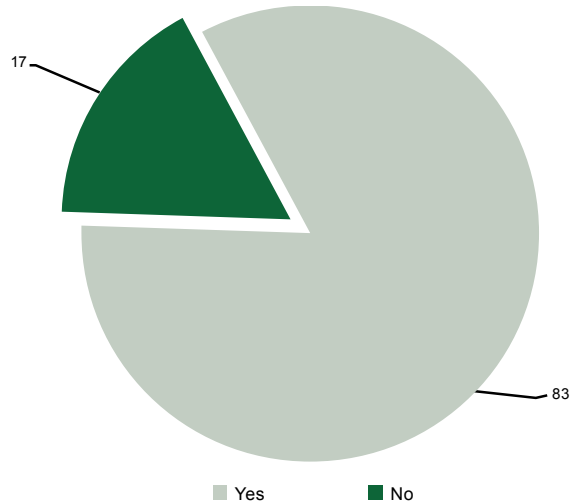
Table 3
BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (ISIC) AND THE CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (CPC)
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Uses the original structure of ISIC and CPC	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	18	100.0
Yes	10	55.6
No	8	44.4

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Preparation of correspondence tables comparing the original versions of ISIC and CPC with national classifications

Figure 10
INSTITUTIONS THAT PREPARE CORRESPONDENCE TABLES COMPARING THE ORIGINAL VERSIONS OF ISIC AND CPC WITH NATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

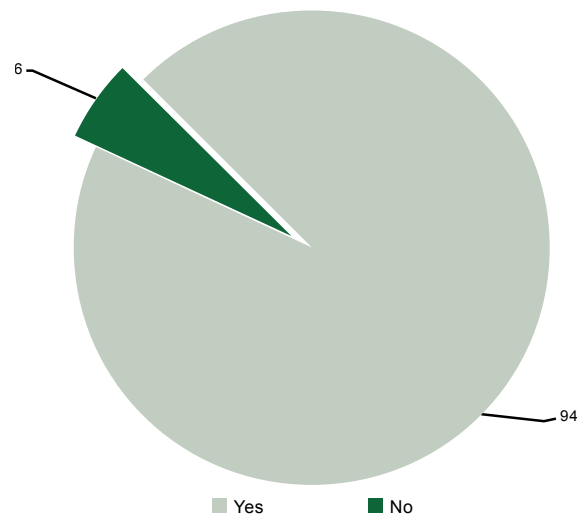
Table 4
INSTITUTIONS THAT PREPARE CORRESPONDENCE TABLES COMPARING THE DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (ISIC) AND THE CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (CPC) WITH NATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Prepares correspondence tables comparing different versions of ISIC and CPC with national classifications	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	18	100.0
Yes	15	83.3
No	3	16.7

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Assistance from international organizations in relation to the implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC)

Figure 11
INSTITUTIONS THAT CONSIDER THE ASSISTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS USEFUL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (ISIC) AND THE CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (CPC)
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 5
INSTITUTIONS' PERCEPTION OF THE USEFULNESS OF ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING ISIC AND CPC
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Assistance from international organizations is useful for the implementation of ISIC and CPC	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	18	100.0
Yes	17	94.4
No	1	5.6

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The following forms of assistance are required:

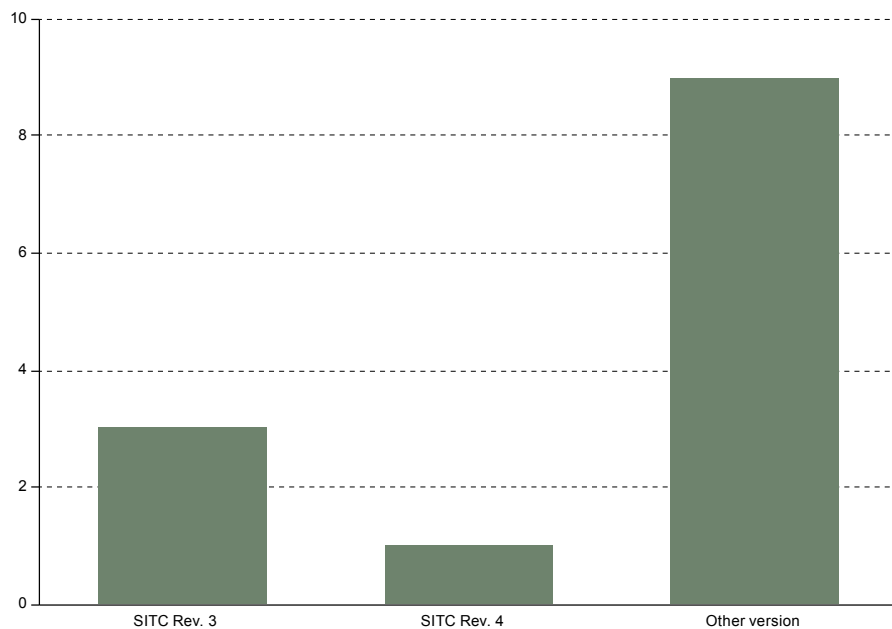
- Creation of a mechanism (forum, e-mail protocol or other information technology tool) to submit queries to the United Nations Expert Group on International Classifications or other international organizations with experience in this area
- Technical assistance to validate adaptations of ISIC and CPC

- Preparation of correspondence tables comparing the different versions of the various classifications
- A detailed list of products, including all the subclasses of CPC
- More direct, effective and timely communication between the statistics institute and relevant intergovernmental entities
- Forums, seminars, talks, training sessions and other meetings between experts and technical staff working on classifications with a view to reaffirming and acquiring knowledge on classifications, exchanging experiences and concerns, and generating new ideas to improve the processes of adaptation and implementation of classifications
- Consultancy on developing information technology programmes to improve the application of classifications
- Dissemination of documents and manuals in Spanish
- Follow-up by an international body on the adoption and application of new classifications

B. STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC) (QUESTIONS 25 TO 38)

Institutions' use of the different versions of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

Figure 12
**VERSIONS OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC) USED
BY INSTITUTIONS**
(Number of institutions)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America and the Caribbean conducted by the Working Group on International Classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 6
**BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING EACH VERSION OF THE STANDARD
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)**
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Version of SITC used	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	13	100.0
SITC Rev. 1	-	-
SITC Rev. 2	-	-
SITC Rev. 3	3	23.1
SITC Rev. 4	1	7.7
Other version	9	69.2

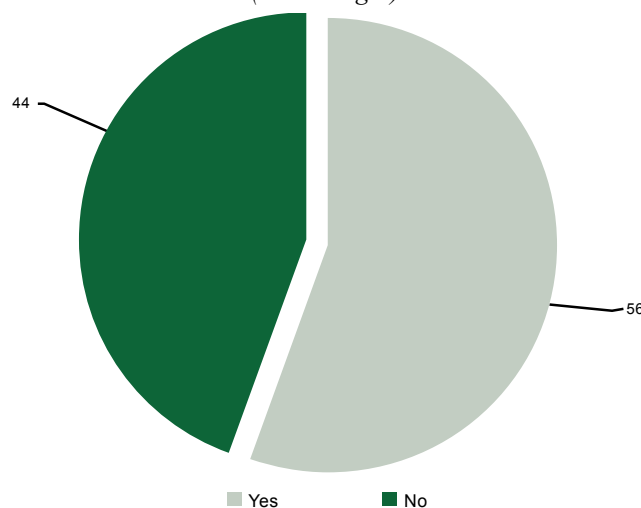
Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the adoption or adaptation of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

- Even though the Foreign Trade Classification by Economic Use or Destination (CUODE) was developed on the basis of SITC Rev. 1, problems have arisen when bringing multiple tariff headings into line with CUODE
- When SITC Rev. 3 was introduced, there was no corresponding item for some six-digit codes from the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System 2002

Institutions' use of the original structure of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

Figure 13
**INSTITUTIONS THAT USE THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF THE STANDARD
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)**
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

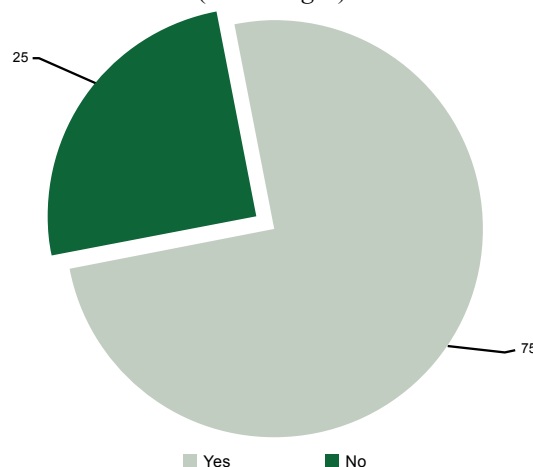
Table 7
BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Uses original structure of SITC	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	9	100.0
Yes	5	55.6
No	4	44.4

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Assistance from international organizations in relation to the implementation of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

Figure 14
INSTITUTIONS THAT CONSIDER THE ASSISTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS USEFUL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 8
INSTITUTIONS' PERCEPTION OF THE USEFULNESS OF ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Assistance from international organizations is useful for the implementation of SITC	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	12	100
Yes	9	75
No	3	25

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

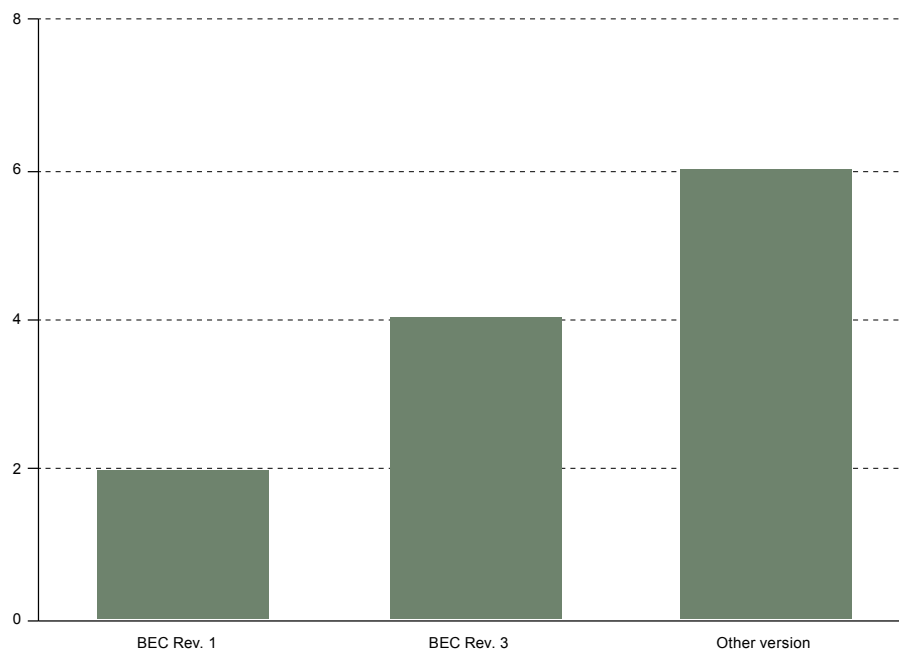
The following forms of assistance are required:

- Training on implementing SITC nomenclature
- Design and implementation of coding systems
- Assistance in relation to methodology, interpretation and standardization of the different classifications in use for foreign trade
- Application and adaptation of classifications for goods or tariff items when signing free trade agreements between countries
- A workshop, course or diploma involving the institutions that are responsible for compiling statistics on trade in goods, given the difficulties inherent in obtaining national data through customs codes

C. CLASSIFICATION BY BROAD ECONOMIC CATEGORIES (QUESTIONS 39 TO 54)

Institutions' use of the different versions of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC)

Figure 15
VERSIONS OF THE CLASSIFICATION BY BROAD ECONOMIC CATEGORIES (BEC) USED
BY INSTITUTIONS
(Number of institutions)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 9
**BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING EACH VERSION OF THE CLASSIFICATION
 BY BROAD ECONOMIC CATEGORIES (BEC)**
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Version of BEC	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	12	100.0
BEC	2	16.7
BEC Rev. 2	-	-
BEC Rev. 3	4	33.3
Other version	6	50.0

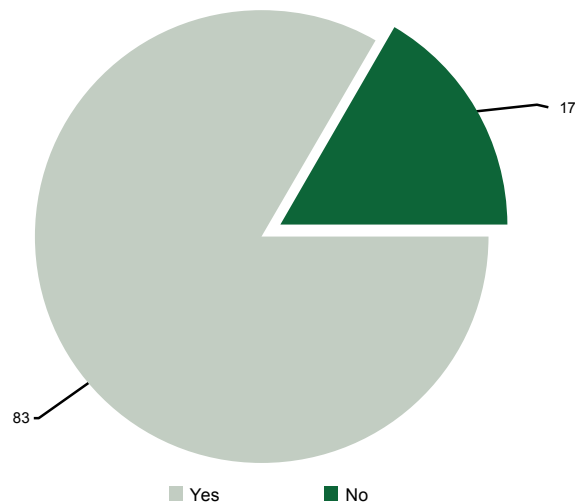
Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the adoption or adaptation of the Classification By Broad Economic Categories (BEC)

- Allocation of a BEC code to tariff items
- Knowledge, understanding and management of the classification, as well as of the correspondence tables for the tariff subheadings

Institutions' use of the original structure of BEC

Figure 16
USE OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF BEC BY INSTITUTIONS
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 10
INSTITUTIONS' USE OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF BEC
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Uses original structure of BEC	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	6	100.0
Yes	5	83.3
No	1	16.7

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Type of support needed for the implementation of BEC

- Training on implementing the nomenclature
- Effective and efficient mechanisms for the smooth implementation of the classification
- Instructions on coding and using the numerical and alphabetical indexes.
- Assistance to develop information technology applications that facilitate objective and accurate classification
- Publication of all international documents in PDF format and, to the extent possible, their timely translation into Spanish
- Encouraging the submission of queries and the active participation of all organizations responsible for preparing classifications and statistics institutes at the international level
- Training for all institutions that collect national data on trade in goods and, in particular with the customs authorities on the classification of goods following amendments to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

D. INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS (QUESTIONS 55 TO 69)

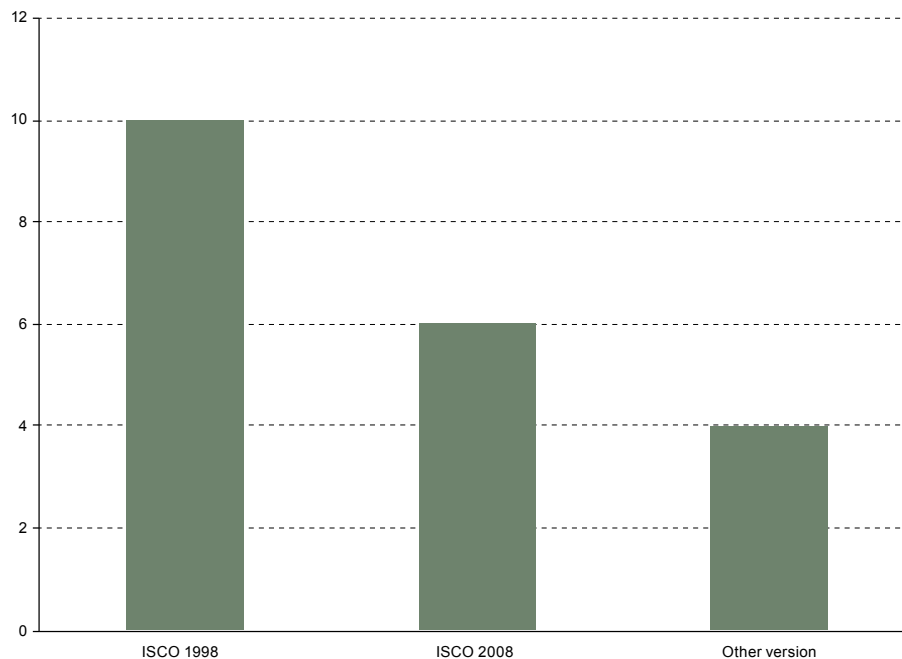
Institutions' use of the different versions of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

Table 11
**BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING EACH VERSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS (ISCO)**
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Version of ISCO	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	20	100
ISCO 1998	10	50
ISCO 2008	6	30
Other version	4	20

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Figure 17
**VERSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF
 OCCUPATIONS (ISCO) USED BY INSTITUTIONS**
(Number of institutions)



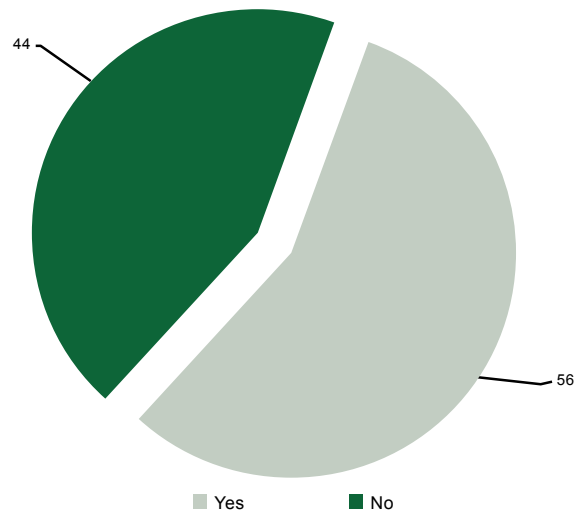
Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the adoption or adaptation of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

- Lack of explanatory notes from the International Labour Organization in Spanish
- Final version of the 2008 revision of ISCO is still not available in Spanish
- Definition of occupations in science and technology
- Problems interpreting content in specific categories
- Difficulty matching the skills levels derived from the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) of 1997, which are reflected in ISCO 2008, with national educational levels
- Problems identifying the classification of occupations related to heads of department and coordinators (ISCO 2008)
- Some of the occupations described in the classification do not match the reality of the occupation in the country
- Problems allocating some codes that were not specified in the divisions and groups of ISCO 1998
- Intermediate occupations were ultimately classified at a higher level because of the absence of an intermediate category

Institutions' use of the original structure of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

Figure 18
USE OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS (ISCO) BY INSTITUTIONS
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

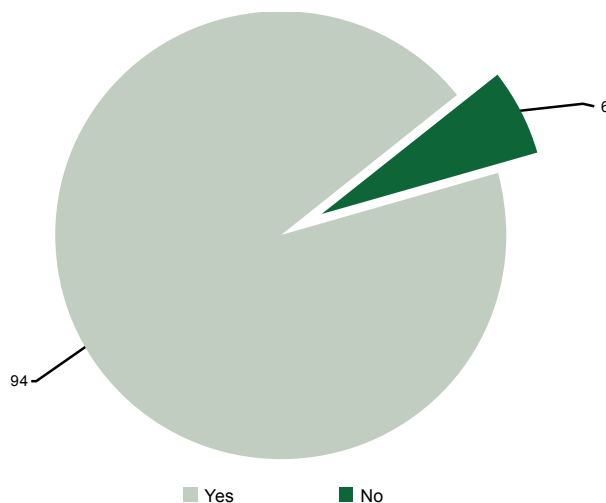
Table 12
BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS (ISCO)
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Uses original structure of ISCO	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	16	100.0
Yes	9	56.3
No	7	43.7

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Assistance from international organizations in relation to the implementation of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

Figure 19
INSTITUTIONS THAT CONSIDER THE ASSISTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS USEFUL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS (ISCO)
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 13
INSTITUTIONS' PERCEPTION OF THE USEFULNESS OF ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS (ISCO)
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Assistance from international organizations is useful for the implementation of ISCO	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	16	100.0
Yes	15	93.8
No	1	6.2

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

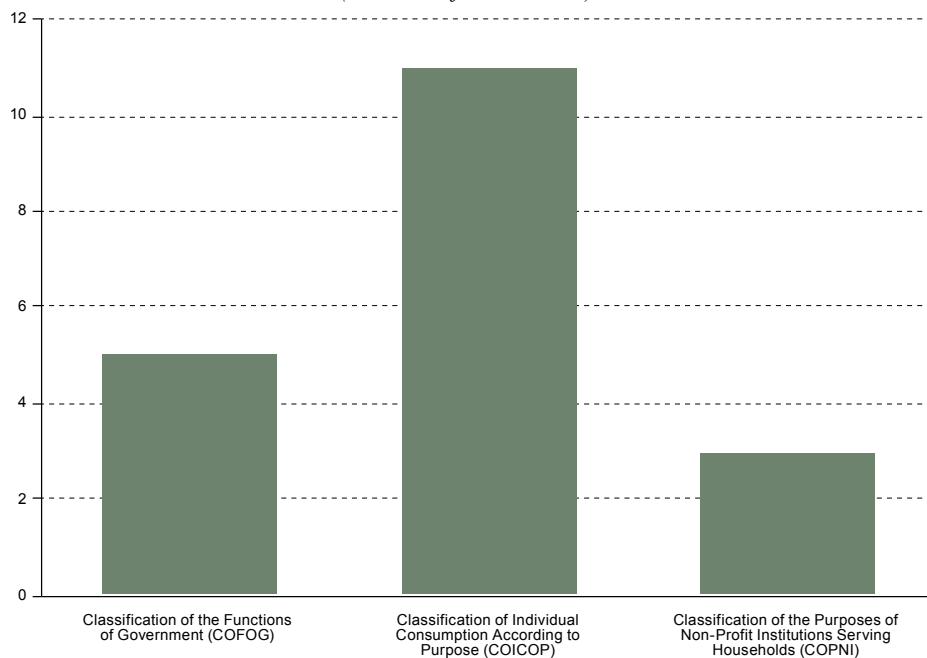
The following forms of assistance are required:

- Expert technical assistance to support adaptation
- Seminars and workshops on the 2008 revision of ISCO
- Technical support and training on the revision of methodologies
- Support in developing, in collaboration with other stakeholders, a correspondence table showing the different nomenclatures and international classifications
- Definition of criteria for special cases and residual items
- Emphasis on the importance of coding and automatic coding
- Information technology resources that facilitate objective and accurate classification
- Publication of all international documents in PDF format
- Translation into Spanish of international documents
- Preparation of correlation tables that address and include special cases
- Exchange of experiences among countries in the region
- Permanent forum for submitting specific queries on interpretations and classifications
- Follow-up by an international body on the adoption and application of new classifications

E. CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENDITURE BY PURPOSE (QUESTIONS 70 TO 83)

Institutions' use of classifications of expenditure by purpose

Figure 20
CLASSIFICATIONS OF EXPENDITURE BY PURPOSE USED BY THE INSTITUTIONS
(Number of institutions)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 14
**BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING EACH CLASSIFICATION OF
 EXPENDITURE BY PURPOSE**
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Classification used	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	19	100.0
Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG)	5	26.3
Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP)	11	57.9
Classification of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (COPNI)	3	15.8
Classification of the Outlays of Producers According to Purpose (COPP)	-	-
Other classification	-	-

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the adoption or adaptation of the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG)

- Inadequate description of functions and need to correlate descriptions with national account classifications
- The levels of disaggregation of the following groups pose certain difficulties: 05.3 (Pollution abatement), 05.4 (Protection of biodiversity and landscape), 05.6 (Environmental protection n.e.c.) and 07.4 (Public health services)

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the adoption or adaptation of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP)

- In relation to research on household final consumption, the unit responsible for national accounts of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia presents the data in accordance with the division level (12) of COICOP. Preparing a correspondence table comparing the nomenclature of the System of National Accounts, which is based on the Central Product Classification (CPC) (focused on the intrinsic characteristics of the product), and the nomenclature of COICOP (focused on the end use of the product) poses certain problems and leads to a loss of precision in the distribution of products among the divisions of COICOP, ultimately affecting the comparability of the data at the international level.
- When the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) is adapted, several products are categorized under different divisions because of specific local factors. The divisions affected by this include 07 (Transport), 09 (Recreation and culture), 10 (Education) and 11 (Restaurants and hotels).
- The fact that the education division does not include text books or school supplies poses problems for analysis and interpretation.
- Problems interpreting content, for example, confusion as to which class or subclass certain expenditures should come under.

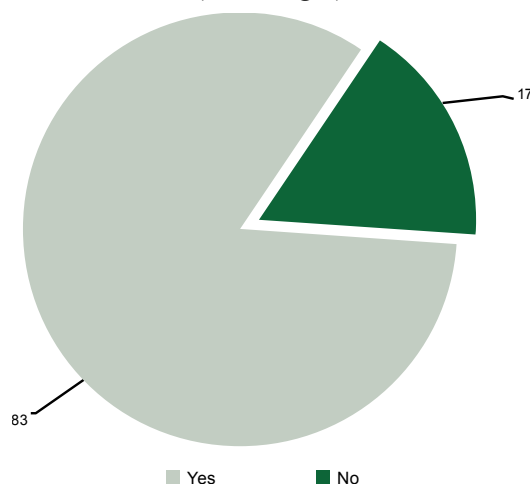
- Adoption of the classification system is hampered by the absence of an official Spanish version.
- The methodology lacks the criteria for adapting the classification system as a whole and the classifications of individual goods and services. These criteria should be made explicit.

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the adoption or adaptation of the Classification of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (COPNI)

- Difficulties adapting the correlation with national accounts and limited awareness of this classification

Assistance from international organizations in relation to the implementation of classification of expenditure by purpose

Figure 21
INSTITUTIONS THAT CONSIDER THE ASSISTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS USEFUL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CLASSIFICATIONS OF EXPENDITURE BY PURPOSE
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 15
INSTITUTIONS' PERCEPTION OF THE USEFULNESS OF ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING CLASSIFICATIONS OF EXPENDITURE BY PURPOSE
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Assistance from international organizations is useful for the implementation of classifications of expenditure by purpose	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	12	100.0
Yes	10	83.3
No	2	16.7

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

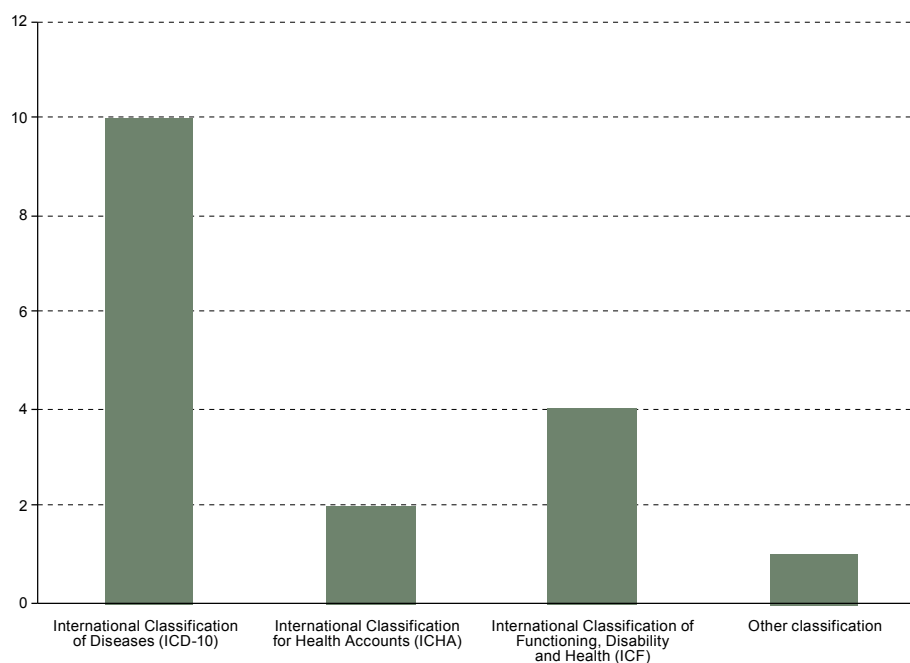
The following forms of assistance are required:

- Training
- Seminars and workshops
- Technical assistance on adaptation and revision of the classification
- Shared use of adaptation methodologies for these classifications
- Support from experts to answer queries on classification
- Dissemination of documents and manuals in Spanish
- Follow-up by an international body on the adoption and application of the classification

F. HEALTH CLASSIFICATIONS (QUESTIONS 84 TO 100)

Institutions' use of health classifications

Figure 22
HEALTH CLASSIFICATIONS USED BY INSTITUTIONS
(Number of institutions)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 16
BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS USING EACH HEALTH CLASSIFICATION
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Classification used	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	17	100.0
International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)	10	58.8
International Classification for Health Accounts (ICHA)	2	11.8
International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)	4	23.5
International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI)	-	-
Classification of occupational accidents	-	-
Other	1	5.9

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the adoption or adaptation of the International Classification for Health Accounts (ICHA)

- The classification uses very specific terms that are difficult to adapt to the information countries have available
- Problems compiling data in accordance with the requirements imposed on public and private institutions

Main problems with the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)

- An up-to-date Spanish version is not always available as the translation of the original English version can take some time
- It is impossible to obtain enough copies of the new versions to distribute to all encoders nationwide within the necessary time frame
- Some diseases are not encountered because of problems with record-keeping

Main problems with the International Classification for Health Accounts (ICHA)

- The Functional Classification of Health Care (ICHA-HC) poses problems in relation to occupational health care and school health services; in addition, the delimitation of health-related services (research and development, health education and environmental health) is unclear
- The Classification of Health-Care Financing (ICHA-HF) poses difficulties in categorizing the flow of financial transactions within the agencies in this category

Main problems with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)

- Difficulties interpreting and applying the concepts and categories, especially with regard to the gradients and weightings of each category
- Interpretation problems associated with the translation from English to Spanish

Type of support required

- Training on the methodology and adaptation of the classifications
- Interaction with experts from other countries in order to share experiences and thus resolve interpretation issues
- Provision of technical assistance to data providers on the terminology and concepts they should use
- Follow-up by an international body on the adoption and application of the classification

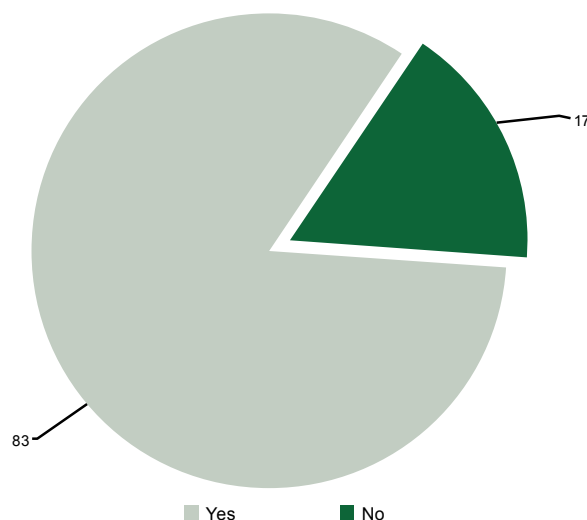
G. INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION (ISCED) (QUESTIONS 101 TO 106)

Main problems

- Difficulties classifying certain university courses at the country level that do not fit under any of the specific classifications for university courses
- Interpretation of the conceptual framework for educational programmes
- Identification of training mechanisms of less than one year's duration for learning a trade
- Assigning a code to all courses
- Imprecise descriptions
- Need for a specific level for Master's courses
- Need to clarify the boundaries between formal, non-formal and informal education in order to facilitate comparisons between non-formal and formal programmes
- Need for greater detail in the general concepts and the criteria for classifying levels
- Difficulties matching the structure of the levels of ISCED with the realities of education levels in each country
- Problems defining precisely the "educational properties" required to classify a programme at level 0
- Difficulties posed by the correspondence between ISCED 1997 and ISCED 2011
- Need to update as new courses are created each year that do not fit into any of the categories

Assistance from international organizations in relation to the implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)

Figure 23
INSTITUTIONS THAT CONSIDER THE ASSISTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS USEFUL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION (ISCED)
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 17
INSTITUTIONS' PERCEPTION OF THE USEFULNESS OF ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING ISCED
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Assistance from international organizations is useful for the implementation of health classifications	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	12	100.0
Yes	10	83.3
No	2	16.7

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The following forms of assistance are required:

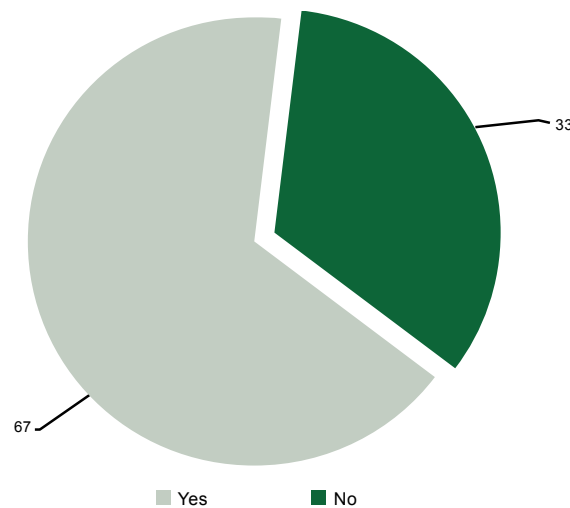
- Creation of a mechanism (forum, e-mail protocol or other information technology tool) to submit queries to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) experts in this area

- Training on adapting and revising methodologies for this classification, as well as on correspondence with other classifications, data collection methods and reconstruction of series, among other elements
- Detailed guidance on ISCED to improve the quality and precision of the correspondence tables between international and national classifications
- Technical assistance via a range of media, such as videoconference, workshops and international forums
- Support needed in relation to the parameters for international comparability. Applying the classification to national education systems, as well as the categories included in social surveys, is a major undertaking that should be directed at facilitating more robust comparisons of education in the region
- Dissemination of documents and manuals in Spanish

H. CURRENT NATIONAL ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS (QUESTIONS 107 TO 129)

Structure

Figure 24
**ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF THE RESPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS USED
 FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS**
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 18
**INSTITUTIONS SURVEYED WHOSE CURRENT NATIONAL ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS
 ARE IDENTICAL TO THE RESPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS**
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Structure of national economic classifications identical to the standard international classifications	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	15	100.0
Yes	5	33.3
No	10	66.7

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

How the structure of the national classifications differs from the standard international classifications

Classifications by activity

- The structural groupings are more consolidated
- In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, additional disaggregation gives a five-digit classification
- The national version incorporates two additional categories (subclass and code), but is identical and comparable up to the fourth level of disaggregation
- Economic activities are grouped into 31 national activities
- New groups and classes are created to identify or allocate a higher position in the hierarchy to activities that are of national relevance

Classifications by product

- They differ because the structures respond to the needs of the country. For the national accounts, 279 baskets of products were identified
- An additional digit for adaptation
- The national version includes an additional category (code); however, it is identical and comparable up to the fifth level of disaggregation

Statistical programmes (censuses and surveys, for example) using national classifications

Classifications by activity

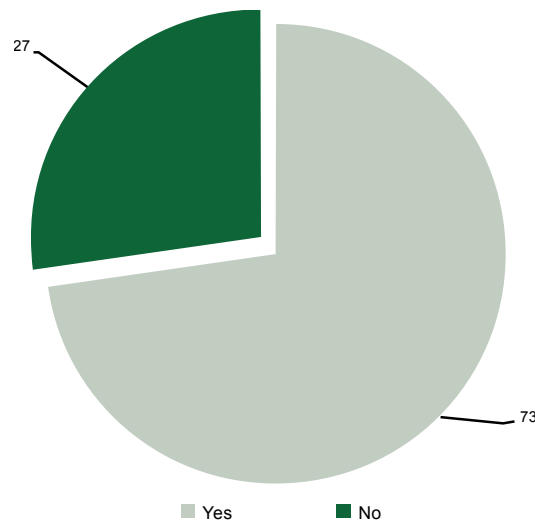
- Population censuses, economic censuses, agricultural censuses, economic and household surveys, manufacturing and mining surveys, hotel and restaurant surveys, transport surveys, industrial surveys, microestablishment surveys, administrative records, and records of foreign trade in goods

Classifications by product

- Economic censuses, agricultural censuses, economic surveys, manufacturing and mining surveys, hotel and restaurant surveys, transport surveys, industrial product and construction surveys, national agricultural survey, tax administration service, ministry of economic affairs, consumer price indices, producer price indices, foreign trade statistics and construction price index

Preparation by institutions of national explanatory notes and recommendations on the classifications*Classifications by activity*

Figure 25
**INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE PREPARED EXPLANATORY NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
ON CURRENT CLASSIFICATIONS OF ACTIVITIES**
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

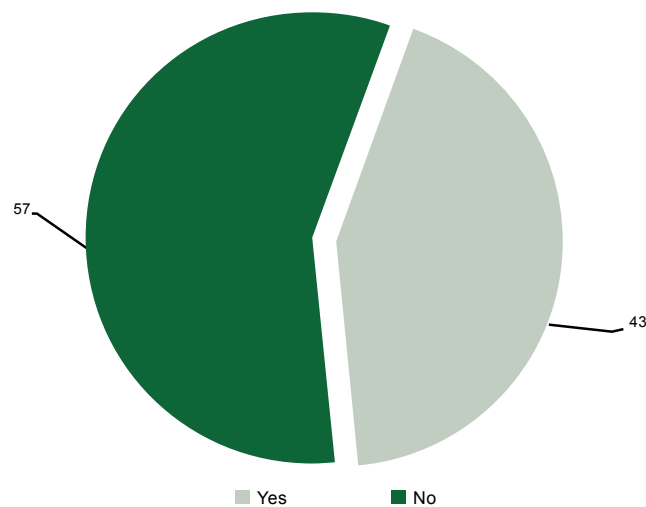
Table 19
**PROPORTION OF INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE PREPARED EXPLANATORY NOTES AND
 RECOMMENDATIONS ON CLASSIFICATIONS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Explanatory notes and recommendations prepared	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	11	100.0
Yes	8	72.7
No	3	27.3

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Classifications by product

Figure 26
**INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE PREPARED EXPLANATORY NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
 ON CURRENT PRODUCT CLASSIFICATIONS**



Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 20
**BREAKDOWN OF INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE PREPARED EXPLANATORY NOTES AND
 RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRODUCT CLASSIFICATIONS**
(Number of institutions and percentages)

Explanatory notes and recommendations prepared	Number of institutions	Percentages
Total	7	100.0
Yes	3	42.9
No	4	57.1

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the results of the survey on international classifications in Latin America conducted by the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Main difficulties encountered in relation to the application of the most recent version of the national classifications

Classifications by activity

- Correspondence problems
- Methodological problems associated with interpreting the criteria for classifying certain activities

Classifications by product

- Products that correspond to more than one economic activity
- Methodological problems associated with interpreting the criteria for classifying certain products
- Correlations between different versions of the international classifications
- Conceptual problems and difficulties identifying the unit of measurement for products obtained for services



Survey on international classifications in Latin America
(July 2011)
Working group on international classifications

The results of this survey will provide input for the preparation of a programme of work that will be submitted for consideration by the members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in November.

The survey is made up of 139 questions, organized into 9 sections:

- A. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and Central Product Classification (CPC)
- B. Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)
- C. Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC)
- D. International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)
- E. Classification of expenditure by purpose
- F. Health classifications
- G. International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)
- H. Current national economic classifications
- I. Other questions

Recommendations:

1. Use the mouse to select each field in turn. Clicking on “Next” at the end of each section will take you to the next section.
2. Review your answers before moving on to the next section as it is not possible to go back to make changes once you have done so.
3. The survey must be completed in one sitting. It cannot be saved and completed at a later date.
4. If you need assistance, please contact alejandra.ovalle@cepal.org.
5. Please ensure you have all the information that you will need before beginning to complete the survey. The deadline for submitting completed surveys is 26 July 2011.

The Working Group on International Classifications would like to thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.