***The OECD horizontal ‘Going Digital’ Project***

***What is the origin of the project?***

The Going Digital project was launched in Berlin on January 12th, 2017 in conjunction with the kick-off of Germany’s G20 presidential agenda.

***What are the objectives of the project?***

The project aims to help policymakers better understand the digital transformation that is taking place and develop tools to create a policy environment that enables their economies and societies prosper in a world that is increasingly digital and data-driven. The project will also undertake a stocktaking of the qualitative and quantitative effects of the digital transformation and its implications for policy development. Key to this stocktaking will be to identify, describe and better understand the various aspects -- or “vectors” -- of digital transformation that challenge public policies.

***How is the project organized?***

To realise its full benefits, governments need to reach across traditional policy silos and across different levels of government and develop a whole-of-government approach to policymaking.

The project will be organized into three principal tracks, or pillars. Issues of measurement of the digital economy will be addressed in Pillar 3 as it reaches across nearly all subject matter areas. The measurement module will be co-lead by three OECD directorates: the Directorate for Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI), Statistics Directorate (STD), and the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD).

**Pillar 1 (horizontal activities):** An ***integrated policy framework*** for making the digital transformation work for growth and well-being and ***other activities that are relevant across all policy areas***, including analysis of the new technological and other drivers of the digital transformation and what this implies for policy.

**Pillar 2 (Committee-specific work)**: ***Relevant analysis of the digital transformation in specific policy areas*** (e.g. tax, trade, competition, etc.) and in the broader economy as outlined in each Committee’s respective PWBs for 2017-18.

**Pillar 3 (cross-cutting modules):** A set of ***modules focusing on key cross-cutting issues***. This work will involve a “deep dive” into specific issues involves some (but not all) policy areas to gain key insights into some of the big challenges we face in the digital era and that are at the intersection of more than one policy area.

The project governance structure is included in Annex 1 below.

***Who is responsible for the project?***

The project is being led by the Committee on Digital Economy Policy (CDEP) in the Science, Technology and Innovation branch. However, the project is designed to incorporate inputs from multiple committees across the OECD and leverage the expertise that resides in different areas. To that end, there are 14 other committees at the OECD that are considered ‘core committees’. The issue of measurement cuts across subject matter and intersects multiple policy areas.

The Working Party on Measurement and Analysis of the Digital Economy (WPMADE) will serve as a co-lead on measurement given delegates’ experience and expertise in developing appropriate indicators as well as concepts and definitions. The Working Party will cooperate with other WPs in the Committee to develop new and improve existing indicators and metrics for security and privacy, global data flows, internet openness, broadband and the Internet of Things (IoT). A summary of this work will be encapsulated in the publication/online portal, ‘Measuring the Digital Economy: A New Perspective’ (Publication in Q4 – 2018)

In addition, the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP), one of the core committees in the Going Digital Project, have established an Advisory Group on Measuring GDP in a Digitalised Economy under the auspices of the Working Party on National Accounts (WPNA) to advance the measurement agenda in relation to macroeconomic statistics. The Advisory Group includes national accountants from national statistical offices, international organisations including Eurostat and the IMF, and members of the WPMADE. The work of the Advisory Group will also serve as input into G20 deliberations which the G20 has tasked the OECD and IMF to provide further research on potential mismeasurement of macroeconomic statistics due to digitalisation of the economy. Also, on the measurement front and in the context of digital trade the OECD-WTO inter-agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS) is developing a typology on digital trade that will serve as input into the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group.

***Document drafted by Mark Uhrbach, Statistics Canada***

***Reference Documents***

**Going Digital June 2017 Information Note:**

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**Vectors of Digital Transformation**

**Available on OLIS: DSTI/CDEP/GD(2017)4**

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**Inventory of Planned 2017-18 PWB Outputs Relevant to the Going Digital Horizontal Project**

**Available on OLIS:** **DSTI/CDEP/GD/RD(2017)1**



**Going Digital Project – State of Play**

**Available on OLIS: DSTI/CDEP/GD(2017)8**



***Annex 1***

