4 Object types and attributes

4.1 Classification Family

46. A Classification Family is a group of Classification Series related from a particular point of view. The Classification Family is related by being based on a common Concept (e.g. economic activity).

47. Different classification databases may use different types of Classification Families and have different names for the families, as no standard has been agreed upon.

**Identifier:** A Classification Family is identified by a unique identifier.

**Name:** A Classification Family has a name.

**Classification Series:** A Classification Family may refer to a number of Classification Series.

See also: Classification Series

4.2 Classification Series

48. A Classification Series is an ensemble of one or more Statistical Classifications, based on the same concept, and related to each other as versions or updates. Typically, these Statistical Classifications have the same name (for example, ISIC or ISCO).

**Identifier:** A Classification Series is identified by a unique identifier, which may typically be an abbreviation of its name. **Name:** A Classification Series has a name as provided by the owner. **Description:** Short general description of the Classification Series, including its purpose, its main subject areas etc. **Context:** A Classification Series can be designed in a specific context. **Objects/units classified:** A Classification Series is designed to classify a specific type of object/unit according to a specific attribute. **Subject areas:** Areas of statistics in which the Classification Series is implemented. **Owners:** The statistical office or other authority, which created and maintains the Statistical Classification(s) related to the Classification Series. A Classification Series may have several owners. **Keywords:** A Classification Series can be associated with one or a number of keywords. **Classification Family:** Classification Series may be grouped into Classification Families. Shows to which Classification Family the Classification Series belongs. **Current Statistical Classification:** If there are several Statistical Classifications related to a Classification Series, one Statistical Classification may be assigned as the currently valid Statistical Classification. **See also:** Statistical Classification, Classification Family

4.3 Statistical Classification

49. A Statistical Classification is a set of categories which may be assigned to one or more variables registered in statistical surveys or administrative files, and used in the production and dissemination of statistics. The categories at each level of the classification structure must be mutually exclusive and jointly exhaustive of all objects/units in the population of interest.

50. The categories are defined with reference to one or more characteristics of a particular population of units of observation. A Statistical Classification may have a flat, linear structure or may be hierarchically structured, such that all categories at lower Levels are sub-categories of categories at the next Level up. Categories in Statistical Classifications are represented in the information model as Classification Items.
4.4 Level

51. A Statistical Classification has a structure which is composed of one or several Levels. A Level often is associated with a concept, which defines it. In a hierarchical Statistical Classification the Classification Items of each Level but the highest are aggregated to the nearest higher Level. A linear Statistical Classification has only one Level.

Identifier: A Level is identified by a unique identifier. The identifier of a Statistical Classification principally considered to be a version or update is typically an abbreviation of its name. It is often distinguished from other versions/updates of the same Classification Series by reference to a revision number or to the year when it came into force. The identifier of a Statistical Classification that is considered to be a variant typically refers (contains) the identifier of its base Statistical Classification.

Name: A Statistical Classification has a name as provided by the owner or maintenance unit.

Introduction: The introduction provides a detailed description of the Statistical Classification, the background for its creation, the classification variable and objects/units classified, classification rules etc. See Appendix 2 for a checklist of possible topics to be included in the introduction.

Release date: Date on which the Statistical Classification was released.

Termination date: Date on which the Statistical Classification was superseded by a successor version or otherwise ceased to be valid.

Current: Indicates whether or not the Statistical Classification is currently valid.

Maintenance unit: The unit or group of persons within the organisation who are responsible for the Statistical Classification (i.e., for maintaining, updating and changing it).

Contact persons: Person(s) who may be contacted for additional information about the Statistical Classification.

Legal base: Indicates that the Statistical Classification is covered by a legal act or by some other formal agreement. Publications: A list of the publications, including print, PDF, HTML and other electronic formats, in which the Statistical Classification has been published.

Name types: A list of the defined types of alternative item names available for the Statistical Classification. Each name type refers to a list of alternative item name.

Languages available: A Statistical Classification can exist in one or several languages. Indicates the languages available, whether the version is completely or partially translated, and which part is available in which language.

Copyright: Statistical Classifications may have restricted copyrights. Such Statistical Classifications might be excluded from downloading. Notes the copyright statement that should be displayed in official publications to indicate the copyright owner.

Dissemination allowed: Indicates whether or not the Statistical Classification may be published or otherwise disseminated (e.g., electronic dissemination).

Classification Series: A Statistical Classification is a version or update of one specific Classification Series.

Levels: The structure of a Statistical Classification is defined by its Levels (classification level). Include here links to the relevant Levels.

Items: A Statistical Classification is composed of categories structured in one or more Levels. Each category is represented by a Classification Item, which defines the content and the borders of the category.

Correspondence Tables: A Statistical Classification may be linked to other classification versions or classification variants through Correspondence Tables. Include here links to any relevant Correspondence Tables.

Classification Indexes: A Statistical Classification can be associated with one or a number of Classification Indexes in which Classification Index Entries are linked to the appropriate Classification Item. Include here links to any relevant Classification Indexes.

Version: Indicates if the Statistical Classification is a version.

Update: Indicates if the Statistical Classification is an update.

Floating: Indicates if the Statistical Classification is a floating classification. In a floating statistical classification, a validity period should be defined for all Classification Items which will allow the display of the item structure and content at different points of time.

Predecessor: For those Statistical Classifications that are versions or updates, notes the preceding Statistical Classification of which the actual Statistical Classification is the successor.

Successor: Notes the Statistical Classification that superseded the actual Statistical Classification.

Derived from: A Statistical Classification can be derived from one of the classification versions of another Classification Series. The derived Statistical Classification can either inherit the structure of the classification version from which it is derived, usually adding more detail, or use a large part of its Classification Items, rearranging them in a different structure. Indicates the classification version from which the actual Statistical Classification is derived.

Changes from previous version or update: A summary description of the nature and content of changes from the preceding version or update. Specific changes are recorded in the Classification Item object under the "Changes from previous version and updates" attribute.

Updates possible: Indicates whether or not updates are allowed within the classification version i.e. without leading to a new version. Indicate here what structural changes, if any, are permissible within a version. Note whether Classification Items can be added to the structure and whether they can be revalidated or invalidated. Such changes are more likely to be permissible in floating classifications. Also indicate whether changes to such things as Classification Item names and explanatory notes that do not involve structural changes are permissible within a version.

Updates: A summary description of changes which have occurred since the most recent classification version or classification update came into force.

Variants available: Identifies any variants associated with this version.

Variant: For those Statistical Classifications that are variants, notes the Statistical Classification on which it is based and any subsequent versions of that Statistical Classification to which it is also applicable.

Changes from base Statistical Classification: Describes the relationship between the variant and its base Statistical Classification, including regroupings, aggregations added and extensions.

Purpose of variant: If the Statistical Classification is a variant, notes the specific purpose for which it was developed.

See also: Classification Series, Level, Classification Item, Correspondence Tables, Classification Index.
4.5 Correspondence Table

52. A Correspondence Table expresses the relationship between two Statistical Classifications. These are typically: two versions from the same Classification Series; Statistical Classifications from different Classification Series; a variant and the version on which it is based; different versions of a variant. In the first and last examples, the Correspondence Table facilitates comparability over time. Correspondence relationships are shown in both directions.

Identifier: A Correspondence Table is identified by a unique identifier, which may typically include the identifiers of the versions or variants involved.
Name: A Correspondence Table has a name as provided by the owner.
Description: The description contains information about the scope and aim of the Correspondence Table and the principles on which it is based.
Owners: The statistical office, other authority or section that created and maintains the Correspondence Table. A Correspondence Table may have several owners.
Maintenance unit: The unit or group of persons who are responsible for the Correspondence Table, i.e. for maintaining and updating it.
Contact persons: The person(s) who may be contacted for additional information about the Correspondence Table.
Publications: A list of the publications in which the Correspondence Table has been published.
Target: The Statistical Classification(s) to which the correspondence is directed. There may be multiple target Statistical Classifications associated with the Correspondence Table.
Source level: The correspondence is normally restricted to a certain Level in the source Statistical Classification. In this case, target Classification Items are assigned only to source Classification Items on the given level. If no level is indicated, target Classification Items can be assigned to any Level of the source Statistical Classification.
Target level: The correspondence is normally restricted to a certain Level in the target Statistical Classification. In this case, source Classification Items are assigned only to target Classification Items on the given Level. If no Level is indicated, source Classification Items can be assigned to any Level of the target Statistical Classification.
Relationship type: A Correspondence Table can define a 1:1, 1:N, N:1 or M:N relationship between source and target Classification Items.
Floating: If the source and/or target Statistical Classifications of a Correspondence Table are floating Statistical Classifications, the date of the Correspondence Table must be noted. The Correspondence Table expresses the relationships between the two Statistical Classifications as they existed on the date specified in the Correspondence Table.

4.6 Classification Index

53. A Classification Index is an ordered list (alphabetical, in code order etc) of Classification Index Entries. A Classification Index can relate to one particular or to several Statistical Classifications.

54. A Classification Index shows the relationship between text found in statistical data sources (responses to survey questionnaires, administrative records) and one or more Statistical Classifications. A Classification Index may be used to assign the codes for Classification Items to observations in statistical collections.

Identifier: A Classification Index is identified by a name. If there are several Classification Indexes in different languages, the language should be part of the Classification Index name. If there are several Classification Indexes for different purposes, the purpose should be part of the Classification Index name. If there are several Classification Indexes that differ by language and by purpose, the language and the purpose should be part of the Classification Index name.
Release date: Date when the current version of the Classification Index was released.
Maintenance unit: The unit or group of persons within the organisation responsible for the Classification Index, i.e. for adding, changing or deleting Classification Index Entries.
Contact persons: Person(s) who may be contacted for additional information about the Classification Index.
Publications: A list of the publications in which the Classification Index has been published.
Languages: A Classification Index can exist in several languages. Indicates the languages available. If a Classification Index exists in several languages, the number of entries in each language may be different, as the number of terms describing the same phenomenon can change from one language to another. However, the same phenomena should be described in each language.
Corrections: Summary description of corrections, which have occurred within the Classification Index. Corrections include changing the item code associated with a Classification Index Entry.
Coding Instructions: Additional information which drives the coding process for all entries in a Classification Index.
Statistical Classification: A Classification Index is related to one particular Statistical Classification.
See also: Classification Index Entry, Statistical Classification

4.7 Classification Item

55. A Classification Item represents a category at a certain Level within a Statistical Classification. It defines the content and the borders of the category. An object/unit can be classified to one and only one Classification Item at each Level of a Statistical Classification.
A Classification Item is identified by an alphabetical, numerical or alphanumerical code, which is in line with the code structure of the Level. The code is unique within the Statistical Classification to which the Classification Item belongs.

Official name: A Classification Item has a name as provided by the owner or maintenance unit. The name describes the content of the Category. The name is unique within the Statistical Classification to which the Classification Item belongs, except for Categories that are identical at more than one Level in a hierarchical Statistical Classification.

Alternative names: A Classification Item can be expressed in terms of one or several alternative names. Each alternative name is associated with a name type.

Explanatory notes: A Classification Item may be associated with explanatory notes, which further describe and clarify the contents of the category. Explanatory notes consist of:

- General note: Contains either additional information about the category, or a general description of the category, which is not structured according to the “includes”, “includes also”, “excludes” pattern.
- Includes: Specifies the contents of the category.
- Includes also: A list of borderline cases, which belong to the described category.
- Excludes: A list of borderline cases, which do not belong to the described category. Excluded cases may contain a reference to the Classification Items to which the excluded cases belong.

Level number: The number of the Level to which the Classification Item belongs.

Currently valid: If updates are allowed in the Statistical Classification, a Classification Item may be restricted in its validity, i.e. it may become valid or invalid after the Statistical Classification has been released. Indicates whether or not the Classification Item is currently valid.

Valid from: Date from which the Classification Item became valid. The date must be defined if the Classification Item belongs to a floating Statistical Classification.

Valid to: Date at which the Classification Item became invalid. The date must be defined if the Classification Item belongs to a floating Statistical Classification and is no longer valid.

Future events: The future events describe a change (or a number of changes) related to an invalid Classification Item. These changes may e.g. have turned the now invalid Classification Item into one or several successor Classification Items. In describing these changes, terminology from the Typology of item changes, found in Appendix 3 should be used. This allows the possibility to follow successors of the Classification Item in the future.

Changes from previous version or update: Describes the changes, which the Classification Item has been subject to from the previous version to the actual Statistical Classification. In describing these changes, terminology from the Typology of item changes, found in Appendix 3 should be used.

Updates: Describes the changes, which the Classification Item has been subject to during the life time of the actual Statistical Classification.

Statistical Classification: The Statistical Classification to which the Classification Item belongs.

Parent item: The Classification Item at the next higher Level of the Statistical Classification of which the actual Classification Item is a sub item.

Sub items: Each Classification Item, which is not at the lowest Level of the Statistical Classification, might contain one or a number of sub items, i.e. Classification Items at the next lower Level of the Statistical Classification.

Linked items: Classification Items of other Statistical Classifications with which the Classification Item is linked, either as source or target, through Correspondence Tables.

Case laws: Refers to identifiers of one or more case law rulings related to the Classification Item.

Case law descriptions: Refers to descriptions of the above case laws.

Case law dates: Refers to dates of above case laws.

See also: Level, Statistical Classification, Classification Index Entry

### 4.8 Map

56. A Map is an expression of the relation between a Classification Item in a source Statistical Classification and a corresponding Classification Item in the target Statistical Classification. The Map should specify whether the relationship between the two Classification Items is partial or complete. Depending on the relationship type of the Correspondence Table, there may be several Maps for a single source or target Classification Item.

- Source item: The source item refers to the Classification Item in the source Statistical Classification.
- Target item: The target item refers to the Classification Item in the target Statistical Classification.
- Partial/complete: Specifies whether the relationship between the two Classification Items is partial or complete.
- Valid from: Date from which the Map became valid. The date must be defined if the Map belongs to a floating Correspondence Table.
- Valid to: Date at which the Map became invalid. The date must be defined if the Map belongs to a floating Correspondence Table and is no longer valid.

See also: Statistical Classification, Classification Item, Correspondence Table

### 4.9 Classification index entry

57. A Classification Index Entry is a word or a short text (e.g. the name of a locality, an economic activity or an occupational title) describing a type of object/unit or object property to which a Classification Item applies, together with the code of the corresponding Classification Item. Each Classification Index Entry typically refers to one item of the Statistical Classification. Although a Classification Index Entry may be associated with a Classification Item at any Level of a Statistical Classification, Classification Index Entries are normally associated with Classification Items at the lowest Level.

- Text: Text describing the type of object/unit or object property.
- Statistical Classification: Identify the Statistical Classification(s) to which the Classification Index Entry is associated.
- Codes: For each Statistical Classification to which the Classification Index Entry is associated, enter the code of the Classification Item in that Statistical Classification with which the Classification Index Entry is associated.
- Valid from: Date from which the Classification Index Entry became valid. The date must be defined if the Classification Index Entry belongs to a floating Classification Index.
- Valid to: Date at which the Classification Index Entry became invalid. The date must be defined if the Classification Index Entry belongs to a floating Classification Index and is no longer valid.

Coding Instructions: Additional information which drives the coding process. Required when coding is dependent upon one or many other factors.

See also: Classification Item, Classification Index, Statistical Classification