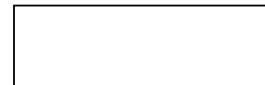


CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS



Second Meeting of the 2005/2006 Bureau
Washington, D.C. (United States), 24-25 October 2005

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A TASK FORCE ON ELECTRONIC DATA REPORTING

Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat¹

BACKGROUND

1. The Conference of European Statisticians considered improved data reporting at its Seminar in 2005. The Seminar concluded that introducing electronic data reporting (EDR) poses several challenges and opportunities that require ongoing attention and further work in statistical offices. These are, for example, the issue of public trust (Internet security, confidentiality, and compatibility with various versions of technology), reducing the volume of data collection, mixed-mode design and mode effects, partnerships with businesses and technology providers, communication with the public, and a need for better cost analysis of EDR.
2. The Conference agreed that it would be useful to establish a working group to further explore the issues surrounding EDR. The Chair requested the assistance of Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland), Ivan Fellegi (Canada) and Brian Pink (New Zealand) to help in drafting terms of reference for this group and invited others to join this effort.

PROPOSAL

3. It is proposed to set up a Task Force on Electronic Data Reporting for primary data collection in order to:
 - a) share solutions for the efficient integration of EDR in the context of multi-mode surveys with EDR as an option;
 - b) share experiences in:
 - meta-data driven generalised system for EDR;
 - promoting take-up by respondents of the EDR response option;
 - creating and promoting common data taxonomies, including their relevance, community of interest take-up and the wider applicability in linking business reporting and statistical data collection;
 - participating in a wider Whole of Government approach to Electronic Data Reporting;
 - c) make recommendations regarding special issues involving electronic questionnaire design;
 - d) outline what is known and not known about possible mode effects;
 - e) document the current state of knowledge regarding XBRL, SDMX and other “pull” based collection systems;
 - f) make recommendations regarding security arrangements and their public communication;
 - g) explore the potential for joint development of open-source EDR and case management solutions;

¹ The note is based on input from Ivan Fellegi (Statistics Canada), Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Statistics Finland) and Brian Pink (Statistics New Zealand).

h) document special issues affecting Internet collection of population census information including the elements of a business case for electronic collection as an option, the case for outsourcing part of the development, integration with other collection modes.

i) other related issues that the Task Force wishes to recommend.

4. In its work, the Task Force should take into account the different challenges regarding the EDR process for the individuals/households and businesses/other institutional respondents and the differences in national infrastructure (e.g. legislation, security rules).

OUTPUTS

5. Report for the CES including good practices and recommendations on EDR (to be adopted by the CES).

TIMETABLE

6. Deadline for the report in Spring 2007 (to be discussed at the CES 2007 plenary session) with an interim report in 2006.

METHODS OF WORK

7. Exchange of experience through e-mail and Internet and possible organization of a Work Session in 2006.

* * * * *