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ENGLISH ONLY

**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)  
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

**Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2008)**  
(Luxembourg, 7-9 April 2008)

### **INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1 \***

1. The Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting will be held at the Offices of Eurostat in Luxembourg, from 7 to 9 April 2008, starting at 9.30 a.m.
2. The Meeting is primarily intended for informatics managers from National Statistical Offices and other concerned national and international agencies; and statisticians and IT specialists responsible for the coordination, planning and management of complex projects in the field of statistical information processing.
3. MSIS 2008 is held back-to-back with two other events:
  - Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Work Session on Statistical Metadata (METIS 2008, Luxembourg, 9-11 April 2008); and
  - OECD Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX 2008, Paris 14-15 April 2008);

The participants are encouraged to arrange their travel in a way that they can benefit from the programme of all three events.

## **II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

4. The work programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive topics:
  - (i) Governance and management strategies;
  - (ii) Statistical information systems architecture;
  - (iii) Exchange/sharing/re-use of components, common models among statistical offices;
  - (iv) User perspective.
5. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of topics (i) to (iv) are provided in Section V of this Information Notice.

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\* Information on the venue and local arrangements in Luxembourg (hotel accommodation, transportation etc.) will be provided at a later date in Information Notice No. 2.

### III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION

6. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the meeting. Participants representing non-governmental organizations in a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council may also attend. **All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organization.** All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Luxembourg in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems.

7. The statistical offices and international organizations are asked **to inform the UNECE secretariat before 18 January 2008** whether their organization intends to participate at the meeting and/or submit a contribution on the topics mentioned above. Please indicate the topic on which the paper will be as well as the *participant(s) name(s) and their contact data*.

8. Participants are requested to fill in the attached Conference **registration form**, which will also be available in Word format on the website at the address indicated in paragraph 12. It should be sent to the ECE and Eurostat secretariats by **1 March 2008** (as indicated on the form) so that it may be processed well in advance of the meeting.

### IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

9. The official language of the meeting is English. The documents should, therefore, be submitted in English only. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- The papers, not exceeding 10 pages in length, should be sent to the UNECE secretariat **by 1 March 2008 at the latest**.
- Papers should be submitted in electronic format in **MS Word** by e-mail to Ms. Diane Serikoff (diane.serikoff@unece.org).
- Templates in Word containing the header and format will be made available on the website or may be requested by e-mail (diane.serikoff@unece.org).

10. The Steering Group preparing the meeting has asked selected countries to prepare invited papers and appointed discussants to lead the discussion on individual agenda items. The Discussants are indicated in the Explanatory Notes to the Agenda in Section V below. For each substantive item on the agenda, the discussants will invite 2-3 speakers to write an invited paper and to present them at the meeting. All other participants are welcome to submit a supporting paper on any topic of the agenda.

11. Authors of invited papers will have about 20 minutes per paper for the presentation. Authors of supporting papers may be given 5-10 minutes (time permitting) to highlight the main issues raised in their papers. Presenters may use PowerPoint presentations, Adobe Acrobat full screen presentations, A4/letter transparencies as well as Internet access. The UNECE secretariat cannot provide translation of the presentations. The secretariat will post them on the website after the meeting.

- PowerPoint and Adobe presentations should be sent to the UNECE secretariat **by 1 April 2008** at the latest, so that these may be installed on the presentation computer prior to the meeting.

12. Invited and supporting papers along with their summaries will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location:

**<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.04.msis.htm>**

Delegates are encouraged to download the papers from the website and bring their own copies to the meeting. Documents posted on the website before the meeting will not be distributed in the conference room.

## V. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

### **Topic (i): Governance and management strategies**

Discussant: Ms Cathy Wright, International Monetary Fund (IMF) (cwright@imf.org)

13. One of the basic goals of MSIS is to exchange experiences on management issues and to learn mutually from good practices. The issues discussed in this context include:

- \* Outsourcing;
- \* Policies, decision making;
- \* Management, priorities of statistical offices;
- \* Work processes, resources;
- \* The role of the statistical office in e-Government, including impact of e-Government on the internal IT management and relations with other government institutions.

### **Topic (ii): Statistical information systems architecture**

Discussant: Ms. Karen Doherty, Statistics Canada (karen.doherty@statcan.ca)

14. The work of the MSIS group, and of its predecessors, has already resulted in the publication of a recommendation on "Information Systems Architecture for National Statistical Offices". While the basic principles are still valid, there are many changes that have taken place since the publications, notably the development of SDMX as a set of technical and content standards for exchange of statistical data and metadata. There were developments in the technology, but also in the way we look on the information systems architecture, in particular the services oriented view of the architecture. Contributors to this topic may wish to include the following issues:

- \* Challenges faced by IT managers;
- \* Technical solutions;
- \* Service layer of architecture;
- \* Possibilities for a convergence of IT architecture among national statistical offices;
- \* Progress on the life cycle models (e.g. Eurostat, New Zealand, Sweden, etc.).

### **Topic (iii): Exchange/sharing/re-use of components, common models among statistical offices**

Discussant: Mr. Marton Vuksan, Statistics Netherlands (mvvcn@cbs.nl)

15. MSIS 2007 discussed the possibility of creating a "tool box" for creating software components and information about their availability and scope of application. There are several other initiatives toward the collaboration and use of an open-source philosophy for sharing software, for example the OSS project at Eurostat. Participants may wish to discuss the following issues:

- \* Existing initiatives related to software consortia, open-source and reuse of components in statistics;
- \* Legal and licensing issues (e.g. EUPL -- The European Union Public License);
- \* How MSIS can contribute to the exchange, sharing and re-use of software;
- \* Progress of the SOS group of the Nordic countries.

### **Topic (iv): User perspective**

Discussant: Mr. Lars Thygesen, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (lars.thygesen@oecd.org)

16. One of the consequences of the increased use of the Internet is the growing demand for easily available information. The understanding of user-friendliness is quickly changing, and users want access to detailed information with a minimum of effort. The user interaction of IT systems has to be tested periodically and improved. Contributions dealing with the following issues are encouraged under this topic:

- \* Compiling of data and metadata;
- \* Dissemination aspects and impact of Internet;
- \* Accessibility;
- \* Internal graphic user interface design.

**VII. FURTHER INFORMATION**

17. For further information, please contact the following organizers:

**UNECE:**

Mr. Juraj Riečan  
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## REGISTRATION FORM

### Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2008) (Luxembourg, 7-9 April 2008)

This form should be completed in duplicate by each participant and returned **by 1 March 2008**

**1 copy to:** Ms. Diane Serikoff  
Tel: +4122 917-2241  
Fax: +4122 917-0040  
E-mail: [diane.serikoff@unece.org](mailto:diane.serikoff@unece.org)

**1 copy to:** Ms. Wendy Ross  
Tel: +352 4301 36087  
Fax: +352 4301 31099  
E-mail: [wendy.ross@ec.europa.eu](mailto:wendy.ross@ec.europa.eu)

1. Surname (Family name):	Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	2. First name:
3. Representing (country or organization):		
4. Official function (in home country):		
5. Mailing address:		
6. Tel. No.:	7. Fax No.:	
8. E-mail address:		
9. Please indicate topic ((i)-(iv)) and title, if you intend to present a paper:		
<p>10. <b>For information:</b> Please indicate in which meetings organized back-to-back you intend to participate. The Secretariat will inform the respective organizers of other meetings.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Meeting on Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), Luxembourg, 7-9 April 2008</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Work Session on Statistical Metadata (METIS), Luxembourg, 9-11 April 2008</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OECD Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX), Paris, 14-15 April 2008</p>		
11. Date and time of arrival in Luxembourg:	12. Date and time of departure from Luxembourg:	
13. Special requirements:		

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_