

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMISSION OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

EUROSTAT

**Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session
on Statistical Metadata**
(6 - 8 March 2002, Luxembourg)

Working Paper No. 3
English only

Topic (i): Infrastructure issues for statistical metadata

ENHANCING USER ACCESS TO STATISTICAL METADATA ON THE INTERNET

Submitted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)¹

Invited paper

ABSTRACT

The paper explains how the IMF is substantially upgrading the functionality and capabilities of the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) through the introduction of a Relational Database Management System (RDBMS) for metadata combined with the rendering of the SDDS metadata model in XML (vocabularies and schemas). As a consequence, users will have improved access to metadata on the DSBB and, through the use of portal and data mining capabilities, on other websites. These capabilities are being developed in coordination with other international/regional organizations under the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) project to ensure that the standards and protocols developed will leverage modern technologies and be consistent across organizations and computing platforms.

The paper will briefly introduce the SDDS metadata model and explain how the application of a RDBMS in conjunction with the model will allow users of the DSBB to perform sophisticated search and query functions. The paper discusses the rendering of the metadata model in XML (through the development of standard vocabularies and schemas) and explains how the use of content aggregation technologies allow DSBB users to perform similar sophisticated searches and queries of other websites that employ XML for metadata. Searches and queries of the DSBB or other websites using the DSBB as a portal facility may be both free form and predefined, an example of the latter being an adaptation of the IMF's Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF).

The presentation of the paper will conclude with a brief demonstration of the enhanced functionality of the DSBB and its use as a portal site to search and query statistical information on other sites.

¹ Prepared by Robert Di Calogero, Dara Esfandiary and Gary Jones.