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**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**

**Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting on the management of statistical information systems**  
(Geneva, 17-19 February 2003)

Topic IV: Review and follow -up to the activities of the Conference of European Statisticians in the field of statistical information processing

**OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS:  
TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

Note by the UNECE Secretariat

1. **Management of Statistical Information Systems** (jointly with Eurostat and OECD)  
[programme element 2.1]
  - History: Former ECE Working Party on EDP (WP.9) and Seminars ISIS
  - Last meeting: Geneva, 17-19 April 2002
  - Chairperson: Mel Turner, Statistics Canada
  - Responsible: UNECE: Juraj Riecan; Eurostat: Wolfgang Knüppel; OECD: Gérard Salou
  - Next meeting: Geneva, 17-19 February 2003
  - Otput(s): Ongoing: Web site on IT practices in national statistical offices (pending task: write a joint letter by EU, OECD and ECE to Chief Statisticians)  
Planned: Coordination, facilitating cooperative work, exchange of experience
  - Target audience: Informatics managers from national statistical offices of other concerned national and international agencies; statisticians and informaticians responsible for coordination, planning and management of complex projects in the field of statistical information processing
  - Established Steering Group on MSIT and Steering Group on Website on IT practices in NSOs.
2. **Statistical Data Confidentiality** (jointly with Eurostat) [programme element 2.1]
  - History: Launchend in 2000 as joint undertaking with Eurostat
  - Last meeting: Skopje, 14-16 March 2001
  - Chairperson: Anco Hundepool, Statistics Netherlands
  - Responsible: UNECE: Juraj Riecan; Eurostat: John King
  - Next meeting: Geneva, 9-11 April 2003
  - Otput(s): Past: UNECE Survey on Statistical Data Confidentiality in the Transition Countries  
Special issue of the UNECE Statistical Journal (Vol.18 no. 4, 2001)  
Planned: was planned a methodological material on Business Perceptions of Confidentiality – not yet done

Target audience: Experts from national and international statistical offices dealing with statistical disclosure limitation

3. **Statistical Data Editing** [programme element 2.2]

History: Formerly data editing group within the Statistical Computing Project (SCP and SCP.2)

Last meeting: Helsinki, 27-29 May 2002

Chairperson: John Kovar, Statistics Canada

Responsible: UNECE: Juraj Riecan

Next meeting: (tentative) Spain, late 2003

Output(s): Past: Statistical Data Editing Methods and Techniques, Vol 1 and Vol 2

Glossary of terms on statistical data editing (2000)

Evaluating efficiency of statistical data editing: general framework (2000)

Planned: Evaluation Methods and Quality Indicators for Statistical Data Editing

Target audience: Statisticians dealing with editing and imputation of statistical data derived from surveys, censuses as well as administrative sources and spanning across various subject-matter areas, both social and economic.

4. **Electronic Data Reporting** (jointly with Eurostat) [programme element 2.2]

History: Newly created group (in 2001)

Last meeting: Geneva, 13-15 February 2002

Chairperson: Mario Ménard, Statistics Canada

Responsible: UNECE: Juraj Riecan; Eurostat: Uwe Kunzler

Next meeting: 26-28 November 2003

Output(s): Potential topics for future work: (i) national integration (e-government initiatives); (ii) national research (quality issue, organization, administrative sources); (iii) respondents' behaviour (security, e-commerce, built-in edits, benchmarking of data); (iv) communication and support (helpdesk, training); (v) implementation.

Target audience: Statisticians and informaticians organising electronic data collection, data capture reporting units; experts in electronic interchange of statistical information

5. **Statistical Metadata** (jointly with Eurostat) [programme element 2.3]

History: Formerly metadata group within the Statistical Computing Projects (SCP and SCP.2)

Last meeting: Luxembourg, 6-8 March 2002

Chairperson: Daniel Gillman, US Bureau of the Census

Responsible: UNECE: Juraj Riecan; Eurostat: Marco Pellegrino

Next meeting: Geneva, 1-3 October 2003

Output(s): Past: Guidelines for modelling statistical data and metadata (1995); Terminology on statistical metadata (2000); Guidelines for statistical metadata on the Internet (2000); Best practices in designing websites for dissemination of statistics (2001); Recommendations on formats relevant to the downloading of statistical data from Internet (2001); A guide to the Websites of national and international statistical organizations (2001)

Potential topics for the future work: (i) metadata uses over the survey life-cycle; (ii) uses of XML schema and web services in metadata systems; (iii) extensions and refinements of metadata models; (iv) using metadata for searching and finding statistical data in websites and portals.

Target audience: Statisticians and other experts involved in data modelling for collection, processing and dissemination of "well described" statistical information

6. **Statistical Output for Dissemination to Information Media** [programme element 2.3]

History: Group created in 1994

Last meeting: Geneva, 28-30 October 2002

Chairperson: Victoria Crompton

Responsible: UNECE: Tiina Luige

Next meeting: 2003/2004

Otput(s): "Communicating with the media: a guide for statistical organizations" a hardcopy handbook targeted for publication in spring 2003 supported by an extended electronic version with hyperlinks to supporting papers.  
Establishment of a Steering Committee to develop the future agenda of the work session with a focus on electronic communication with the media.  
Establishment of a Steering Group to explore the possibility of a new working session focused on the production and dissemination of statistical analysis for general audiences beyond the media  
New focus: The future meetings will focus in dissemination of statistical analysis.  
Target audience: NSO press and media relations officers, statisticians preparing statistical output and media communications  
Established Steering Group on Dissemination and Editorial Group to finish the printed and electronic versions of the handbook

7. **Geographical Information Systems** (jointly with Eurostat) [programme element 2.6]

History: Formerly survey processing group within the Statistical Computing Projects (SCP and SCP.2)

Last meeting: Tallinn, 25-28 September 2001

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Responsible: UNECE: Juraj Riecan; Eurostat: Daniel Rase

Next meeting: 7-9 May 2003

Otput(s): Past: StatMapWeb: Cartography for Statistical Purposes; Special Issue of UNECE Statistical Journal on GIS (Vol.17, no. 2, 2000)

Target audience: Experts in national and international statistical offices creating thematic maps, informaticians and statisticians dealing with collection, processing and storing of geo-referenced statistical information.

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