



TULLI
TULL·CUSTOMS

Item 4c: COUNTRY VIEWPOINT TO THE SIMSTAT PROJECT

UNECE

20 May 2016

The proposal from 2012 – SIMSTAT

1. *Reduce data collection requirements on the intra-EU imports (arrivals) side.*
2. *Enable Member States to design the data collection for the intra-EU imports according to their needs.*
3. ***Create an additional data source by making the exchange of micro data for intra-EU exports (dispatches) mandatory.***
4. *Member States can chose whether to use the exchanged data. A country specific, gradual implementation of the SIMSTAT system would be possible.*

SIMSTAT ESSnets during 2013-2015

- ESSnet1 co-ordinated by Finnish Customs
 - *17 EU Member States, 14 exchanged micro data by physical means*
- ESSnet2 co-ordinated by French Customs (D.G.D.D.I.)
 - *21 EU Member States, 20 exchanged micro data via HUB*

SIMSTAT ESSnet1

- The technical documentation and instructions for the exchange of micro-data
 - What micro data to be exchanged?
 - Mandatory or voluntary data elements?
 - Micro data exchange timetable?

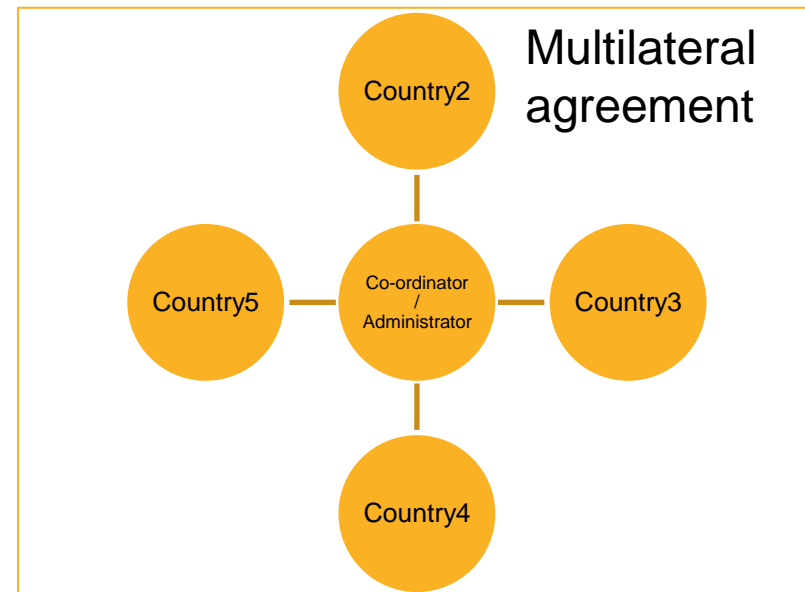


SIMSTAT technical documentation and instructions on technical issues for the exchange of micro-data:

- “DocMet400SIMSTAT” contains micro data file specifications (mandatory, monthly):
 - Only Intrastat collected micro data of EU-exports
 - New mandatory data elements: “ID of partner trader”, “Country of origin in dispatches”
 - Only two MSs (FR, IT) were collecting “ID of partner trader”
 - Nobody collected “Country of origin in dispatches”
 - Deadline for monthly transmission t+35 days

Confidentiality arrangements for the trial micro-data exchange:

- Agreements signed (*in force until end of 2017*) between ESSnet participating MSs: Multilateral agreement
- Agreement also with Eurostat because managing the data HUB
- No legal force on EU-legislation = voluntary exchange



ESSnet2 micro data exchange via HUB

- Monthly from April to September 2015
- 20 MSs manually sent monthly micro data file to HUB, and manually received 19 mirror micro data files from HUB

Process remarks:

- *Very time consuming on monthly production if process is manual.*
- *Capacity and automation of HUB needs to be developed to fulfill the production environment needs.*

ESSnet2 micro data analysis

Product remarks:

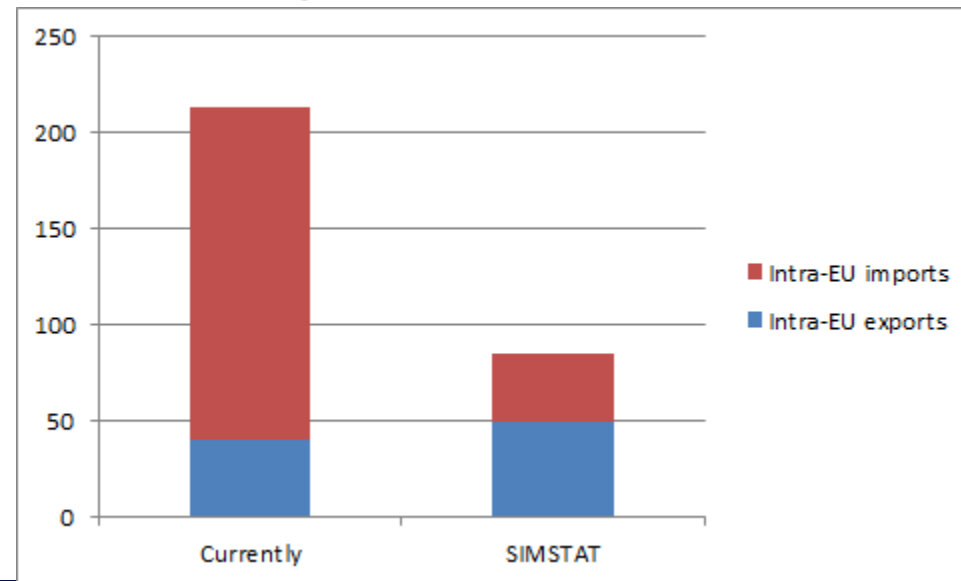
- *Other MSs collected micro data had a good coverage.*
- *Lines received was more than same data collected, because EU regulation have more coverage on EU-export side than EU-import side.*
- *IT and FR were collecting the “Partner ID number”. Match of data from IT and FR was a good level.*
- *Other MSs were not collecting the “Partner ID number”. Match of data from other MSs was lower.*

Open questions after SIMSTAT-project

- *Confidentiality in dissemination under discussions?*
 - *Draft algorithm has been made, but it is complicated.*
- *When other country's micro data can replace your own collected micro data on production?*
 - *Strong dependency from partner countries. Takes some years to switch off your own micro data collection.*
- *What happens if partner country will not send the micro data on time?*
 - *Secondary production process needed.*

Reducing the administrative burden

- *In Finland Intrastat represents >50% of all statistical administrative burden to enterprises.*
- *Intra-EU exports have only 19% and imports over 81% share of Intrastat administrative burden*
 - *Replacing own imports data collection by new SIMSTAT micro data source is a huge possibility!*
 - *SIMSTAT could reduce Intrastat response burden in Finland by 60%.*



Remarks: what to do before micro data exchange

- *Contract and/or legal arrangements*
 - *Bilateral agreements are easy, but multilateral agreements are more complicated like in SIMSTAT-project*
- *Well done definitions before micro data exchange*
 - *SIMSTAT has ~1000 pages documentation*
- *Secure data transmission*
 - *if regular production use*

Thank you for your attention.

**Olli-Pekka Penttilä, Director of Statistics
Finnish Customs**

Email: olli-pekka.penttila@tulli.fi