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OECD EXPERT GROUP ON STATISTICAL DATA AND METADATA EXCHANGE

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OECD EXPERT GROUP ON STATISTICAL DATA AND METADATA EXCHANGE

1. Purpose

OECD works closely with Member countries, non-Member countries, and other international organisations in sharing internationally comparable statistics, creating an information base for analysis and decision making. The processes of exchanging, processing and disseminating statistical information and metadata are undergoing profound change as a consequence of new technological opportunities and evolving standards.

Several international meetings are regularly organised to compare recent ICT developments and share experiences in the field of statistical data and metadata collection, management and dissemination. On the other hand, the implementation of new models and approaches is left to individual countries, according to their needs and plans. Therefore, nowadays there is no international forum available for discussing and agreeing on common strategies and concrete actions to minimise the duplication of work carried out by countries and international organisations, promoting a “multilateral vision” of the exchange of statistical data and metadata between countries and international organisations. The Group is being set up to form a network of involved ICT experts who will discuss strategic issues related to the development and the practical implementation of new procedures for statistical data exchange and sharing between the OECD, its Member countries, and other international organisations. Ultimately, this will contribute to a more efficient international statistical system. The Group will be closely co-ordinated with other international bodies dealing with similar topics (Eurostat IT Steering Group and the joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD meetings on Management of Statistical Information Systems, MSIS). The Group will report to the OECD High Level Group on Statistics, providing recommendations for developing statistical information systems and improving the efficiency and the effectiveness of statistical data and metadata exchange.

2. Content of Work

The primary focus of the Group’s work will be on data exchange and data sharing within the OECD network, i.e. between OECD and its Member countries. In order to reduce or eliminate duplication of work, the Group will also promote technical cooperation between OECD and other international organisations involved in data and metadata exchange with OECD. The Group will, in particular, work towards developing and implementing new solutions regarding:

- Standards and procedures for *exchange* of statistical data and metadata;
- Standards and procedures for *sharing* statistical data and metadata.

The Group will have close links to the SDMX initiative (see www.sdmx.org), which is leading development activity in these domains, and will rely on the conclusions achieved by the ECE/Eurostat/OECD meetings on Management of Statistical Information Systems and other international groups (e.g. METIS). The Group will provide a forum in which national statistical offices, other national data providers and the OECD can discuss strategies and practical issues for implementing solutions, and move in a coordinated and mutually beneficial way towards their implementation. It is expected that the Group will prepare recommendations for future actions to be undertaken by the Secretariat and Member countries.

3. Organisation

The Group will advise the OECD (both the Secretariat and Member countries) as to future practices and standards for the collection, exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata. It will submit an annual report to the OECD High Level Group Meeting. Chair and secretariat will be provided by OECD in co-operation between the Statistics Directorate (STD) and the Information Technology and Networks Service (ITN).

4. Members

The Group will consist of ICT experts from Member countries closely involved with statistical activities, especially concerning data and metadata exchange and sharing. Therefore, experts from national statistical offices (NSOs) and other institutions in charge of statistical activities (e.g. ministries) of Member countries and from international organisations interacting with OECD will be invited to join the Group. The participation of experts from certain non-Member countries could be envisaged, in the context of the OECD's "outreach" activities.

5. Meetings

It is foreseen that meetings will normally take place at OECD headquarter in Paris. As the Group's members are expected to be drawn from institutions around the globe, it would be beneficial to set up meetings in conjunction with other international meetings already gathering some members in one place. Some possibilities for the coming year would be meetings back-to-back with:

- The Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) 17-19 May 2004 in Geneva;
- The 2004 IT Steering Group meeting scheduled by Eurostat in 2004 in Luxembourg.