

# Statistics, telematic networks and EDI bulletin

2 □ 1996

## STNE WORK PROGRAMME ENDORSED BY THE SPC

The 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) endorsed the STNE work programme. Progressively, users will benefit from more comparable statistical information and, improvements in the timeliness, reliability and apparent simplicity of the communications infrastructure which supports the European Statistical System.

Within 18 months, all DSIS organisations should have good commonly available telematic services - such as e-mail - in full operation. The need for good services is on the critical path of the other *priority activities* in the programme. The results which have been achieved so far, and also those which will emerge from the new work programme, will be incorporated in the operational processes of *priority statistical domains*.

*Priority activities:* These are metadata and the European Reference Environment, dissemination environment - information highway and multimedia, the design and integration of electronic data interchange (EDI) messages, the collection of raw data and integration with trans-European telematic networks.

*Priority statistical domains:* These are national accounts, balance of payments, ECU statistics, foreign exchange, external trade statistics, industrial indicators, PRODCOM, price indices, transport, insurance, agricultural indices, health monitoring, employment and environment statistics. The highest priority will be accorded to those domains which must meet regulatory deadlines for availability.

The SPC fully supports the formation of closer domain specific partnerships between statisticians and IT service suppliers within and between Member States and Eurostat (in particular, the production units).

### IDA Conference

The IDA (Interchange of Data between Administrations) Conference was held in Rome on 20 & 21 June 1996. Over 400 members of public administrations and specialists from Europe's information technology industry attended and heard about the achievements so far in developing trans-European services. Participants contributed to the formulation of the future direction of IDA through forward looking discussions on services for administrations, for citizens, for industry and on generic services. Conference proceedings are in the "IDA Report" (n° 3, October 1996). Further information on the IDA Programme is available from the IDA Web site. <http://www.ispo.cec.be/ida/ida.html>

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OFICINA ESTADÍSTICA DE LAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEAS  
 DE EUROPÆISKE FÆLLESSKABERS STATISTISKE KONTOR  
 STATISTISCHES AMT DER EUROPÄISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFTEN  
 ΣΤΑΤΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΩΝ  
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 OFFICE STATISTIQUE DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES  
 ISTITUTO STATISTICO DELLE COMUNITÀ EUROPEE  
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### **EEG6 - Statistics**

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## Eurostat's stand at the IDA Conference

Eurostat's exhibition stand presented the achievements of the STNE work programme (DSIS, EDICOM, EXTRACOM and SERT) in the statistical sector and its involvement in IDA. The statistical cycle and European Statistical System were illustrated. The issues for decision makers and suppliers of statistics were highlighted, along with the five priority activities. Demonstrations of the DSIS Information Resource Centre, the GESMES message EDI trials project blueprint and EDI message security developments were given. These were complemented by the Eurostat multi-media kiosk. The stand was one of the most popular at the exhibition and it provided a useful opportunity to discuss common problems with other administrations.

## IDA Workshop - early 1997

DGIII is planning an IDA Workshop for Member State administrations to discuss priority areas for the future of the IDA programme. The workshop is due to take place in February 1997.

## STNE Working Group Meeting

Member State and Eurostat representatives, and observers from Switzerland, Slovenia and Latvia attended the 5th meeting of the Statistics, Telematic Networks & EDI Working Group (STNE WG) which was held in Luxembourg on 8 & 9 October 1996.

On the preceding day, technical presentations were given of prototypes for the Master Metadata Service, the DSIS Information Resource Centre, the EDI CLASET message and EDICOM security.

The STNE Working Group noted the good progress made against each of the priority activities and debated the detail of the future work programme which had been endorsed by the Statistical Programme Committee.

The Commission's policy on network protocols was noted: the X.400 protocol is used for internal e-mail and data transmission. Internet technology is selected for added value services that are not available using x.400, such as electronic conferencing.

TESTA, the successor to NSPP-12MS, will be the generic high level network to which other services will connect using many different protocols.

It was agreed that functional addresses should be used for formal e-mail, wherever possible, to ensure proper administrative handling of received documents, not relying only on individuals.

## Five Golden Rules

The technical components of lessons learnt from year 1 of the DSIS Work Programme can be summed up in five "golden rules" for the success of STNE activities:

- ① Interoperable, affordable, easily accessible, secure and auditable telecommunication networks.
- ② Standardised EDI messages designed to cover user requirements.
- ③ Well documented EDI and coherent implementation of EDI messages across sectors.
- ④ Off the shelf business applications with well integrated EDI technology, affordable and well supported.
- ⑤ Commitment of the major players (the "hub" concept) to encourage the user communities.

*The role of administrations:* The administrations have the initiative and the mandate on rules 2,3 and 5. The administrations have to specify, document and prototype their requirements for rules 1 and 4.

*The role of IT providers:* The software houses must have the initiative or a leading role to play on rule 4. The network providers and telecommunication operators must have the initiative or a leading role on rules 1 and 4.

## Progress on the Five DSIS Priorities

Tangible results have been achieved in the first year of the DSIS Work Programme in the five priority areas: metadata and the European Reference Environment (ERE), the design and integration of EDI messages, the collection of raw data, integration with trans-European telematic networks, and dissemination environment - information highway and multimedia.

Successful achievement of the aims is critically dependent on a high level of collaboration between DSIS organisations at both the technical and the organisational level. Generally, technical solutions are becoming more mature; some are ready now, others will be implemented during the second and subsequent work programmes. The time has now come to increase collaboration between technical and organisational aspects of the work so that the subject level data and procedures conform to the standards of the ERE.

DSIS framework standards for the ERE need to be followed for all new data collection and dissemination requirements to ensure synergy and inter-operability between DSIS organisations and the work they are trying to achieve.

## Metadata and the European Reference Environment

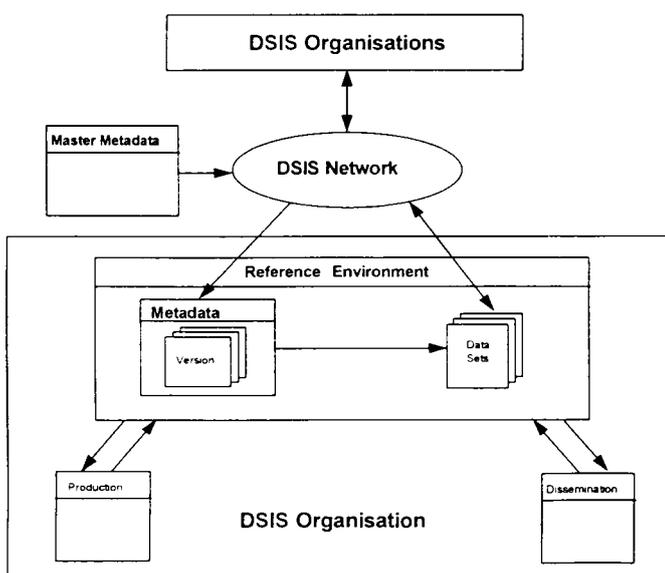
The specifications of the European Reference Environment (ERE) and the Master Metadata Service (MMS) have been agreed. The overall design and the detailed design of the MMS have also been agreed. Development of the MMS prototype is underway.

The MMS is the first step towards concrete implementation of the ERE and represents a tangible result in the work programme. The GESMES and CLASET EDI messages have been adopted for the exchange of statistical and meta data within the ERE.

The following initial set of statistical domains has been identified for inclusion in the ERE: national accounts, balance of payments, ECU statistics, foreign exchange, external trade statistics, industrial indicators, PRODCOM, price indices, transport, insurance, agricultural indices, health monitoring, employment and environment statistics.

The ERE will emerge over time as more and more statistical data and its metadata conforms to DSIS standards. Authorised users will benefit considerably from being able to access detailed reference data.

Eurostat and several National Statistical Administrations are making encouraging progress in implementing their own reference environments: these contain data to meet both their own needs and those of other competent national administrations which are granted access to it. The ERE is expected to be made up of harmonised sections of local reference environments but this is a matter for each DSIS organisation to decide.



The relationship between the ERE and MMS

The ERE is a collection of data where the methodology is well established, standardised, uniform and scientific. Data are structured according to agreed standards, and associated multi-lingual metadata have agreed meaning.

Metadata are the terms and statistical concepts describing data sets. It will be managed by the MMS which will be the single authoritative source and definitive record of common metadata definitions necessary for the inter-operability of DSIS services. Each organisation will keep and use a copy of the metadata held locally.

Initially it is intended that DSIS organisations will be notified of metadata definition updates according to an agreed schedule and, exceptionally, in response to ad hoc off-line requests. Multilingual versions of some metadata will be available.

In addition, and in support of its primary role of supplying agreed metadata, the MMS will keep some categories of metadata, such as agreed definitions (access rights, organisation names etc.) during their agreement cycle. Most, if not all, classifications and statistical concepts will have been agreed before they are received, and then stored by the MMS.

The MMS will provide its service over the (logical) DSIS telecommunications network. The next step will be to pilot the system so that the technical and organisational components can be proven before they are implemented in an operational environment. An early implementation will be co-ordinated in early 1997, in selected DSIS organisations and with selected statistical domains.

In the future, statisticians will find a greater number and diversity of customers making demands on their services (e.g. dissemination environment). The range of products will increase, as will the media used in dissemination. This expansion, combined with the diversity of production methods, will place a large burden upon scarce resources and, irrespective of the media used, will result in a lack of coherence in the statistical data disseminated.

By dissociating production from dissemination and by using harmonised metadata and accessing the ERE, this burden will be partly relieved, providing statisticians with greater flexibility when designing new products and enabling them to respond more quickly to new requirements without sacrificing data reliability or comparability. There will be a reduced reliance on large and complex publications, and it will become easier to respond to specific requests.

A practical scenario of using the ERE follows. A requestor, an expert in a DSIS organisation needs to supplement a locally held data set with reference data from other relevant DSIS organisations. The expert wishes to transfer copies of the remote data to his/her local systems for analysis and aggregation. The data required to satisfy the request resides in the reference environments of other DSIS organisations, the suppliers. In this case the requestor does not know the locations of the required data.

The requestor uses tools in their local environment to discover what data sets are available in the ERE, and chooses those which will satisfy his/her requirements. Once the required data set has been identified a query is compiled. The query is executed by being sent to the relevant supply organisations. The messages identify the required data and the location of the requestor. Based upon this information the supplying organisations retrieve the data from their reference environments and send them to the requestor. The results of the query are formatted and presented to the requestor. PC-SIMPLE and CUB.X are tools which are already prototyping such an approach with the Eurostat reference environment.

## **Information Highway and Multi-media**

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Keen to constantly improve its statistical information service by taking full advantage of modern techniques available, Eurostat is already applying the new possibilities offered by the multimedia revolution and has started research to allow further progress in this direction. Photographs, charts and even sound documents, video sequences and animation can be used to illustrate statistical data, making them more attractive and understandable.

The first of the multimedia publications produced by Eurostat is a catalogue, Books on European Statistics, which also includes general information on Eurostat and the European statistical system. It is a user-friendly and attractive work, the aim of which is to arouse the interest of potential customers, direct them towards fuller sources of information and encourage them to buy publications.

It will soon be easy to regularly produce a whole range of products such as:

- multimedia catalogues on CD-ROMs
- on-line multimedia catalogues, on Internet or commercial services
- information kiosks
- printed catalogues

- other derived products, such as sectorial catalogues or "Just published" announcements
- EDI showrooms
- shop services.

The Eurostat kiosk has already been on display at several exhibitions, including the IDA Conference.

Basic principles may already be deduced from these first achievements:

- automate production by structuring information
- ensure independence from the physical medium
- be flexible to satisfy users
- be user-friendly to all users
- avoid sticking to present technology
- put the focus on multimedia resources.

Eurostat plans to increase its use of the Internet for collection and dissemination of statistical information. The DSIS Information Resource Centre (DSIS-IRC), demonstrated at the IDA Conference, will offer the following services:

- A document library for STNE projects;
- On-line conferencing ("cyber meetings");
- A newsgroup facility;
- A library of auto-installable software;
- Directories of operational information such as project and meetings information, a 'who's who' guide and a 'frequently asked questions' service;
- A global search facility using key words or approximate spellings of words;
- E-mail access to the DSIS-IRC for making requests or searches.

User access and security are two major outstanding issues.

The prototype is being validated by Eurostat and will be piloted before the end of 1996. Once the DSIS-IRC is mature and reliable it will be integrated into the World Wide Web architecture of the European Commission and cross linked with the National Web Servers. It is proposed to trial the DSIS-IRC with the various DSIS projects and then to open it to a wider audience.

These achievements are just the first steps and Eurostat intends to go much further in the exploitation of new information technologies.

## **Collection of Raw Data**

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The collection of raw data for statistical purposes relies on a group of organisations and individuals known as PSIs, or Providers of Statistical Information for the supply of raw statistical data. These are the economic operators, trade associations and

intermediaries that perform the economic activities that statistical organisations investigate and report on. A number of projects and initiatives are trying to improve the collection and reporting of statistics at this level. Two that are particularly relevant to the DSIS framework are EDICOM and SERT.

EDICOM (Electronic Data Interchange on Commerce) aims to facilitate the flow of INTRASTAT returns from economic operators to competent national administrations. In 1993, the INTRASTAT regulation was introduced. This requires that all international trades within the European Union have to be recorded and reported by the economic operators making those trades. This requirement places a large administrative burden on the economic operators - a burden that the EDICOM programme aims to reduce.

Currently, PSIs use a paper form to provide the details of their intra-union trades. 90% of these paper forms are then typed in manually at the receiving administrations (or Competent National Administrations - CNAs). The EDICOM programme wishes to encourage the use of electronic forms and EDI for the recording of this data by the economic operators. Such forms might print out the returns on paper, provide them in floppy disk format, or ideally as EDI. A program which currently does this is IDEP/CN8 (INTRASTAT Data Entry Program / Combined Nomenclature - 8 characters), developed by the EDICOM programme.

About 15,000 enterprises currently use the IDEP/CN8 product in eleven Member States (Denmark, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Spain, Greece, Eire, Italy, Finland, Sweden and Austria).

SERT (Statistiques d'Entreprise et Réseaux Télématiques) aims to lower the burden on PSIs caused by statistical surveys and to improve the accuracy and timeliness of the results. National administrations require a great deal of information concerning the areas for which they are responsible. Much of this comes as data reported by economic operators. The SERT programme aims to improve the quality and speed of the collection of statistics, and lower the costs of the process for National Statistical Institutes and economic operators using new technologies, EDI and telecommunications networks.

The "EUROFER-UK" project has found that clerical costs can be reduced, financial control can be tightened, pricing strategy can be based on better commercial information and that more accurate statistical data can be sent to the ISSB Spear system, but there are other obstacles to be overcome. EDI /

EDIFACT is seen as costly and complex, enterprises want control over release of information and better feedback and investment in improvements for statistics alone could be difficult to justify.

A pragmatic approach to the needs of data collection from road transport operators is essential. The "Road Transport" project should aim to evolve toward an ideal situation which is broadly similar to the objectives of the TELER project. A key factor is the data response cost per vehicle to operators: currently operators pay up to ECU50. The RDRMES is seen as a possible message in the vertical data supply chain. A pilot study on the transfer of data in road transport has been carried out and the results will be presented at the next STNE WG meeting.

A study in the hotel sector in Greece and Italy has begun. Each National Statistical Institute (NSI) will test the transmission flows of electronic forms with a sample set of 10 hotels per Member State. A definition study is being carried out for a helpdesk service for NSIs when problems are encountered sending data. The EDIVAT II project has begun following the EDIVAT project in 1995. This project is concerned with the transfer of VAT data through accounting units using the RDRMES EDI message. Belgium and the Netherlands are the trial partners.

## **Message Definition and Integration**

It is becoming a reality that statisticians throughout Europe can simply and quickly exchange statistical data through the use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). This will lead to greater accuracy of published statistics, increases in the speed of compilation, and improvements in the quality of advice given to decision makers.

The design and integration of several EDI messages has made considerable progress and some have already been used in several regular and frequent data flows. Trials to integrate messages with the working practises of the statistical sectors are currently under way in the sectors of: aggregated statistics, statistical classification, balance of payments statistics, external trade statistics and transport statistics.

All EDI development now comes under the European Board for EDI Standardisation (EBES) and the Message Development Group 6 has become the Expert Group 6 - Statistics. Including open EDI in standardisation activities means that more syntax's, such as SGML, HTML and geographic coded data exchange, can be used in message design. The EBES

structure and organisation is now available on the EBES web site at <http://www.ebes.cencclbel.be/>

For the GESMES trials in 1996, at least two data flows were trialed successfully, within timescales, at each of the following administrations: ONS, UK; Statistics Finland; ISTAT, Bank of Italy, UIC; and Statistics Norway. Telecommunications used were STADIUM/STATEL, data conversion routines, X.400 and the FAME interface was developed by Statistics Norway.

The trial continues with the original partners and with new trial partners: Sweden, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Austria, France and the Netherlands. There are now six statistical domains covered by the project. These are quarterly national accounts, PRODCOM, Balance of Payments, Industrial Indicators, and Environment and Insurance statistics. Other statistical domains are planned for 1997.

Industrial indicators are now operating in a live environment, national accounts can accept ESA-95 tables and more countries wish to join the trials with insurance statistics.

GESMES/BOPSTA is now in production in 11 central banks. This means that classification is harmonised, data are of a high quality and EDI methods are maturing.

The CLASET data model has been finalised by EEG6/WG3 and some metadata can be exchanged. The model supports data exchange requirements for classification structures and definition, correspondence tables, codelists and lifecycle. The message has been implemented using EDIFACT, SGML and HTML syntaxes. In the near future CLASET is expected to reach "level 1" status. Trials are being undertaken with INSEE - France, Statistics Finland and Eurostat.

The external trade group is continuing its work on EDICOM/EXTRACOM (including goods from 3<sup>d</sup> world countries) and the trials of EDIFACT and security messages. Advice on using the raw data reporting message RDRMES is being drawn up.

For transport statistics, an air transport study has been carried out this year and a fact finding study has been carried out for road transport.

The transport pilot project concerning the reporting of ships' manifests has successfully completed. The project proved it was possible to collect statistical returns, at a relatively low cost, as required by the

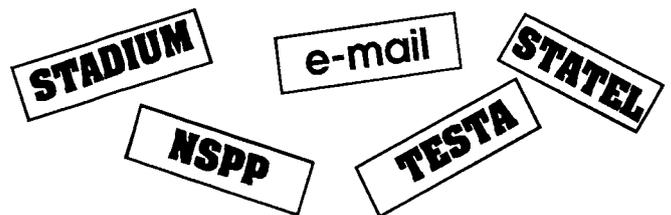
Council Directive. This will be of value to Member States, ports and maritime operators. The new aim is to trial additional data flows, increase the number of trial partners and achieve operational use in Spain. The new pilot, which began in March 1996, should end in February 1997. See the article "EDI Trials for Maritime Statistics" in this bulletin for more information.

## Telecommunications Infrastructure

The underlying telematic network is closer to becoming a reality with a pilot scheme covering all Member States under evaluation.

The National Server Pilot Project - 12 Member States (NSPP-12MS) is an IDA project which aimed to test the concepts involved in setting up a standard pan-European technical infrastructure for the exchange of electronic information between administrations (both national and pan-European). The project specified a generic infrastructure and generic services that enable partners from the European Commission and 12 Member States in a specific application domain to fulfil their communication needs.

NSPP services and products include electronic mail, electronic mail access and composition applications (User Agents) customised to work in nine languages, file transfer facilities, and a number of more specialised products and services such as STATEL. The fields supported were customs, agriculture, statistics and national fisheries administrations. Of the 400 people who took part in the pilot, 130 were from the statistical sector.



The lessons learned from NSPP have been very useful in formulating the strategy for the Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations (TESTA) project. TESTA will supersede NSPP. It aims to provide common telematic services between administrations. The base line strategy is to buy services from the market place, in a co-ordinated way instead of setting-up and running networks. TESTA has been approved by IDA/TAC and is expected to start in early 1997.

Electronic mail is becoming an increasingly popular means of communication within the statistical community (see the "IDA E-Mail for Committee Members" article in this bulletin). The new project "Email for Administrations and Groups" has been approved by IDA/TAC (Telematics in Administrations Committee) and is expected to start in early 1997.

All Member States now have a telecommunications strategy or national recommendations to implement one. Communications between European statistical bodies have been greatly improved through the use of products and tools recommended by the DSIS work programme.

The DSIS Framework has developed and implemented products and tools to support communications between European statistical bodies. These products include STATEL and STADIUM. STADIUM is an 'electronic post-office' based at Luxembourg: DSIS Organisations send data there for distribution either to Eurostat or to another DSIS Organisation. STATEL is a multi-protocol application which enables computer applications to be developed independently of the telecommunications protocol.

Pilot implementations and tests of STATEL services are complete. Eurostat can receive data using the STATEL and STADIUM facilities and is able to work with a range of network protocols used by Member States. The services are currently under-used but it is expected that the benefits to the statistical domain will encourage more Member States to increase inter-connectivity.

STATEL and STADIUM for MS-Windows™ are now installed and new developments for these products include self-installation and self-configuration tools, making installation, configuration and support for Member States less of a burden and encouraging ease of use.

## **IDA E-Mail for Committee Members**

The European Union performs much of its work through 1200 advisory committees with members from the administrations working with Commission secretariats. The interchange of documents and data by e-mail for committee work is therefore a key area of interest.

The 'E-Mail for Committee Members Project' was established within the IDA programme to help a sample set of Committees use electronic mail in their work, as a step towards establishing a critical mass of inter-administration e-mail use.

The approach was "to grow e-mail use from within" - in other words to work through and with the committees themselves through the Secretariats.

The project also made technical contacts with over 150 Administrations across Europe. These contacts can be called upon for further e-mail support of other Committees.

There is now a 75% coverage of committee members, were reachable by e-mail.

In the statistical sector, 80% of the Statistical Programme Committee and the STNE Working Group members are now reachable by e-mail and use it to send agendas, minutes and associated documents. These two bodies together consist of around 150 members. The STNE Working Group has pioneered the use of the document repository. Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) is the recommended format for attachments to mail messages.

An extension to this work has been agreed by the Telematics in Administrations Committee (IDA/TAC). It is planned to cover more than 80 advisory committees and to use functional mailboxes. For 1996, the CMFB (Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payment Statistics) and the EDIBOP task force are being supported initially. Other committees will also participate.

E-mail facilities available to administrations include:

- an e-mail user guide
- data on administrative workflow
- the best e-mail routes between groups of users
- a training guide
- recommendations on specific technical issues.

## **Follow-up project**

A new project "E-mail for Administrations and Groups" has been approved by IDA/TAC, for the provision of services to support committees and working groups for integrating the use of e-mail in their activities. The objectives are to continue the support work to the existing user committees and to extend the service to additional committees. The project is expected to start in early 1997.

## Statistics, Telematic Networks and EDI Working Group (STNE WG)

### Who is Who

The secretariat of the STNE WG is provided by Eurostat-A1. The contact is Mr Philippe Lebaube.

The national representatives are:

Member State	Representative	Organisation
Austria	Johannes Biricz	Austrian Central Statistical Office
Belgium	Claude Delannoy	Institut National de Statistiques
Denmark	Harald Host-Madsen	Danmarks Statistik
Eire	Margaret McLoughlin	Central Statistical Office
Finland	Kauko Hämäläinen	Statistics Finland
France	Jean-Pierre Granjean	INSEE
Germany	Jurgen Chlumsky	Statistisches Bundesamt
Greece	Giorgios Spanogiannopolous	National Statistical Service of Greece
Italy	Rossana Balestrino	ISTAT
Luxembourg	Nico Weydert	STATEC
The Netherlands	Kees-Jan Metz	Central Bureau of Statistics
Norway	Claude Courbat	Statistics Norway
Portugal	Humberto Correia	Instituto Nacional de Estatistica
Spain	Pedro Diaz Munoz	Instituto Nacional de Estadistica
Sweden	Bo Sundgren	Statistics Sweden
United Kingdom	Robin Pape	Office of National Statistics

Observers are:

Member State	Representative	Organisation
Poland	Kaziermierz Wackowski	Central Statistical Office
Switzerland	Beat Hulliger-Dominguez	Swiss Federal Statistical Office

## Glossary

CNA .....	Competent National Administration
CLASET .....	An EDI message for the exchange of classifications
CMFB .....	Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance Of Payment Statistics
DSIS .....	Distributed Statistical Information Services
DSIS-IRC.....	DSIS Information Resource Centre
DTD .....	Document Type Definition in SGML
EBES/EG6 Statistics...	European Board EDI Standardisation/ Expert Group 6 Statistics
ECU .....	European Currency Unit
EDI .....	Electronic Data Interchange
EDICOM .....	Electronic Data Interchange for COMmerce - Eurostat initiative
EDIFACT .....	Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce, and Transport
ERE .....	European Reference Environment
EXTRACOM .....	A set of actions to exploit the use of telematics in support of EDICOM
GESMES .....	An EDI message - Generic Statistical Message - for the exchange of any type of multi-dimensional data or chronological series
GESMES/BOPSTA ....	An EDI message for the exchange of aggregated Balance Of Payment Statistics between statistical organisations
HTML .....	Hyper Text Mark-up Language
IDA .....	Interchange of Data between Administrations - a DGIII programme
IDA/TAC .....	Telematics in Administrations Committee - DGIII
INTRASTAT.....	EU Regulation which requires the reporting of statistics relating to trade between Member States. Goods classification for trade in the EC
MMS .....	Master Metadata Service
NSI .....	National Statistical Institute
NSPP-12MS .....	National Servers Pilot Project - 12 Member States
PSI .....	Provider of Statistical Information
RDRMES .....	An EDI message for raw data reporting
SERT .....	Statistiques d'Entreprise et Réseaux Télématiques - Eurostat initiative
SGML .....	ISO Standard Generalised Mark-up Language
SPC .....	Statistical Programme Committee
STADIUM .....	An electronic data collection and dissemination centre
STATEL .....	An application to application telecommunications protocol
STNE WG .....	Statistics, Telematic Networks, and EDI Working Group - Eurostat
TELER.....	TELeMatics for Enterprise Reporting
TESTA .....	Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations
X 400 .....	ISO Electronic Messaging Standard
X.500 .....	ISO Electronic Directory Standard

### Key Documents:

STNE Work Programme (CPS/96/22/5a/EN)	GESMES Quick Results
DSIS Information Sheets	GESMES/ECOSER
DSIS Progress Report to the STNE WG	CLASET Message Implementation Guide
	RDRMES Message Implementation Guide

### Dates for Your Diary:

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
SERT ad-hoc .....	13 December 1996 .....	Luxembourg
IDA/TAC .....	17 January 1997.....	Brussels
GESMES Trials Task Force .....	January 1997.....	
Metadata Task Force n°.10 .....	6, 7 February 1997 .....	Luxembourg
EBES/EG6 Statistics n°.32 .....	13, 14 February 1997. ....	Luxembourg
IDA/TAC .....	24 February 1997 .....	Brussels
IDA Workshop.....	27, 28 February 1997.....	Brussels
STNE WG technical day .....	24 March 1997.....	Luxembourg
STNE WG meeting n°.6 .....	25, 26 March .....	Luxembourg

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