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**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

Joint UNECE/OECD Work Session on Statistical Dissemination and Communication
(14-15 February 2005, Henley-on-Thames, United Kingdom)

Topic (ii): Sketching out the future of statistical publications

HIGH-QUALITY ACCESS TO EU STATISTICS

Supporting Paper

Submitted by Eurostat¹

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High-quality access to EU statistics

*Eurostat's mission is to provide
the European Union with
a high-quality
statistical information service*



New Dissemination Policy

- Strategic goal of the new dissemination policy of the European Commission:
“Broadest accessibility criteria based on the principle of public service”
- This implies:
“Free and equal access to statistical data by all European citizens”



Free-of-charge access

- Started January 2004, fully in operation since October 2004
- Everything disseminated by Eurostat available free of charge:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat>
- Self-service approach: no more tailor-made service provided
- Remaining on sale:
 - Eurostat paper publications, CD-ROMs
 - Micro research (LFS, ...)



Eurostat products and services

- I. Information media
- II. Publications
- III. News Releases
- IV. Predefined tables
- V. Databases
- VI. Bulk downloads
- VII. Metadata
- VIII. User Support
- IX. Website



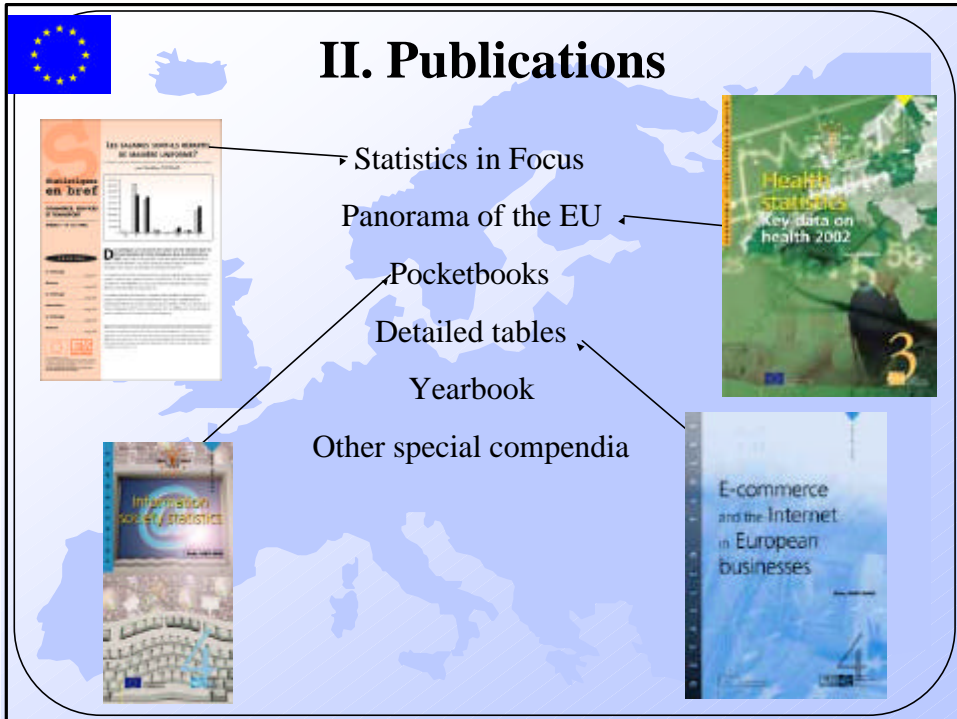
I. Information Media

- Website presentation of products and services
- EU-Bookshop
- Internet Newsletter
- Eurostat's mini guide
- Statistical References (2-3 issues a year)
- Product sheets, fact sheets
- Partnerships in Information dissemination
- Trade fairs and other events



II. Publications

- All Eurostat publications (except CD-ROMs/DVDs) are produced in **PDF** and available online since January 2004
- Eurostat still produces paper publications, CD-ROMs and DVDs which are sold via the Publication Office sales network



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- II. Publications**
- Reduced number of paper publications
 - Co-ordinated programme
 - Priority for electronic publication (PDF)
 - Flagship publications per theme
 - Stronger role for Statistics in Focus (SIF)
 - Concentration on English language
 - Harmonisation of presentation



III. News Releases

In co-ordination with Commission Spokesman's Service

- Euro-indicators - most important monthly / quarterly economic indicators
- Ad-hoc - to announce the other interesting statistics on economic and social life
- Disseminated:
 - News agencies under embargo (10:00 CET);
 - On the website (11:00 CET);
 - 1000 journalists via email (11:00 CET);
 - At the daily press briefing of the European Commission (12:00 CET)



IV. Predefined tables

- **For basic users**
- Limited set of indicators (1000 tables of which 300 euro-indicators, 100 structural indicators)
- Accessible in various ways
 - **“Key EU policy indicators”**
 - All predefined tables together
 - By theme in the theme page
 - Within the database tree “main indicators”



V. Databases

- Available online since 1 October 2004
- Present in a **single navigation tree**
 - Eurostat's reference database, 4500 multidimensional tables, updated twice daily (11:00 and 23:00)
 - Detailed data on external trade between Member States and some 250 trading partners, for more than 11 000 products, updated once a month



V. Databases

- Access for '*non-registered, anonymous*' users
 - For non-expert use
 - Direct access to the data via website
 - Basic extraction tools
- Access for '*registered*' users
 - No cost
 - Wider range of tools but same data
 - Extra functionality: *alerts* on data and publications



VI. Bulk downloads

For heavy users: e.g. redistributors

- Accessible via the navigation tree and directly via servers
- All data of the online database
- in a flat file text format
- Simultaneous update
- Accessible via a specific http server and ftp server
- Password provided by the central support of Eurostat



VI. Copyright and licences

Licence for commercial redistribution

- Licence contract required (zero cost)
- Contracts managed by Publications Office
- Includes all disseminated data, except non-EU data and detailed Austrian external trade data



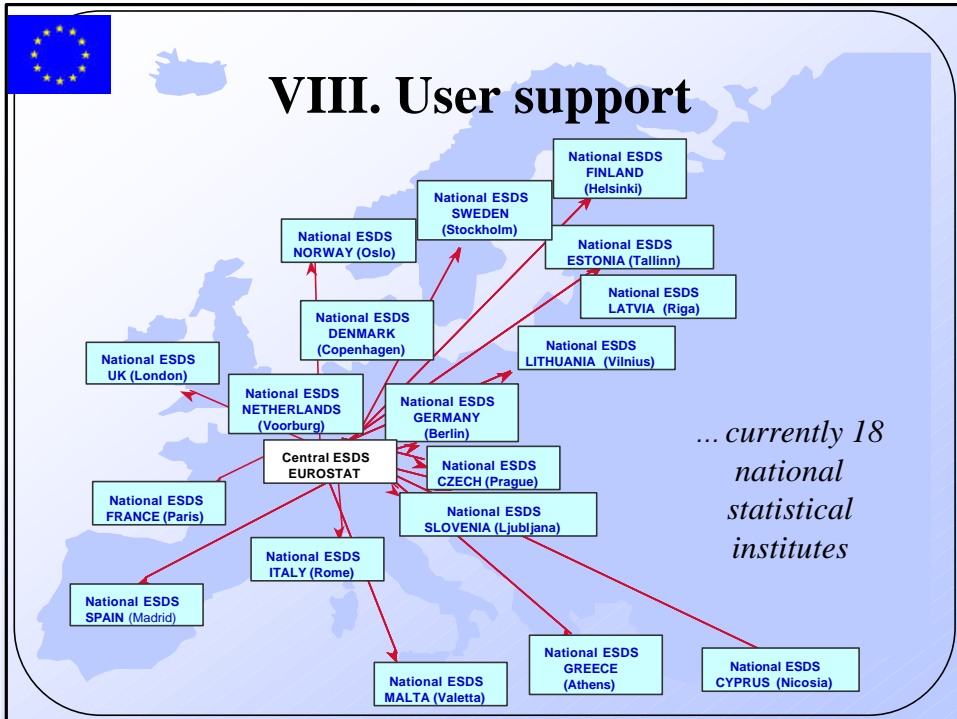
VII. Metadata

- Methodology and update information
- Accessible via the navigation tree
- Methodology also directly accessible via homepage
- Harmonised, basic information according to the IMF standard (SDDS).



VIII. Data Support

- Emphasis on “Product and service improvement”
- Free of charge *basic* user support only
- 3 level support approach



IX. Website

Incremental development of the website

- Focus 2004: free dissemination & technical preparation
 - 1 January 2004: predefined tables + publications in PDF
 - 1 October 2004: databases + tree + meta data
- Focus 2005: usability & performance
 - Spring 2005: redesign of the website
 - End 2005: redesign of data browsing



IX. Website

2004 developments

- New technological basis
- Existing look and feel but usability improvements
- Preparation of additional functions (search facilities)
- Thematic orientation of data and publications
- Integration of databases on a single website
- Preparation of user feedback
- Monitoring system and quality report



IX. Website

2005 developments

- Significant reduction of the response time
- One home style, up-to-date
- Improved navigation/browsing
- Themes as main gateway
- New and topical statistics in the spotlight



Future Challenges

Maintaining and improving access to statistics

- Increasing numbers of users
- Maximizing use and user-friendliness
- Optimizing user support and user feedback
- Creating synergy within the ESS via interlinking of website pages of Eurostat and the NSIs
- Improving coherency between statistical domains