

To
Members of the OECD Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange

Information on the meeting 21 April 2005

This note contains information on the second meeting of the Expert Group, to be held in Bratislava on 21 April 2005, back to back with the joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems 18-20 April. The formal invitation was sent on 23 November 2004.

The meeting will consist of two main parts:

Part 1 will focus on the exchange of statistical data and metadata actually taking place between the OECD and Member countries. This will include reviewing reporting problems, the techniques being used and their performance, and suggestions for improvements.

Part 2 will focus on practical matters involved in giving effect to the SDMX initiative for statistical data and metadata exchange and sharing. Discussion is expected to result in recommendations for future work in participating countries and organisations to be considered by the OECD Secretariat and the OECD Statistics Committee.

The two parts are further described in the draft agenda below.

The context of the meeting is of course that version 1.0 of SDMX standards are now available, and we expect to be able to report on progress in implementing them. At the same time, we are preparing the coming version of the standards, to be published in 2005. For this work, input from member countries is important.

Call for papers

A main purpose of the Expert Group is to get input from member countries' NSOs concerning their experience with XML and web services, and ways to go about the future development of OECD data collection and data sharing mechanisms. Consequently, members will be encouraged to present at the meeting their experiences with, and ideas for, implementing XML and web services. Those who have made significant progress in these domains are encouraged to submit papers.

Please send your proposals for presentations related to any of the agenda items below to me (address below), preferably before 10 December, so the outline of the programme can be planned. The deadline for the papers is set to 1 April 2005. Papers will be posted on the web site of the Expert Group, www.oecd.org/std/research/exchangeexpertgroup

The meeting language will be English.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Bratislava!

Lars Thygesen

Information

Questions relating to practical arrangements should be addressed to:

Marie-Line Noonan
Statistics Directorate
Phone +33145249735
marie-line.noonan@oecd.org

Proposals for presentations and other questions relating to the meeting should be addressed to

Lars Thygesen
Statistics Directorate
Phone +33145248402
lars.thygesen@oecd.org

Time and venue of the meeting

21 April 2005

At the invitation of the Government of Slovakia, the meeting will be held at the Conference Centre of Hotel Devín in Bratislava.

Meeting hours:

9h00 – 17h30

Provisional Agenda

Welcome and opening

Terms of Reference

Adoption of the agenda

Development of the OECD Statistical Information System (Lee Samuelson)

Part 1. Exchange of statistical data and metadata between OECD and member countries-today and tomorrow

Discussion items:

1. Report on data reporting to the OECD
2. Towards more efficient data reporting

Part 2. Practical matters related to implementing the SDMX initiative

Discussion items

1. Report from the SDMX team on feedback concerning the SDMX standards and on the ISO standards process
2. Report on SDMX alignment projects:
NAWWE
SODI
Others
3. Experience of NSOs (and international organisations) in working with SDMX standards (invited papers)
4. OECD and SDMX.
Presentation of OECD's work towards development of SDMX conformant "provider" and "requester" web services
Experiments of exchange with countries
5. SDMX-ML version 2: Discussion of coming features

Closing of the meeting

1. Conclusions and advice to the Committee on Statistics
2. Discussion of possible future work of the Expert Group

Registration

Members are requested to inform the secretariat (marie-line.noonan@oecd.org) of their participation no later than 11 April 2005, so that security administration can be prepared. Members are encouraged to supply corrections to the information on the List of Participants.

Contributions

Members are encouraged to send proposals for papers and/or presentations to the secretariat to marie-line.noonan@oecd.org, preferably by 1 March 2005.

Attachments

1. Terms of Reference for the "OECD Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange"
2. The NAWWE project

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

Annex 2
SDMX ALIGNMENT PROJECT – TEMPLATE FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL
(REVISED VERSION 1.01)

I. Project Organization	
1. Project Name	NAWWE (National Accounts World Wide Exchange)
2. Sponsoring organisation(s)	OECD
3. Participating organisation(s)	Eurostat Australian Bureau of Statistics Statistics Canada INSEE France
4. Project Contact(s)	Lars Thygesen Head of Statistics Information Management and Support Division OECD 2 rue André-Pascal F-75016 Paris lars.thygesen@oecd.org tel. +33145248402
5. Date submitted	14 September 2004
II. Project Description	
1. Purpose	The idea behind the NAWWE project is to use a web based mechanism for reporting an already internationally agreed set of national accounts data. The objective is to allow any user, in particular international organisations, to access directly a set of internationally comparable data. If all the involved international organisations agree to use this mechanism, it would reduce the reporting burden on member countries and improve the quality and timeliness of the data.
2 Background	NAWWE is based on the common questionnaire agreed by the OECD and Eurostat for the collection of national accounts data. The questionnaire comprises a very detailed set of national accounts variables, as specified by the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA93) and agreed by the two international agencies. These variables have been identified in an extensive set of Excel spreadsheets by means of a common code and specific presentation format. The present pilot project starts from the Excel tables already produced by national agencies for transmitting annual national accounts data to international organisations; the files are transformed into XML files, conforming with the preliminary SDMX-ML specification. The business model entails countries posting their files on the web, in the agreed XML format; the OECD and Eurostat (and possibly other organizations needing these data) would extract their data from these files. Eventually it

	<p>is envisaged that NSIs could make the XML files available directly from their online databases as soon as the data are released.</p> <p>In the short term, it is only proposed to use NAWWE for annual data, but it could be extended to quarterly national accounts later</p> <p>The OECD has set up a demonstration model of this kind of data extraction with two piloting member countries, Australia and Canada, and agreement has been made with INSEE France to join. For reference see http://stats.oecd.org/nawwe/.</p>												
<p>3. Description of key project deliverables and milestones along with timeframes.</p>	<p>It is proposed to move on with the following steps:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="400 645 1343 1384"> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 645 603 745">Autumn 2004</td> <td data-bbox="603 645 1343 745">Add one additional pilot country from the European Union.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 745 603 880">Autumn 2004</td> <td data-bbox="603 745 1343 880">As soon as SDMX-ML standards have been approved by the Sponsors, bring the NAWWE XML formats in line</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 880 603 1014">Autumn 2004</td> <td data-bbox="603 880 1343 1014">Produce draft Key Family¹ for National Accounts and solicit input from NSIs and other regional and international organizations.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 1014 603 1115">Autumn 2004</td> <td data-bbox="603 1014 1343 1115">Invite other international organisations to evaluate the usefulness of the pilot</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 1115 603 1216">Late 2004</td> <td data-bbox="603 1115 1343 1216">Implement all national accounts tables; issue second draft of Key Family for full set of national accounts</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 1216 603 1384">Beginning 2005</td> <td data-bbox="603 1216 1343 1384">Move on to full scale implementation by OECD and, hopefully, other international organisations, proposing that all countries who so wish may use the NAWWE reporting mechanism</td> </tr> </table> <p>It is envisaged to discuss the project and this plan during the OECD National Accounts Working Group meeting in Paris 12-15 October 2004.</p> <p>Estimated resource spending in the OECD in 2004: 50 man-days</p> <p>Estimated resource spending in the OECD in 2005: 100 man-days</p>	Autumn 2004	Add one additional pilot country from the European Union.	Autumn 2004	As soon as SDMX-ML standards have been approved by the Sponsors, bring the NAWWE XML formats in line	Autumn 2004	Produce draft Key Family ¹ for National Accounts and solicit input from NSIs and other regional and international organizations.	Autumn 2004	Invite other international organisations to evaluate the usefulness of the pilot	Late 2004	Implement all national accounts tables; issue second draft of Key Family for full set of national accounts	Beginning 2005	Move on to full scale implementation by OECD and, hopefully, other international organisations, proposing that all countries who so wish may use the NAWWE reporting mechanism
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<p>4 Benefits</p>	<p>The expected benefits from the country's viewpoint should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One key family for reporting national accounts data (provided international organisations agree) • Automated generation of data from national source databases, thus saving resources 												

¹ The Key Family consists of a structure definition message, including code lists, and a compact data carrying message

	Benefits from OECD's and other international organizations' viewpoint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely reporting • Complete reporting • No code misinterpretations
III. Relationship to SDMX	
<p>1a. Identify the topical areas that would be covered by this activity.</p> <p>1b. Please also identify the international bodies that have oversight in this area.</p>	<p><i>Note: Where relevant, please reference the Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work Programs (http://unece.unog.ch/IntPres/)</i></p> <p>1a. Section 3.1, Implementation of System of National Accounts</p>
<p>2. Identify the agencies that might be impacted by this activity, please indicate <i>regions</i> and <i>agency types</i>, e.g., all Central Banks, or NSIs in Europe, etc...</p>	<p><i>Examples: Central Banks, National Statistical Institutes, Finance Ministries, International Organizations, etc...</i></p> <p>National Statistical Institutes (global) that report national accounts data to regional and/or international organizations.</p> <p>Regional and international organizations that collect national accounts data from their member countries.</p>
<p>3. Identify the SDMX standards (content and/or technical) that will be piloted as part of this project and the level of conformance that is anticipated</p>	<p><i>For each standard or area listed, please indicate those that will be used in the project and the level of conformance that is being sought.</i></p> <p>(i) Information Model http://www.sdmx.org/Data/DOC02_Information_Model_V1_WD02_website.pdf</p> <p>Yes. Full or partial conformance, depending on the fit with cross-sectional data.</p> <p>(ii) Key Families http://www.sdmx.org/Data/DOC07_KeyFamilyTutorial_V1_WD02_website.pdf</p> <p>Yes. The project will produce a draft key family for National Accounts.</p> <p>(iii) Formats and Schemas (please indicate if EDI or XML, and if XML indicate which schema) http://www.sdmx.org/knowledge/document.aspx?id=94 and http://www.sdmx.org/Data/DOC03_Format_Implementation_V1_WD02_website.pdf</p>

	<p>Yes, XML.</p> <p>(iv) Web Services http://www.sdmx.org/Data/DOC06_WebServicesGuidelines_V1_WD02_website.pdf</p> <p>None.</p> <p>(v) Registries</p> <p>None.</p> <p>(vi) Security</p> <p>None.</p>
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