

WORK PLAN FOR THE TASK FORCE ON ELECTRONIC DATA REPORTING

Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat

1. The Task Force on Electronic Data reporting (EDR) was created as a follow-up to the seminar on improved data reporting at the June 2005 Plenary Session of the Conference. The CES Bureau approved the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Task Force at its October 2005 meeting based on a proposal prepared by Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland), Ivan Fellegi (Canada) and Brian Pink (New Zealand). The TOR define the scope of the work and the final deadline for the output (report to be submitted to the 2007 CES Plenary Session).

2. Below is a work plan for the Task Force, as requested by the Bureau in October 2005. It provides more detail on the following issues:

- membership of the Task Force;
- launching the work;
- relationship to activities undertaken by other international organizations; and
- methods of work, timetable and final outputs.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE ON EDR

3. The members of the Task Force are experts in national and international statistical agencies dealing with methodological and technical issues associated with electronic data reporting. The Task Force would be able to use the networks created through past and present events organized by the Conference and some national statistical offices in related areas, namely:

- Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Electronic Data Reporting;
- Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Work Sessions on Statistical Metadata (METIS);
- Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meetings on Management of Statistical Information Systems;
- joint activities on EDR undertaken by statistical offices of Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US Bureau of the Census.

LAUNCHING THE WORK

4. The Bureau recommended in October 2006 that participants at the upcoming UNECE Work Session on Statistical Metadata be informed about the Task Force. As this meeting is organised back-to-back with OECD's Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX), it may motivate a larger number of EDR experts to attend.

5. The Organizing Committee for the WS on Statistical Metadata has agreed to include an information item on the EDR Task Force on the agenda of the Work Session. Therefore, the UNECE secretariat plans to launch the work of the Task Force (solicit interest and membership and agree on concrete steps) on the occasion of the April 2006 Work Session on Statistical Metadata (**action by the UNECE secretariat**).

INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

6. In the past, the UNECE secretariat has cooperated with Eurostat on activities related to EDR. More recently, the UNECE has had good working contacts with the OECD, mainly in connection with their SDMX Expert Group. Therefore, the UNECE secretariat plans to invite representatives of Eurostat and OECD to take part in the Task Force (**action by the UNECE secretariat**).

METHODS OF WORK, TENTATIVE TIMETABLE AND FORM OF FINAL OUTPUTS

April 2006 The Task Force will be launched (METIS meeting). The output from this phase will be the membership list.

April – June 2006 The Task Force members will agree on a detailed schedule and will divide between themselves responsibilities for particular issues listed in the TOR. This phase will be carried out using e-mail and teleconferencing consultations. The output from this phase will be an outline of the final output with responsibilities for its individual components.

June 2006-October 2006 The Task Force members will make a first collection and selection of material on good practices, with a view to presenting the material at the Work Session on EDR.

October or November 2006 The UNECE will organize a work session, possibly with Eurostat and/or OECD, on electronic data interchange. The aim of the work session is to submit the material already collected and prepared for a broader discussion, and to solicit more experiences and good practices from countries not directly involved in the Task Force.

February 2007 The Task Force will submit a progress report to the CES Bureau.

December 2006 – April 2007 The Task Force will work, using e-mail and teleconferencing, in progressing final outputs on individual issues listed in the work plan and prepare:

- a report for the June 2007 Plenary Session of the Conference;
- a website on good practices and national experiences in the field of EDR (that will become accessible on the public site after the approval of the report).

June 2007 – October 2007 The Task Force will incorporate the comments received into the report and the website and agree on a mechanism for future updating of the website. The public version of the report and the website will be made available in the course of this phase.

Late 2007 - Spring 2008 The UNECE secretariat may possibly organize a follow-up Work Session (in cooperation with Eurostat and OECD).

* * * * *