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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN  
UNION (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)  
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

**Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2010)**  
(Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 26-29 April 2010)

Topic (ii): Software sharing and shared maintenance

## **Report on activities and results of the Sharing Advisory Board (SAB) and proposed Programme of Work**

Prepared by Marton Vucsan, Chairman

### **I. Introduction**

1. This report looks back at the time period from April 2009 until April 2010 and evaluates the activities and results of the Sharing Advisory Board. The past year was our first official year. Before that we were a working party (we used the word taskforce) that tried to research the possibilities of more collaboration and sharing of solutions between statistical agencies including international institutes.
2. This year was the year of getting organised; like we were used to in the days of the taskforce, we had our regular teleconferences approximately once a month and we got an official Wiki hosted by the UNECE. (Before that we used the Wiki from Istat).
3. Aside from the fact that the SAB serves an important purpose, it has also been fun. Some of the members of this board went to great lengths to be able to attend the teleconferences. Karen fought her way through blizzards in Montreal to get in the office at 7:30, Alistair remained in the office until 12:00 at night enjoying the air-conditioning, the temperature being 45 degrees centigrade in Canberra.
4. Almost all the musts of our program of work have been realised aside from one or two; we still are looking for a good balance between ambition and realism. Still, we think that we should try, every year again, to get more and better things done.

## II. Program of work 2009-2010

### A. Recurring tasks

#### A1. Maintenance of the SAB wiki and website

5. This year the Wiki has once more proven its use and all members and especially the UNECE secretariat have been busy to maintain it to a high state of usefulness.

The Wiki is being used both as way to record our activities and for writing documents as for creating pilot pages to be transferred to the MSIS Wiki (SAB space) for publication.

#### A2. Production and distribution of the newsletter

6. Like we set out to do, we published two newsletters this year: One for the occasion of the ITDG meeting in October and one for timed for this MSIS meeting in April.

#### A3. Software inventory

7. The ESSnet project CORA has done the initial survey needed to take inventory of the software being shared already between organisations and we are now in the process of getting them on the website. Since this is a rather tedious job, it will take a few weeks to be completed.

#### A4. Coordination

8. Members of the SAB attended the following meetings where the issue of software sharing was raised:

- (i) ESSnet CORA meetings in Luxemburg and Rome
- (ii) UNECE / Eurostat / OECD Work Session on Statistical Metadata (METIS) in Geneva
- (iii) OECD / UNECE Expert Group Meeting on SDMX in Geneva
- (iv) UNECE Work Session on Statistical Data Editing in Neuchatel

#### A5. Reporting

9. An annual report and programme of work for the next year is prepared for approval by the CES Bureau and the MSIS meeting.

### B. SPECIFIC TASKS FOR 2009/10

#### B1. Project brokerage (Must)

10. There is a pilot implementation on the MSIS Wiki that gives the opportunity to browse through a list of projects or add one, with or without help being given. Aside from that there is a second list of "proposals or logged interests" that can be browsed and to which proposals can be added. Purpose is to encourage members to express their plans or wishes to the community.

#### B2. Set rules for resourcing projects (Should)

11. postponed

#### B3. Collaboration (Must)

12. Work in collaboration with the European Union funded "ESSnet" project on a common reference architecture to produce documentation about prerequisites for sharing of software on a technical level.

(Must)-in progress, Italy reports in a separate document.

13. Research possible cooperation models for software development, identify those that are successful, and develop guidelines for this type of collaboration.

(Must) -in progress, first outline is being written. Over the last year, all participants have researched the possible cooperation models in their environment. At the moment an analysis is being written about the subject and we expect publication on the MSIS wiki soon.

14. Research possible governance and management models for the outputs from collaborative development projects, identify those that are successful, and develop guidelines for future projects.

(Should) – postponed.

### **C. ACTIVITIES CONTINUED FROM 2008/9**

15. These are activities started in 2008/9, which will require further work in 2009/10.

#### **C1. Set up administration of SAB**

16. Define subjects the SAB will be the responsible administrative body for.

(Must) -in progress- in close contact with the CES Bureau we are still in the process of reviewing and tuning the terms of reference of the SAB, and determining who it will report to. A final decision is expected soon.

17. Define a workflow for decision making; how are proposals made by the SAB to be executed.

(Should) - postponed, this item has to wait until the terms of reference are final.

#### **C2. Collaboration**

18. Work in collaboration with the ESSnet to develop information on licencing and judicial issues related to sharing of software in and outside EU.

(Must) - in progress, we are awaiting the results if the ESSnet CORA for their analysis of licencing issues.

#### **C3. Outreach (Must)**

19. Create an initial inventory of existing initiatives and collaborations (including persons to contact) and open this for maintenance and inputs from national and international statistical organizations.

(Must) - Work has started to build this inventory, based on the results of the survey carried out under the CORA project. It will be launched at the 2010 MSIS meeting, and expanded during the coming year.

## **ANNEX I: Proposed working programme 2010-2011**

### **I. Introduction**

1. This programme of work is a combination of activities arising from work done previously, planned activities starting in 2010-11, and recurring tasks. The period covered is the interval between the joint UNECE / Eurostat and OECD Meetings on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), therefore the 2010/11 programme of work runs from 27 April 2010 to spring 2011.
2. With the exception of the recurring tasks, the activities are prioritized using the MoSCoW prioritisation technique (Must, Should, Could, Wont) to make sure that even if completing the whole programme might not be feasible, the most important work gets done. The MSIS meeting is invited to actively give input regarding this program.

### **A. RECURRING TASKS**

#### **A1. Maintenance of the SAB wiki and website**

3. The SAB wiki (private) and the SAB section of the MSIS wiki (public) are the primary means of communication. It is particularly important to keep the public pages up to date to reflect the activities of the SAB and to give the proper impression that the SAB is an active body. Members of the SAB should be constantly reviewing these wikis so that they retain their value to the official statistics community.

#### **A2. Production and distribution of the newsletter**

4. Now we are committed to the release of a regular newsletter, there is ongoing activity in order to get it published. This activity includes writing and commissioning short articles or other texts or some research.

#### **A3. Software inventory**

5. Although the inventory should be kept up to date by contributing organizations, some periodic maintenance will be needed like checking the inventory for dead links and or checking that entries are still being used etc. Also we must keep track of how successful the inventory is and related to it, to upgrade the guidelines for collaboration models to reflect the way they are being used as seen in the inventory.

#### **A4. Coordination**

6. The SAB should be actively represented in initiatives and events of other organizations concerning statistical software sharing, statistical business architectures and other topics related to the work of the SAB, to ensure the coordination of international work in this area.

#### **A5. Reporting**

7. An annual report and programme of work for the next year should be prepared for approval each year by the CES Bureau and presentation to the MSIS meeting.

### **B. SPECIFIC TASKS FOR 2010/11**

8. New activities or activities that were proposed in earlier years but were not carried out, but are important enough to get a second chance of being done. (Normally priority would go up in such cases)

## **B1. Set rules for collaboration projects**

9. Create a proposal for funding of future SAB activities (administration, travel etc.). Funding for projects can come in the form of cash, resources or infrastructure from participating agencies. (Should)
10. Consider a default proposal for funding (small) collaboration projects to be agreed on by all statistical organizations taking part in MSIS. (Should)
11. Enhance the possible forms of collaboration with templates and prefab agreements etc. and have them ratified by the MSIS countries. In this way creating an international collaboration will be easy to give form and easy to be approved in different countries if the "mother form" of the agreement has been approved already

## **B2. Collaboration**

12. Keep track of how successful the inventory of existing initiatives and collaborations is and upgrade the guidelines for collaboration models looking at those models that appear to be more successful from the inventory. (Must)
13. Seek input from MSIS 2010 meeting about possible follow up on the current ESSnet CORA which is producing a first start for a common reference architecture linked to the GSBPM.

## **C. Activities continued from 2009/10**

14. These are activities started in 2009/10, which will require further work in 2010/11.

### **C1. Set up administration of the SAB**

15. Define the subjects that the SAB will be the responsible administrative body for, in line with the Terms of Reference. (Must)
16. Define a workflow for decision making; how are proposals made by the SAB to be executed. This is closely related to the mandate. (Should)

### **C2. Collaboration**

17. Work in collaboration with the ESSnet to develop information on licencing and judicial issues related to sharing of software in and outside EU. (Must)
18. Work in collaboration with the European Union funded "ESSnet" project on a common reference architecture to produce documentation about prerequisites for sharing of software on a technical level. (Must)
19. Research possible cooperation models for software development, identify those that are successful, and develop guidelines for this type of collaboration. (Must)
20. Research possible governance and management models for the outputs from collaborative development projects, identify those that are successful, and develop guidelines for future projects. (Should)

### **C3. Outreach**

21. Expand the inventory of existing initiatives and collaborations (including persons to contact) and open this for maintenance and inputs from national and international statistical organizations. (Must)
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