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**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE)
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

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

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

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**

Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2013)
(Paris, France, and Bangkok, Thailand, 23-25 April 2013)

Topic (iv): Collaboration

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS OF THE SHARING ADVISORY BOARD (SAB)

The Sharing Advisory Board (SAB) is required by its terms of reference to provide an annual report to the HLG. This paper summarises the activities and results of the SAB during the last year. The HLG is invited to provide guidance on the activities and priorities of the SAB, and how these can be best aligned with the modernisation agenda.

I. Introduction

1. This report looks back and reports the activities and results of the Sharing Advisory Board during 2012. It also describes the current programme of work. The SAB works closely with the annual joint UNECE, Eurostat and OECD meetings on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), from which it draws ideas for issues to be tackled, and receives feedback on progress.

2. Membership of the SAB has evolved due to retirements and changes in functions for some of the original members. The SAB currently comprises:

- Marton Vučan – Chair (Netherlands)
- Brian Studman (Australia)
- Rob McClellan (Canada)
- Joe Treacy (Ireland)
- Carlo Vaccari (Italy)
- Denis Grofils (Eurostat)
- Trevor Fletcher (OECD)
- Valentin Todorov (UNIDO)
- Steven Vale – Secretariat (UNECE)

3. The SAB meets approximately once every 4-6 weeks, by web conference.

II. Ongoing Tasks

Maintenance of the SAB Wiki

4. The SAB works through two wikis hosted by the UNECE. It uses part of the public MSIS Wiki to communicate outputs, and has a private wiki that is used for work in progress.

Production and distribution of the SAB newsletter

5. The SAB produces two newsletters each year. The trend for more contributions to the newsletter has continued, with the two issues from 2012 being the largest yet. The first newsletter was released in April to coincide with the MSIS meeting, and the second was released in November to coincide with the meeting of the Eurostat IT Directors Group.

All newsletters are available on line at:

<http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/msis/SAB+Newsletter>

Software inventory

6. The software inventory released in 2010 has been updated, and as requested by the HLG, it now includes an indicator of the degree of compliance with the HLG vision and strategy.

Guidelines on assessing compliance were agreed with the HLG and published alongside the inventory. See <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/msis/Software+Inventory>

Communication and outreach

7. Presentations about the work of the SAB were given to the 2012 MSIS and Eurostat IT Directors Group meetings. In addition, SAB members have been active in various other international collaboration activities to ensure effective coordination, and avoid any potential duplication of work.

III. Results in 2012

Principles and Guidelines on Building Multilingual Applications for Official Statistics

8. This document was approved by the HLG, and has been published in English, with the possibility to have automatic translations into over 50 other languages. A formal Russian translation will be released in early 2013. See

<http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/msis/Principles+and+Guidelines+on+Building+Multilingual+Applications+for+Official+Statistics>

Pre-Requisites for Improved Collaboration

9. Work on licensing issues, collaboration templates and assessing the effectiveness of different communication tools is on-going, though intermediate outputs have been posted on the MSIS Wiki and/or presented at the 2012 MSIS meeting. See

<http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/msis/Pre-Requisites+for+Improved+Collaboration> and http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.50/2012/23_UNIDO.pdf

Sharing information

10. A set of key indicators about the IT infrastructure in statistical organisations has been created on the MSIS Wiki, to allow IT managers to benchmark against other organisations, and find those who have similar ideas and infrastructures to themselves. So far, 18 organisations have supplied information. Access is restricted to MSIS participants, as some of the information could be commercially sensitive, but can be provided to HLG members on request.

Mapping of existing initiatives onto a single framework

11. The Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) has been used as a framework onto which various projects and initiatives can be mapped, helping to ensure coordination. See: <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/msis/Initiatives%2C+solutions+and+concepts>

IV. Current Priorities

12. In addition to the on-going tasks described above, specific priorities for the SAB currently include:

- Produce a paper on software for data integration
- Conduct a survey among UNECE members about concrete plans for new developments to identify collaboration opportunities
- Start a page on the wiki for information on open data standards, best practices, licenses and experiences
- Explore new ways of communication, e.g. WebEx, LinkedIn, etc.
- Further work on prerequisites on sharing of software and multi-national collaboration
- Monitor different cooperation models for software development, as well as governance / management models for the outputs from collaborative development projects. Identify those that are successful, and document best practices
- Create facilities for users to post information about software tools, including questions, experiences and case studies. Create links to existing shared software user groups, and pages for sharing feedback and problems. Part of the input for this task can come from already published material in the newsletter and case studies in the inventory.
- Set up information pages on Open Data about standards, best practices, licencing and experiences with use and provision of open data.
- Set up an information hub on innovation in statistics, where innovation initiatives that are conformant to the HLG strategy can be published for use in other agencies.
