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ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
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Topic (i): Changes in statistical processes

SURVEY ON IT ORGANIZATION AND STANDARDS IN NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTES

Supporting Paper prepared by Maura Giacummo and Carlo Vaccari, Istat, Italy

Summary

1.   The objective of the survey is to analyse organizational and technological features in 28 National Statistical Institutes, both European and extra-European.

2.   The survey, deployed as a web-survey at the end of 2005, focuses on certain areas:

   (a) Resources: information on "how big" the Institute is, how many different human resources it has (system engineers, software developers) and what hardware equipment is used (servers and clients);

   (b) IT organization: the focus is on software development (centralized, decentralized or both) and on the allocation of developers (temporary for projects, fixed for a particular survey, mixed);

   (c) IT standard: the level of use of technologies such as the Operating System, database management systems, programming languages and statistical packages;

   (d) Generalized software: the use of generalized software during the different stages of statistical data production;

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(e) Miscellaneous: areas of interest of each institute and the need to create communication tools for the exchange of ideas.

3.   Under the changes that the National Statistical Institute of Italy (Istat) is experiencing both in organization and in technological terms, the information collected allows verifying how some problems that Istat has to deal with today have been faced all over the world (we strongly believe Italy is similar to other countries).

4.   All the data collected can be used by all NSIs as an important element; we hope that the survey can stimulate the birth of places (real or virtual) to continue the information exchange on both organizational and technological themes of today and tomorrow.