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Topic (i): Changes in statistical processes

THE PRODUCTION MODEL AND REORGANISATION OF *IT* AT STATISTICS FINLAND

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Summary

1. The project on defining a new production model started in 2002 at Statistics Finland and was completed at the end of 2005. The central objectives of the project were to harmonize and integrate the statistical production.
2. During the project, many new innovations were made. The most important were the Xcola engine for XML-based Web data collection and the CoSSI model (CoSSi= Common Structure of Statistical Information). XCola is a generic application for web surveys and CoSSI is XML-based standard to define the structure of statistical data, metadata and publications.
3. The project met most of its goals. The most successful areas were software development and data collection. The XML based data dissemination process, based on the CoSSI model, is now in the test and pilot phase. The work will continue in some other areas as well, especially with metadata and data warehousing.
4. Because the production model project was a technical IT-project it affected the work being done in the centralized IT-unit. Very early we noticed that it was difficult to introduce the results of the project in the organisation of that time. So that was one important reason to change the IT organisation.

5. The other reason (and very closely connected to the production model project) was that in the strategy of the IT-unit we had set up a goal to develop the IT unit towards a unit of IT professionals. One important part of this goal was to define the roles of the IT professionals and statisticians, especially in developing the rules on how the IT-system's maintenance is defined and done. This goal was difficult to fulfil using the team organization that we had at that time. At the beginning of 2005 we started to develop the new organization that was implemented at the beginning of 2006.

6. The biggest differences between the new and old organization are:

- The old organization was closely connected to the statistical units – the new organization is statistical process oriented.
- The old organization was partly a self-controlling team organisation – the new organization is totally managed by managers.

7. The old organization is presented in the figure 1 and the new organization is presented in the figure 2 below.


