

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

UN/ECE Work Session on Statistical Data Editing
(Rome, Italy, 2-4 June 1999)

INFORMATION NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS

**The UN/ECE Work Session on Statistical Data Editing will be held in the Italian National
Institute of Statistics, via Cesare Balbo 16, starting on 2 June 1999 at 9:30**

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE MEETING

- (i) Adoption of the agenda.
- (ii) Designation of officers.
- (iii) **Measuring the impact of editing in various phases of statistical survey processing**
Invited papers by Italy and S. Nordbotten, supporting papers by Canada, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, and United States (2).
- (iv) **Generalized software packages for statistical data editing, their evaluation**
Invited papers by Canada and Italy, supporting papers from Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, United States, and Statistical Solutions Ltd.
- (v) **New methodological and technological developments in statistical data editing**
Invited papers by Italy, Spain and Sweden, supporting papers from Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, United Kingdom and United States (2).
- (vi) Future work
- (vii) Adoption of the conclusions reached at the Work Session.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Conference of European Statisticians, at its 1998 plenary session, included this Work Session in its meeting programme (see CES/1998/34/Add.2, programme element 2.2). The Work Session will be held in English only.
2. All documentation for the meeting will be made available at the following Internet address:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/1999.06.sde.htm>

Hard copies of documents will be sent out to participants only if requested (please indicate your request on the Registration Form, or send an e-mail to diane.serikoff@unece.org). The UN/ECE Secretariat will inform participants by e-mail when documents become available on the Internet.

3. The agenda items will be considered based on two main categories of papers, **invited papers** and **supporting papers**. The organisers of the meeting have contacted a small number of countries and asked them to prepare invited papers for specific items. The invited papers will provide the main basis for discussion. However, issues raised in the other papers that countries contribute to the meeting (supporting papers) will also be discussed under that item.

4. Consideration of individual agenda items will be led by Session Discussants. The sessions will start with the presentation of the invited papers, followed by a brief question period. The Discussants will then introduce and comment on the supporting. The authors will have an opportunity to comment briefly on their papers and to answer any questions. The Session Discussants and authors of both invited and supporting papers are encouraged to keep in close contact in order to better prepare the discussion and to take into account the requirements of the Session Organizers. The Session Discussants and their relevant contact information are provided below.

III. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

5. The meeting will focus on the substantial topics listed in the Programme of Work of the Conference of European Statisticians under the Programme activity 2: *Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues*, Programme element 2.2: *Statistical data collection and processing* (see CES/1998/34/Add.2).

Agenda item 3: Measuring the impact of editing in various phases of statistical survey processing

Discussant: Erik Schulte Nordholt (Statistics Netherlands)

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Tel: +31 70 337 4931
Fax: +31 70 387 7429
e-mail: esle@cbs.nl

Invited papers:

- *Evaluation of efficiency of automatic data editing methods and tools* (S. Nordbotten)
- *Documenting and analysing the data editing activity in ISTAT information system for survey documentation* (M. Fortini, M. Signore, Italy)

6. The participants' attention is drawn to the draft methodological material on the evaluation of the data editing methods (prepared by Mr. Nordbotten). The need for such material was cited at the previous Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (Prague, Czech Republic, 14-17 October 1997). The document will deal with measuring statistical quality and editing performance, and will develop quantitative indicators for the evaluation of the impact of editing (measuring process performance and cost).

7. Discussion under this topic will deal with the evaluation of the data editing process bearing in mind its aim to reduce costs and improve data quality. The discussion could focus on monitoring the whole survey process, or on measuring and estimating the impact of different editing techniques in the various data processing stages.

8. Taking into account the high proportion of data editing costs in the overall statistical survey costs, the presentations could address such issues as:

- how much would the reduction of resources used for data editing influence the survey results (data quality, cost-efficiency, timeliness, reliability);

- if it is needed to reduce the resources, where in the survey process could they be reduced with less harm;
- data editing provides information about the whole survey process highlighting the causes of errors - how to measure the impact of these findings on the improvement of the whole survey processing operation.

9. In order to estimate the impact of editing, quantitative indicators need to be developed for this purpose. Papers describing proposed methods on how to construct indicators for measuring the data editing process, its impact on statistical data production, and the relation between survey costs and data quality would be highly appreciated. The contributions could suggest benchmarks of data editing indicators, i.e. the levels at which indicators could be considered good, satisfactory, or should sound alarms. Possibilities how to standardise the evaluation methods to form an objective basis for comparing different data editing applications would also be of great interest to participants. The Work Session may also wish to consider how to document the data editing process and data quality for users based on the above mentioned quantitative measures.

Agenda item 4: Generalised software packages for statistical data editing, their evaluation

Discussant: William E. Winkler (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

Addr.: Statistical Research Division, Bureau of the Census, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20233
 Tel: +1-301 457-4729
 Fax: +1-301 457-2299
 e-mail: william.e.winkler@ccmail.census.gov

Invited Papers:

- *International comparison of generalized editing software (J. Kovar, Canada)*
- *A generalized software based on a simulation approach to test the quality of editing systems (G. Della Rocca, A. Manzari, Italy)*

10. Under this topic, presentations will analyse the comparable advantages and limitations of widely used generalized software packages. The contributions could compare the efficiency of the generalized data editing software on different statistical surveys and for editing qualitative and quantitative data. The analysis of the trade-off between implementation costs, the ease of use of the data in subsequent processing, and the improvements in data quality would be of value. The possibilities to integrate generalized data editing systems with other editing tools and statistical software packages, and experiences with developing general-purpose editing systems could be also considered. Best practices and common problems in the use of generalized software packages in different countries will be considered during the session.

Agenda item 5: New methodological and technological developments in statistical data editing

Discussant: Leopold Granquist (Statistics Sweden)

Addr.: Statistics Sweden, P.O.Box 24300, S-10451 STOCKHOLM
 Tel: +46 87 83 44 43
 Fax: +46 87 83 45 99
 e-mail: leopold.granquist@scb.se

Invited papers:

- *Combining macroediting and selective editing to detect influential observations in cross-sectional survey data (O. Luzi, A. Pallara, Italy)*
- *Selective editing method based on time series models (Pedro Revilla Novella, Spain)*
- *New methodological and technological developments in statistical data editing (Leopold Granquist, Per Engström, Sweden)*

11. This section will include reports on new methods of data editing and imputation. The contributions will deal with new methods, for example, for the detection of systematic errors, the treatment of outliers and inliers, the use of graphical techniques, the use of administrative registers for data editing, etc.. Discussion of new methods and techniques should also analyse their operational feasibility (how voluminous data sets could be processed, processing time, the requirements for storage capacities, expected impact on data quality, etc.), and the organizational issues associated with their implementation. It would be desirable to distinguish between those methods in the stage of theoretical development, those in the stage of test or pilot projects, and those which are implemented in practice.

IV. DEMONSTRATIONS

12. Since only a very limited amount of time can be set aside during the meeting for demonstrations, they will have to be made on the margins of the meeting (e.g. during the lunch break and after the afternoon session ends). To facilitate planning, participants wishing to give a demonstration should inform the UN/ECE Secretariat well in advance of the meeting and also indicate the requested facilities and equipment for the demonstrations. It should be noted that there will be time for only a limited number of presentations at the meeting.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

General information

13. To obtain general information about Rome (how to come, what to see, where to eat etc.) we suggest to visit the following (mostly bilingual, Italian and English) WEB sites:

<http://www.cineworld.com/Rome/screen.html>
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com.au/dest/eur/rom.htm>
<http://www.alfanet.it/welcomeItaly/roma/default.html>
<http://www.roma2000.it/index.asp>

Travel

14. The 1999 Data Editing Work Session will be hosted by ISTAT (the Italian National Institute of Statistics) in its central building, which is situated at via Cesare Balbo 16, a 10 minute walk from the Central Railway Station (Termini Station).

15. The Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport (Fiumicino Airport) and the Termini Station are linked by a special "No Stop" railway service. To use this service you must use the ticket with the special fare of L. 15.000 (Metrebus source), that you can buy both at the airport and at the train station.

Timetable for the trains

Fiumicino Airport - Central Railway Station

Dep. Fiumicino		7.38	8.08	9.08	10.08	11.08	12.08	13.08	14.08	15.08
Arr. Termini		8.06	8.38	9.38	10.38	11.38	12.38	13.38	14.38	15.38
Dep. Fiumicino	16.08	16.38	17.08	18.08	18.38	19.08	20.08	20.38	21.08	22.08
Arr. Termini	16.38	17.06	17.38	18.38	19.06	19.38	20.38	21.06	21.38	22.38

Central Railway Station - Fiumicino Airport

Dep. Termini		6.54	7.22	8.22	9.22	10.22	11.22	12.22	13.22	14.22
Arr. Fiumicino		7.22	7.52	8.52	9.52	10.52	11.52	12.52	13.52	14.52
Dep. Termini	15.22	15.54	16.22	17.22	17.54	18.22	19.22	19.54	20.22	21.22
Arr. Fiumicino	15.52	16.22	16.52	17.52	18.22	18.52	19.52	20.22	20.52	21.52

Accommodation

16. ISTAT has been able to obtain special prices at the hotels listed below. **Participants are asked to make their own hotel reservations** indicating their participation to the 2-4 June Data Editing Work Session hosted by ISTAT. Due to a limited availability of free hotel rooms in Rome at the time of the meeting, the deadlines for reservations must be respected. Late reservation will mean that participants will have to find other hotels. If there are problems with hotel reservations, please contact Mr. Giulio Barcaroli at ISTAT.

Higher rates

Hotel Mediterraneo (****)

Via Cavour, 15 (Near Termini Railway Station and 600 m. from ISTAT)

B&B: Single Room LIT. 277.000 – Double Room LIT. 375.000

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio (****)

Via Cavour, 18 (Near Termini Railway Station and 600 m. from ISTAT)

B&B: Single Room LIT. 247.000 – Double Room LIT. 337.000

Reservation for both the above hotels are to be made at the following address:

Chain BETTOJA Hotels – via Cavour, 18

Tel. +39 1678 60004 / +39 06 4883288 / +39 06 4814798

Fax +39 06 4824976

E-mail: hb@bettojahotels.it

There are 15 rooms available at Hotel Mediterraneo, and 20 rooms at Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio, until March 31.

A credit card reference is required.

Medium rates

Commodore (****)

Via Torino, 1 (near S.Maria Maggiore Church – 300m from ISTAT)

Tel. +3906 485656 – Fax +3906 4747562

B&B: Single Room LIT 190.000 – Double Room LIT 260.000 – Double as single LIT 220.000

There are 8 single rooms available until April 15

Borromeo (***)

Via Cavour, 117 (Near Termini Railway Station, 5 minutes from ISTAT)

Tel. +3906 485856 – Fax 06 4882541

B&B: Single Room LIT 200.000 – Double Room LIT 280.000 – Double as single LIT 250.000

Bolivar (***)

Via della Cordonata, 6 (near Quirinale Palace, 10 minutes from ISTAT)

Tel. 3906 6991666 – Fax 3906 6791025

B&B: Single Room LIT 200.000 – Double Room LIT 280.000 – Double as single LIT 250.000

In the two hotels above there are 12 single and double rooms available until March 31**Lower rates**

Fiamma (***)

Via Gaeta, 61 (Near Termini Railway Station and 15 minutes from ISTAT)

B&B: Single Room LIT 160.000 - Double Room Lit. 200.000 - Double as single Lit. 180.000

Siviglia (***)

Via Gaeta, 12 (Near Termini Railway Station and 15 minutes from ISTAT)

B&B: Single Room LIT 160.000 - Double Room Lit. 200.000 - Double as single Lit. 180.000

Reservation for both of these hotels are to be made at the following address:

Chain: LEONARDI Hotel Tel. +3906 86800116 - Fax: +3906 86800124

There are 5 single and 5 double rooms available in each of them until April 15.*A credit card reference is required, otherwise reservations will expire at 16.00h of the arrival day.*

Impero Hotel (***)

Via del Viminale 19 (Near Termini Railway Station – 150m. from ISTAT)

Tel. +3906 4820066 – Fax +3906 483762

B&B: Single Room LIT. 150.000 – Double Room Lit. 190.000

10 rooms are available until March 15. (For reservations, ask for Ms. Rita Gatta)**Currency**

17. Italy belongs to the European Monetary Union which adopted the euro on 1 January 1999. Therefore, the exchange rates between the euro and the Italian lira (ITL), as also between the Italian lira and the other 10 EMU participating countries' currencies are fixed. Some exchange rates between the Italian lira and other currencies are given below (valid on 25 February 1999):

1 EURO = 1936.27 ITL (fixed rate)

1 FIM = 325.66 ITL (fixed rate)

1 FRF = 295.18 ITL (fixed rate)

1 CAD	= 1174.51	ITL
1 USD	= 1761.53	ITL
1 GBP	= 2821.32	ITL
1 CHF	= 1215.26	ITL

Additional information

18. Any questions concerning organizational arrangements for the Work Session should be addressed to:

Mr. Giulio Barcaroli
Tel.: +3906 4673 3218
Fax: +3906 4673 3221
e-mail: barca@istat.it

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(Rome, Italy, 2-4 June 1999)

REGISTRATION FORM

This form should be completed in duplicate by each participant
and returned **by 15 March 1999**

1 copy to:

Mrs. Jana Meliskova
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Statistical Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVA 10
Switzerland

Tel.: (+4122) 917-4150
Fax: (+4122) 917-0040
e-mail: jana.meliskova@unece.org

1 copy to:

Mr. Giulio Barcaroli
ISTAT
Methodological Studies Service
Via C.- Balbo 16
00184 ROME

Tel.: (+3906) 4673 3218
Fax: (+3906) 4673 3221
e-mail: barca@istat.it

1. Surname (Family name)	2. First name
3. Representing (country or organization)	4. Title
5. Mailing address	
6. Tel. No.	7. Fax No.
8. E-mail address:	
9. Requested way of receiving documentation: <div style="text-align: center;"> Paper form <input type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> </div>	
10. Name of your hotel in Rome	
11. Date and time of arrival in Rome	12. Date and time of departure from Rome
13. Special dietary or other requirements:	

Date _____ Signature _____