



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/AC.71/1999/12 (SUM)
11 December 1998

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Technology
(Geneva, Switzerland, 15-17 February 1999)

Topic (i): The impact of Internet on the statistical production and dissemination process

**THE USE OF MODERN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DISSEMINATION
OF INFORMATION BY THE RUSSIAN STATE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE**

Transmitted by the State Statistical Committee, Russian Federation¹

1. Both the content and layout of the official publications of the Russian State Statistical Committee (Goskomstat Rossii) are continually being improved (refinement of table formats, use of graphs and diagrams) in order to make the documents more informative and easy to understand. Given the variety of users of the publications (government authorities, the scientific community, international organizations, commercial entities, mass media, etc.), Goskomstat Rossii has created and maintains a textual database, the "Statistika Rossii" Completed Documents Base (CDB), containing its official publications.
2. The CDB constitutes an electronic version of Goskomstat Rossii's official publications and contains both routine and thematic compendia. The printing of official publications and their storage in the CDB are virtually simultaneous.
3. The CDB software has been developed by a leading Russian software house. It enables both the posting of the CDB to a Website and the issue of CD-ROMs containing all or part of the CDB information. The CDB user interface is simple and user-friendly and provides service functions for working with CDB information. Although it supports presentation of information to users in two ways (Internet and CD-ROMs), the 1C product saves work and time in preparing the basic information, since that only has to be done once, in HTML format.
4. The "Statistika Rossii" CDB is located on the Goskomstat Rossii Web server (<http://www.gks.ru>), which has been connected to the Internet since July 1998. It contains publications in Russian and in English, although it must be admitted that

¹ Prepared by Ms. N.I. Pashintseva.

the English coverage is much more limited.

5. The principal means of disseminating information from a statistical database via modern technology are:

- CD-ROMs;
- Use of Internet for online presentation of, and access to information;
- Use of geographical information systems.

6. The interface for this needs to be very easy to understand (intuitive) and to afford maximum ease of use and maximum functionality.

7. The application of geoinformation technology to the data in statistical databases can substantially enhance the informativeness and intelligibility of the data, and offer additional ways of analysing and comparing it.

8. To disseminate information from its databases, Goskomstat Rossii employs a technology for presenting statistical databases on a Web server and producing CD-ROMs containing database extracts that is based on a software package developed by the Russian firm 1C.

9. Using this technology it is possible to:

- Formulate database queries in natural language;
- Obtain output tables in any desired form;
- Dynamically alter output-table structure;
- Store queries in a query library for further use.

10 . The software:

- Uses Windows standards;
- Employs unification of the sequence of actions to be performed;
- Enables data to be displayed with the required degree of accuracy;
- Exports output tables to Excel and Word and in HTML format.

11. The information available over the Internet or on CD-ROMs is based on the integrated data holdings of Goskomstat Rossii. The information available on the Goskomstat Rossii Website is updated according to the schedules for the compilation of the indicators concerned; the CD-ROMs are issued according to the CD-ROM production schedule.

12. A CD-ROM containing a statistical database based on the 1998 Statistical Yearbook will be issued in December 1998.

13. The software package for supporting databases on the Goskomstat Rossii Website is at the approval stage. Full-scale use is planned to begin in 1999.
