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**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

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

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

**Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS)**  
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Topic (i): IT governance in statistical offices

**IT GOVERNANCE AT STATISTICS SWEDEN – ORGANIZATION, FINANCING, PLANNING AND  
PRIORITIZATION**

**Supporting paper**

Submitted by Statistics Sweden<sup>1</sup>

**I. ORGANIZATION**

1. Statistics Sweden's IT organization is decentralized. Each department has its own IT unit, which is responsible for systems development within the department. A Central IT unit, within the Research and Development Department, serves the whole organization in specific topics of common interest (see below). All in all, there are six IT units.
2. The Central IT unit is responsible for:
  - *IT policy*. The policy should be revised when needed. Continuous follow-up is done through the IT Council (see para. 3).
  - *IT methods*, e.g. Systems development model. Central IT shall ensure that appropriate methods are available and used. New methods should be developed and introduced when needed.
  - Choice of *software*, e.g. SAS, SuperStar, VB.NET, MS Office. Licenses for common software are purchased by Central IT, which also provides user support.
  - *IT infrastructure*, i.e. network, servers, workstations, printers, operation systems etc. Central IT is responsible for IT infrastructure standards, and serves as the owner of all common infrastructure.
  - *Operations and administration of the IT infrastructure*. The day-to-day operations are outsourced, and the IT unit is responsible for all contacts with the contractor.
  - *IT security*. Central IT is responsible for the IT security, including rules and regulations, virus protection, spam control, firewalls etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Per Cronholm (per.cronholm@scb.se)

- *Development of common systems* for administration etc.
- *IT competence* development and training. Central IT organizes in-house training and acts an intermediary in contacts with external providers.
- *International cooperation* within the IT area.

3. The IT Council, consisting of the departmental level IT managers, serves as an advisory board for the Head of IT (i.e. the Head of the Central IT unit). The council has one full day meeting each month.

4. The Central IT unit is represented on the board of directors by the Head of the Research and Development department (of which it is a part).

## **II. FINANCING OF IT INVESTMENTS AND COMMON IT WORK**

5. Common IT infrastructure, i.e. servers, network, communication, common software etc. as well as the contractor are financed by the users (i.e. using departments), in two ways:

- A fixed fee for each workstation;
- A fee depending on the storage amount used on servers.

6. Specific software such as SAS, SuperStar, VisualBasic, is charged to the user departments according to the number of users.

7. The Central IT unit is financed in three ways:

- By the departments depending on the size, as are all other overhead costs at Statistics Sweden;
- In the same way as the common IT infrastructure (see II.5);
- Through IT training fees.

## **III. PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION**

8. Budget limits for the yearly IT infrastructure investments as well as all fees are decided by the Director General advised by the Finance department and the Central IT unit.

9. Expected IT infrastructure investments are presented in an annual IT plan as well as in a five-year IT long-term plan. The long-term plan is discussed in the board of directors on a strategic level.

10. Common IT methods development activities are presented as part of an annual development plan (which also covers statistical methods etc.).

11. The annual IT plan and IT methods development plan are thoroughly discussed in the IT Council and prioritization done accordingly. The plans are decided by the Director General after discussions in the board of directors.

12. The annual level of IT investments is decided upon at the same time as other costs such as premises, salaries, etc.

#### **IV. IT GOVERNANCE**

12. In the decision process, IT development and investments are mainly considered as costs and thus weighted against other costs. Ideally, they should of course be judged against their expected return.

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