

**Circular letter sent to the Heads of national statistical offices and international organisations**

Télégrammes : UNATIONS, GENÈVE

Télex : 41 29 62

Téléphone : 41 22 917 4144

Téléfax : 41 22 917 00 40

Réf. No : ECE 253 (1-1)

(à rappeler dans la réponse)

st/01/161

Palais des Nations  
CH - 1211 GENÈVE 10

26 July 2001

Dear

***Subject: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems (ISIS 2002), Geneva, Switzerland, 17–19 April 2002***

In accordance with the programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians for 2002-2003 (CES/2001/33/Add.2, programme element 2.1) and the themes 13, 14 and 15 of the Community Statistical Program 1998-2002, the joint UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems (ISIS 2002) will be held in Geneva, (Switzerland) from 17 to 19 April 2002.

The agenda comprises the following topics:

- (i) Application of web technology to integrate statistics;**
- (ii) Secure communications and data confidentiality;**
- (iii) Object-oriented technologies, component architecture;**
- (iv) Ways of making statistical information systems more responsive to users.**

The explanatory notes to the topics are attached in Annex 1 for your convenience.

The topics will be considered based on two main categories of contributions: invited papers and contributed (or supporting) papers. The organizers of the Seminar have approached the following countries with the request to prepare an invited paper: Canada and United States (for topic (i)); France and Eurostat (for topic (ii)); Latvia, Netherlands and Eurostat (for topic (iii)); and Canada (for topic (iv)). The invited papers will provide the main basis for discussion on the given item and will be presented by their authors. However, the other papers that countries contribute to the Seminar (supporting papers) are also welcome and, although they will not be individually presented, issues raised in them will also be discussed under that item. As with the invited papers, any supporting papers should address a specific agenda item.

./..

We would appreciate it very much if you could inform the ECE secretariat before 15 September 2001 whether your country/organization intends to submit a contribution on the topics mentioned above. We would be grateful if you could let us have the participant(s) name(s) at the same time.

The papers should not exceed 10 pages and should be submitted together with a one-page summary to the ECE secretariat by 15 December 2001 at the latest to allow for translation, reproduction and distribution before the meeting. Contributions should be sent to us in electronic form (Word or WordPerfect) preferably by e-mail (address: [jana.meliskova@unece.org](mailto:jana.meliskova@unece.org)) or on floppy disk. In preparing the papers we strongly recommend that you follow the format set out in the template attached in Annex 2.

Wherever possible, papers should be submitted in as many official working languages of ECE (English, French, Russian) as possible. Only summaries will be translated by the secretariat. Simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Russian will be provided during the meeting.

Documentation for the meeting will be made available on the Internet at the following address:  
<http://www.unece.org/stats>.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Jana Meliskova (tel: +41 22 917 41 50; fax: +41 22 917 00 40) who is responsible for the preparation of the meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Paolo Garonna  
Director  
Statistical Division  
Economic Commission for Europe



Photis Nanopoulos  
Director  
Directorate A  
Eurostat

## Annex 1

### EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE TOPICS

#### **Topic (i). Application of Web technology to integrate statistics**

The emphasis for this topic should be on the integration of statistical definition, collection, processing and dissemination, and how web technologies can be applied to accomplish this task. The papers can explore how NSOs have reorganized their operations around these functions and are seeking solutions that provide a unified approach across statistical programme areas.

Emerging technologies such as XML are promoting integration on a global basis. The papers could consider the use of Web technologies in data collection and the related opportunities to implement common infrastructures. Web technologies on Intranets are used to co-ordinate and simplify processing. Internal access to common reference data sources can be more easily distributed across the organization.

#### **Topic (ii). Secure communications and data confidentiality**

The contributions under this agenda item should deal with the problems of security and confidentiality of statistical data taking into account networking and increased user requests for more detailed data. Different technologies can be considered to guarantee security of data transfer (tools for authentication, data integrity, cryptography, etc.) and for disclosure control.

#### **Topic (iii). Object-oriented technologies, component architectures**

The emphasis of papers should be on architectures that promote reuse and common use of processing components. Under this item, object-oriented analysis and design, unified modeling languages, object-oriented databases and component architectures (COM/DCOM, CORBA, Enterprise Java Beans) should be presented. The contributions could also describe the experiences with Enterprises Application Integration.

#### **Topic (iv). Ways of making statistical information systems more responsive to users**

Under this topic, the contributions should consider how new technologies offer new opportunities and raise expectations from internal and external users of information systems. NSOs have to compete against other information providers on the Internet. They have to provide a more customer-oriented service. To serve the needs of diverse user communities ready access to explanations and metadata, possibilities in customizing output and processing of user requests are required. Internal users will look for more responsive development tools and tools for end-user analysis.

**TITLE OF PAPER IN TIMES NEW ROMAN 12 POINT BOLD**

**Invited/Contributed paper**

Submitted by (name of Institute, country)<sup>1</sup>

Text left aligned in 11 or 12 point Times New Roman font

**I. INTRODUCTION (in bold capital letters)**

1. The first section should be the introduction. Each section should be numbered with roman numerals (I. II. III. etc.) and each paragraph numbered consecutively (1. 2. 3. ...). The paper should finish with the Conclusions, followed by the References. The headings of each section should be in bold, capital letters. Sub-headings should be in bold initial capitals and lettered A. B. C. etc.

2. Paragraphs should be left aligned with a blank line between paragraphs in either 11 or 12 point Times New Roman font. Footnotes should be in Times New Roman 10 point font. Margins should be set at 2.5 on top and left, 2 on right and bottom.

3. The size of the paper in terms of memory must be limited (preferably not exceeding 1 MByte). Bigger papers cause many problems when handling, printing, disseminating and archiving.

4. In general, we cannot reproduce colour pictures on paper. They will be copied in black-and-white, but the colours will be visible on Internet. Therefore, converting colour images to black-and-white is a possible solution for reducing the document size in Bytes.

5. If the paper includes a lot of graphics, formulas, etc., please send us also a hard copy.

6. Please DO NOT include in your papers:

- company logos (the name of the author and the institution where he/she works is sufficient);
- page headers/footers;
- built-in or user-defined styles;
- coloured or shaded background;
- too many pictures/graphics.

**A. First Sub-heading under Section I (in bold initial caps)**

**B. Second Sub-heading under Section I, etc.**

**II. SECTION HEADING**

**III. CONCLUSIONS**

**References**

Name of author, title of reference paper, publishing year etc.

---

<sup>1</sup> Prepared by (name of author and e-mail address if desired) (Times New Roman font 10 point).