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Topic (ii): Challenges and opportunities for statistical offices working in a network environment

**EUROSTAT'S ROLE IN DRAWING UP AND IMPLEMENTING A COMMUNITY POLICY ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR STATISTICS**

Submitted by Eurostat ¹

INVITED PAPER

SUMMARY

1. This paper gives a brief description of the reasons for a more collective approach to the problems and opportunities relating to statistical information technologies: similarities in the development of users' needs, European integration, and the fact that technological developments offer everyone the same possibilities. There is wide scope for closer cooperation. A vision of how a more technologically integrated European statistical system might look is outlined: greater communication opportunities using networks, use of video-conference facilities, the exchange and sharing of digital information, more coordinated dissemination of information using a common portal and the organisation of centres of excellence in certain specific fields. Eurostat's role should depend on the issue concerned: it should be prescriptive regarding standards, a catalyst for new technologies, a unifier in the development of software, a facilitator in the exchange of experiences and methods and an organiser regarding the availability and mobilisation of skills.

¹ Prepared by Daniel Defays.