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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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Topic (iv): Integration of statistical (survey) data with registers (administrative) data

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

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ROOM PAPER

1.   A mixture of administrative and survey sources is a reference model for statistical information systems: surveys may be needed to assess or complement administrative sources in areas such as availability, data quality, consistency over time, undercoverage and differences of concept.

2.   Administrative sources comprise data collected from business management information systems or statistical sources in a decentralized statistical organization. They can apply also to aggregate data collection between NSIs and bodies such as Eurostat, UN or OECD.

3.   Management issues include setting up cooperation with respondents or agencies, return on investment in using administrative sources, reactivity to changes to or availability of administrative sources. They also include metadata management and the ability to compare and adhere to national and international standards.

4.   Technical issues involved are securing electronic transfers over the Internet, managing versions of data formats and metadata, proper identification of respondents and statistical units and the management of this identification.

5.   Technical opportunities could be the use of XML, setting up XML schemas servers, business to business software availability such as emarketplaces, enterprise application integration software to manage data transformation and management, certificates for identification over the Internet. Some initiatives in this

area are ebXML, UDDI and XML/EDI which provide an environment in which electronic business can be conducted (registry services).

6.   Other technical opportunities include tools to compare data sources, clean-up data and generally edit and impute, such as are available in data warehousing environments.

7.   Best practices cover deriving data from commercial off-the-shelf software (e.g. accounting packages, ERPs, SCMs and CRM systems), setting up groupware and extranets to facilitate projects covering different organizations, a central repository for metadata, a central repository for handling all incoming, edited data.