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

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

**Joint ECE/Eurostat Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Technology
(Geneva, Switzerland, 14-16 February 2001)**

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

THE KOSTRA¹ PROJECT

Submitted by Statistics Norway ²

CONTRIBUTED PAPER

SUMMARY

I. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. The project objectives are:

- ◆ to enhance the quality and consistency of data and statistics on the use of resources in the local government administrations (i.e. the municipalities) in Norway, and to ensure better comparability between information from different local administrations;
- ◆ to collect, compile and disseminate statistical information in this field with less resource consumption in terms of money and manpower.

¹ KOSTRA is a Norwegian acronym for "Direct reporting of data from Local to Central Government Administrations".

² Prepared by Rune Gloersen.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

2. The project activities are:

- ◆ to redefine the structure of the accounting system in the municipalities, including classifications and coding, in order to make a better relationship between the accounts and the services performed by the municipalities;
- ◆ to provide an IT network defining rules and formats for the collection of data, supported by third party software to be installed in the municipalities;
- ◆ to derive accounting data directly from the different accounting systems;
- ◆ to develop and distribute electronic questionnaires to be filled in for collection of data on services;
- ◆ to develop a database to store and administer the received data, acting also as the master file for all data during decentralised data editing within Statistics Norway;
- ◆ to establish methods and procedures for data editing both horizontally and longitudinally, across different sectors or statistical domains and between different subject-matter units;
- ◆ to disseminate key figures once the data are received, and to disseminate final results no longer than five and a half months after the end of the reporting year.

III. RELEVANCE TO THE AGENDA ITEM (VI)

3. Some objectives and problems within the framework of the KOSTRA project should be very relevant to the agenda item. These are, for instance:

- ◆ reduction of response burden;
- ◆ problems of different concepts of administrative variables;
- ◆ problems related to collection of data from different administrative units;
- ◆ correspondence with statistical needs;
- ◆ Statistics Norway acting as the collector of administrative data compared to the obligations defined in the statistics act;
- ◆ the problems related to electronic data collection in general (license fees on the respondent side, maintenance cost when using electronic questionnaires, etc.).