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**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
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**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**  
(Geneva, 17-19 February 2003)

Topic II: Impact of technical measures and standards on data quality

**PUBLICATION OBJECT DATABASE –  
MANAGED INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

**Invited paper**

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

**Summary**

**I. STARTING POINT**

1. The PC and Internet generation has a completely different access to the search, retrieval and processing of information. In the foreground is the procurement by others (information service, written order etc.) but it has become natural to recall information (inter)actively, online and on demand. This group of clients – which is continually increasing – expects an offer from the providers of information which corresponds to their way of dealing with information.

2. To Statistics Austria, which is a modern service company and provider of information, the necessity arises to search continually for means and ways to present statistical results to a group of customers as large as possible and make them accessible in a competitive and efficient manner.

**II. VISIONS AND TARGETS**

3. All information objects (text documents, tables, charts etc.), which are produced in-house, are stored within a data bank. This enables internal as well as external recycling.

- All publications (tables, documents, charts, press releases, etc.) are, first of all, stored within this data bank and may be retrieved via Internet. Publications on other media follow and are exclusively based on the information available from the information object data bank;

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- For this reason, Statistics Austria's publication strategy focusses on this data bank (or publication object data bank). This way, publications (in the broader sense of the term) may be generated automatically.
4. As a big part of these objects is also presented on the homepage of the Institution, the possibility to recover them must be regarded as very important. This is feasible only by means of a sophisticated content management. A single modular solution is planned for the two problem fields of:
    - publication object data bank, and
    - content management.
  5. Basically, it must be possible to store an information object in different formats within the publication object data bank. In the medium and long run, the use of the XML format will be obligatory and the XML variant will be the first version to be stored.
  6. On every information object, sufficient meta information must be available, with the majority of metadata not being stored redundantly but directly accessible from a central metadata repository. As, presumably, free access is not intended for all information objects user administration, access control and electronic payment facilities are desirable.
  7. The publication object data bank must be implemented in a way that application will be possible as well in case of in-house documents to be accessible to Statistics Austria or its individual organizational units, only.
  8. The users must have the opportunity to register their e-mail addresses so that they are automatically notified whenever an information interesting to them is available (personalization of the offer).
  9. Other examples of new forms of publication are e-mail subscriptions automatically distributing information objects via e-mail.

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