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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

<u>Fifty-first plenary session</u> (Geneva, 10-12 June 2003)

PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2003/2004 AND 2004/2005: AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION

(Pre-plenary session version)

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 6 DISSEMINATION AND SUPPORT FOR SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

Paper prepared by the ECE secretariat

Introduction

- 1. This document is part of the "Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work" which provides a summary overview of the statistically-related work that international organisations plan to carry out in the next two years that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation is presented by work area in six different addenda. The information presented in this addendum refers to work area or "Programme Activity" 6 which is entitled "Dissemination and support for secretariat activities", and it is sub-divided into two "programme elements (PE)" or fields of work.
- 2. The Integrated Presentation is prepared for review at the 10-12 June 2003 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Conference uses it as an aid in carrying out its primary role of coordinating the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years which is of relevance to ECE, EU and OECD countries. It is also used by countries to plan their statistical activities and to decide on their participation in different meetings convened by the various international organisations. The information presented in this version of the Integrated Presentation will be amended after the plenary session, and re-issued as the "post-plenary session" version.
- 3. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians agreed at its meeting on 13-14 February 2003 that the full version of the Integrated Presentation will be produced and disseminated in future in

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English only. The reason is that in previous years the translation of the Integrated Presentation into French and Russian was often delayed and not available in time for the CES plenary session in the three ECE official languages. However, the Bureau decided that an excerpt of the Integrated Presentation (totalling about 90 pages) be prepared. This excerpt is translated into French and Russian. The shorter version of the Integrated Presentation is presented in document CES/2003/4. It offers in an integrated unique document general information on the various statistical areas, and includes the following sections: goals, issues and problems, strategic medium-term objectives; expected outcomes in the next two years; attention of the Conference is drawn to; meetings and activities of the CES.

PE 6. 1

PE	Heading	Text
6.1	Title	Dissemination of data and coordination of international data
		collection
6.1	Goal	That coordination of international data collection and dissemination be done effectively.
6.1	Issues & problems	 ♦ To coordination of international data collection and dissemination be done effectively. ♦ To coordinate policies of the international organizations involved in the collection of national statistical data, which are needed for their socio-economic analysis and publications. ♦ To avoid any inefficient duplication in the data collection activities between international organizations, and to ensure that the burden placed on NSOs in responding to international data requests is kept to a minimum. ♦ To implement jointly prepared questionnaires in international data collection. ♦ Further improvement in on-line data capture aiming to improve timeliness of data collection. ♦ To share data stored in statistical databases that are maintained by international organizations.
		◆ To make collected data available to national and international statistical agencies in printed or electronic form.
6.1	Strategic medium-term objectives	 Improved procedures and tools for coordination of data collection Issuing of statistical publications and products by all the organizations.
6.1	Expected outcomes in the next two years	 Joint data collection by ECE and Eurostat of macro-economic data from the EU candidate countries (see also PE 3.1). The OECD to complete the test phase of the NAWWE initiative, the objective of which is to have countries update the tables of the questionnaire directly on their web-sites (see also PE 3.1). Implementation of the new national accounts questionnaire based on SNA 93 and ESA 95, and sharing data among UNECE, UNSD, Eurostat and OECD. Enhancement in coverage of website on the joint BIS, IMF, OECD, World Bank statistics on External Debt. Finalisation by the Council of Europe and Eurostat of a mechanism for coordinating the collection of demographic data from NSOs. Full implementation of the OECD-UNSD data sharing agreement concerning international trade in goods covering all OECD member countries (see also PE 3.3). INTERNET access to the electronic version of the common questionnaire by Eurostat and ECE for the collection of transport statistics (see also PE 3.4). Development of a Common Questionnaire for Road Accident Statistics. Implementation of the joint data collection agreement that has been reached between OECD and Eurostat on Structural Business Statistics (see also PE 3.8 and 3.11). Establishment of a Website on annual energy questionnaires jointly by IEA and OECD (see also PE 3.12). A coordinated work-plan for data collection in the field of labour statistics for statistics to be collected by Eurostat, ILO and OECD (see also PE 4.4). Expansion of joint UNESCO/OECD/Eurostat data collection procedures and definitions in the area of education and training statistics to more countries in the ECE region (see also PE 4.5). Completion of the initial set of draft standards for the exchange of statistical information by the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX).
6.1	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	 Differences in pricing policies used by different national and international statistical agencies in the dissemination of statistical information. The increasing role of Internet in data collection. These innovations represent an opportunity to reduce the burden on NSOs. Further development of electronic data interchange standards (e.g. the XML-based standard for Statistical Data and

PE	Heading	Text
		Metadata Exchange (SDMX)) is expected to considerably enhance the use of Internet
		based data collection. However, in order to take full advantage of this opportunity, a high level of coordination among international organizations on data collection is required.
6.1	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of the ECE Statistical Division" below).
6.1	Rapporteur	None
6.1	Activities of the ECE Statistical Division	 Enhance the public value of the Division's statistical holdings collected to support the Economic Survey of Europe and other economic analysis carried out by the ECE (see 6.2), by publicising and disseminating them (especially via WEB access to the ECE Statistical Database). Collecting data for and publishing in printed and electronic form "Trends in Europe and North America – the Statistical Yearbook of the ECE". Collecting annual data from non-OECD/IEA member countries in the field of energy statistics. Preparation of four quarterly issues of the UNECE Statistical Journal. Preparation, in collaboration with Eurostat, OECD, UNSD and other international organizations, an annual report on joint data collection for submission to the plenary session of the Conference. Information on UNECE statistical publications is available on the ECE Statistical Division's Website: http://www.unece.org/stats
6.1	Activities of Inter- secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics	Four organisations – FAO, ECE, Eurostat and ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organisation) - work together to collect and disseminate data on production and trade of forest products, through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire. This arrangement has proved very successful, and will be continued. In 2003-2005, the four organisations will concentrate on: ◆ data validation; ◆ briefing of national correspondents; ◆ refining definitions and procedures to HS2002, ensuring they are presented identically in all outputs; ◆ data handling and presentation (ensuring same data used by all organizations, use of website, global forest information system etc.). Publication through electronic databases, files and hard-copy of all data collected.
6.1	Activities of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements	The biennial "Bulletin on Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America" provides statistical data and information for analysing and monitoring housing policy implementation in the ECE region (English only).
6.1	Activities of the ECE Transport Division (Inland Transport Committee)	Publications: ◆ Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics ◆ Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (annual) ◆ Main Transport Indicators for the UNECE Region (annual) ◆ Glossary of Transport Statistics (Third edition) 2003 ◆ Census of Motor Traffic on Main International Traffic Arteries 2005 (quinquennial) ◆ Census of Rail Traffic 2005 (expected to be done for the first time in 2005 (quinquennial)

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	Traumg	Data collection:
		Common questionnaires for:
		◆ Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics (with ECMT and EUROSTAT);
		◆ Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (annual with
		ECMT).
6.1	Activities of OECD	♦ The OECD collects data which are further used for a wide variety of publications in
	OECD	print, diskette, CD-ROM and on-line. These are often listed in the integrated presentation under the programme elements concerned. The catalogue of the OECD
		Online Bookshop is available from: http://www.oecd.org
		The OECD will continue its efforts to contribute to reducing the burden on national statistical agencies by further coordinating data collection activities across the
		Organisation and with other international organisations both in terms of content,
		timing and use of common technology (XML / Gesmes).
		◆ The OECD continues its efforts to implement the Data Sharing model through two
		initiatives: implement direct access to existing databases in NSOs or in other
		International Organisations through web tools; and experiment a data sharing
		initiative in the area of National Accounts (NAWWE project).
6.1	Activities of	Eurostat works closely with the other international organisations, through the ex-
	Eurostat	ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Joint Programme Review
		(which consists of ECE, OECD and Eurostat) to ensure good coordination of data
		collection from Member States and the avoidance of duplication in that area. More
		joint data collection activities are foreseen in the coming years. However, these are
		sometimes hampered by differing standards being used and timetables of the various
		organisations.
		◆ Eurostat's publications catalogue is available on request. The Eurostat web site is at:
		http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat
6.1	Activities of	♦ Works with UNDP, Paris 21 and other interested organizations in the coordination in
	UN Statistics	countries of data methods and series for reporting at national and international levels
	Division	on the millennium indicators.
		♦ Implementation of the new questionnaires based on SNA 93 and ESA 95. Since both
		systems are consistent, an architecture of data sharing among Eurostat, OECD,
		UNECE and UNSD has been agreed upon, so that each country will receive only one
		questionnaire. Countries will send the data electronically to one organization
		identified as focal point for a group of countries but with simultaneous copies to the other organizations interested.
		◆ The UNSD coordinates the collection of demographic statistics with the WHO,
		EUROSTAT, ILO and the Economic Commission for Europe in order to minimize
		the reporting burden on the national statistical services and to provide as wide a
		range of users as possible with access to demographic statistics shown in
		international statistical publications including the United Nations Demographic
		Yearbook.
		◆ Social Indicators and Statistics and Indicators on the World's Women are maintained
		by the Statistics Division on its Internet site.
		◆ UNSD continues the collection, processing and dissemination of global industrial
		commodity production statistics and maintains the industrial commodity statistics
		database containing data for about 200 countries and areas and more than 600
		commodities. UNSD continues the compilation and publication of index numbers of
		industrial production. Industrial statistics is published in UNSD's Industrial
		Commodity Statistics Yearbook, in the UN Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly
		Bulletin of Statistics, and in electronic format.
		◆ UNSD maintains the most comprehensive database of worldwide energy statistics
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PE	Heading	Text
		 (production, trade, stock changes, bunkers and consumption) covering more than 200 countries and areas and time series as long as 50 years. The primary source of information is the annual energy questionnaire. Data collection covers non-OECD countries. There is a regular exchange of data between UNSD and IEA/OECD. UNSD publishes the Energy Statistics Yearbook and the biennial Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles. UNSD collects environment statistics from non-OECD countries biennially. The data collection is harmonized with OECD and Eurostat.
6.1	Activities of	(NOTE: Period of reference: 1 Jan. 2004 – 31 Dec. 2005)
	UN Population Division	 Implementation of 2004 Revision of the official United Nations population estimates and projections, including age and sex patterns in mortality, fertility and migration data, for all countries and areas of the world, as well as implementation of the 2005 Revision of the official United Nations estimates and projections of urban and rural areas and major cities. Dissemination of world-wide population information through the expansion of the United Nations Population Division world-wide web site (www.unpopulation.org)
		and the continued development of the United Nations Population Information Network (POPIN) (www.popin.org).
6.1	Activities of UNIDO	 UNIDO, in collaboration with OECD, will continue to assume sole responsibility for compilation and dissemination of worldwide key industrial statistics at the 3- and 4-digit levels of ISIC (Revisions 2 and 3): UNIDO collecting data directly from non-OECD member countries while OECD collecting data from its member countries and providing them to UNIDO to complete the global coverage of the UNIDO industrial statistics database system. With regard to UNIDO country questionnaire, it is expected that the majority of non-OECD countries would report their data electronically in, for instance, Excel format (currently, half of regularly reporting non-OECD countries provide their data to UNIDO via electronic questionnaire). The annual time series that UNIDO compiles and disseminates refer to selected key statistics for employment, production and investment, all pertaining to manufacturing, and are arranged in accordance with 3- and 4-digit levels of ISIC. The organization will continue to disseminate INDSTAT as well as IDSB databases on CD-ROM. At the same time, the 2004 and 2005 editions of the International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics will be published in hardcopy. In addition, annual updates of re-designed statistical country briefs, which present selected key statistical indicators that are derived from the UNIDO database system, will be made available
6.1	Activities of ILO	 on Internet on a free-of-charge basis. Data collected by the ILO Bureau of Statistics from national statistical offices and national statistical publications are available in both printed and electronic form, and are disseminated free of charge on the ILO's statistical Web site (see http://laborsta.ilo.org). The development of annual CD-ROMs is planned. Monthly, quarterly or six-monthly data on employment, unemployment, hours of work, wages and consumer prices are transmitted each month by the ILO to the UNSD for inclusion in the UN "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics". At the same time these data are sent to the ECE, Eurostat, FAO, IMF, OECD and UNIDO. Annual labour statistics are also transmitted to the UNSD for additional dissemination in the "Yearbook", thus avoiding unnecessary duplication of data collection by different international organizations. Employment and unemployment data sent regularly to the IMF are published in "International Financial Statistics". The ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market provide users with world-wide data on 20 key labour market indicators from 1980 to the present. These are available in printed form, on CD-ROM and on the Web. The ILO Yearbook of Labour Statistics and related publications will be reviewed and

PE	Heading	Text
		maximum use will be made of modern technology and dissemination tools.
		◆ Two CD-ROMs of the fourth edition "Economically active population 1950-2010"
		have been issued (see programme element 4.1).
6.1	Activities of	♦ The Bank releases two annual publications both in hard copy and on CD-ROM,
	the World	World Development Indicators and Global Development Finance. The World Bank
	Bank	Atlas (with additional indicators on Millennium Development Goals for 2003
		edition) is distributed in hard copy. Selected indicators from the World Development
		Indicators also appear in the World Development Report, the Little Data Book, the
		Little Green Data Book (all annual), and Rural Development Indicators Handbook.
		Selected tables from these publications are available on the Bank's website:
		http://www.worldbank.org/data/
		◆ The Global Development Network (GDN) Initiative is to support and link research
		and policy institutes involved in the field of development. The GDN Data Initiative
		will sponsor and provide information about training and other activities to support
		broader and better use of microdata in macro- and socio-economic research.
		http://www.gdnet.org/
		♦ The Gateway initiative is envisioned as a portal website on development issues, from which users will be able to access information, resources and tools, and into which
		they will be able to contribute their own knowledge and experience
		http://www.developmentgateway.org/
		◆ Data Query offers free access to a segment of the World Development Indicators
		(WDI) database. This segment includes 54 time series indicators for 207 countries
		and 18 groups, spanning 5 years (1997 to 2001)
		http://www.worldbank.org/data/dataquery.html
		♦ The World Bank has been working closely with the Commonwealth secretariat and
		the UNCTAD to improve the data collection across the globe. In addition, new tools
		are being built and made available to reporting countries through the external data
		collection site (Web-DRS), to speed up the process.
		◆ The Bank will continue to maintain a web site on Millennium Development Goals
		(MDG). MDGs grew out of the agreements and resolutions of world conferences
		organized by the United Nations (http://www.developmentgoals.org/).
		◆ Data collection and processing software (CPI/ICP ToolPack) has been under
		development. The beta version has been released and will be tested in 12 to 15
		countries, including 2 to 3 members of CIS. The final version will be ready by
		February 2003. The primary objective of the ToolPack is to improve national and international data work. It will apply patiently price statisticians to collect demostic
		international data work. It will enable national price statisticians to collect domestic CPI price (and quantity or expenditure) data as well as ICP price data using a
		common computer program that can be adapted to both purposes. Countries will be
		encouraged to use the ToolPack for their own CPI programs and it is expected that
		there will be world-wide benefits due to the implied harmonization in constructing
		CPI's. Data quality will also be enhanced because of the built-in checks in the
		software. Once the basic data have been entered, it will be a trivial matter to
		construct the final index, and data production will become more timely.
		◆ The Bank will continue maintenance and updating of databases on Poverty
		developed to assist countries in monitoring poverty trends and embarking on
		strategies to help them reduce poverty. The aim is to help countries reach the
		Strategy 21 goals of fostering economic well-being and social development (more
		information on the databases is available in PE 4.7a):
		Poverty Monitoring Database
		http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/dg/povertys.nsf
		Living Standards Measurement Study Survey Database http://www.yorldbook.org/long/
		 http://www.worldbank.org/lsms/ Africa Poverty Monitoring: Household Survey Database
		http://www4.worldbank.org/afr/poverty/databank/default.htm
	I	nup.//www-wonaoank.org/an/poverty/aataoank/aetaut.nun

PE	Heading	Text
		 Database on Household Expenditure and Income Data for Transitional
		Economies
		http://www.worldbank.org/research/transition/house.htm
		Global Poverty Monitoring Database
1		http://www.worldbank.org/research/povmonitor/
6.1	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	The IMF makes a wide array of macroeconomic statistics available through its publications program. Data are available in a variety of media including print, CD-ROM and via the Internet. Plans to expand the range of products in electronic formats are underway. The current offerings in the publication program are: ◆ Databases available to subscribers on CD-ROM relate to the following publications: International Financial Statistics (IFS), International Financial Statistics Yearbook, Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook (BOPSY), Government Finance Statistics Yearbook, and Direction of Trade Statistics (DOTSY). A windows browser facility is available for CD-ROMs except for Government Finance Statistics. ◆ The IMF has available on its website the Joint BIS, IMF, OECD, World Bank Statistics on External Debt and enhancements in coverage and timeliness are envisaged.
		 The monthly edition of IFS is available to subscribers on the Internet and from January 2002 the complete searchable IFS database is available. In 2000, the IMF started re-disseminating countries' international reserves and related information on its website at http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/ir/index.htm. The site provides comprehensive and timely data for 43 countries (as of November 2002) in a common format and in a common currency.
6.1	Activities of WHO Regional Office for Europe	 Ongoing annual collection and processing of basic health statistics from 51 European WHO Member States and their dissemination via European "Health for All" database (www.euro.who.int/HFADB). Better coordination of mortality and hospital data collection and data exchange with other organizations, particularly EUROSTAT and OECD.
6.1	Activities of the World Trade Organization (WTO)	WTO is primarily a user of other agencies' data. The WTO actively supports ongoing efforts to improve coordination in data collection activities through the Task Force on International Trade Statistics and other bodies. Priority objectives: To actively contribute to the development of a consistent, internationally recognised set of up-to-date international merchandise trade statistics.
6.1	Activities of FAO	 On-going work: Maintenance and updating the essential data series on demographic estimates and projections, macroeconomic aggregates and prices received by farmers. Other time series which will be updated pertain to land use, farm machinery, fertilizer and pesticides statistics, estimates of number of undernourished and other data to support the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS). Together with the database available on Internet (www.fao.org), published outputs will continue to include: FAO Production Yearbook (two volumes), Trade Yearbook (two volumes), Fertilizer Yearbook (two volumes), Fertilizer Use by Crops, Producer Prices for Crop and Livestock Productions, FAO Bulletin of Statistics and Food and Agricultural Sector Profiles, FAO Yearbook-Fishery Statistics/Capture Fisheries production (2 volumes), /Aquaculture Production (2 volumes), Commodities (2 volumes). Work will continue on the development dissemination of meta data on crops and livestock which underlies the data disseminated by FAO at http://faostat.fao.org/abcdq/about.htmx Work will continue on analysis of household surveys for estimating household food expenditure and distribution of food consumption.

PE	Heading	Text
		 Priority objective: ◆ To publish the CD-Rom format, FAOSTAT 2001, the database containing all FAO statistics. ◆ The use of the virtual questionnaire to collect agricultural production statistics, in addition to the hard copy, is already in operation. It is intended to expand the use of this method of data collection from member countries to cover all other data collection. New activities to be undertaken: ◆ To develop for dissemination the Trade Database by Origin and Destination. ◆ The FAO questionnaire on agricultural census data will be dispatched to FAO member countries to obtain census results.
6.1	Activities of the World Tourism Organization	 ♦ Statistical publications: ■ Yearbook of Tourism Statistics; ■ Compendium of Tourism Statistics. These are the two general publications that compile the data on which the international comparability of the economic impacts of tourism can be based. ♦ WTO proposes new supports for their dissemination as well as greater agility in doing so. For that purpose, the aim is to facilitate internet access to them (via the WTO "Infoshop" service) and to look into opportunities for their dissemination on CD support enabling the data to be processed.
6.1	Activities of Council of Europe	 Annual publication of the report "Recent Demographic Developments in Europe" concerning 46 European countries. Coordination with Eurostat concerning the collection of demographic data from National Statistical Offices is in progress. Annual publication of comparative tables over social security systems in Europe. Coordination with member countries on reporting qualitative data on social security.
6.1	Activities of CIS-STAT	Ongoing work: The following publications are to be issued in 2003-2005: the statistical bulletin "CIS statistics" (twice monthly); the statistical yearbook "Commonwealth of Independent States" (in Russian and English); a short handbook of preliminary statistical results entitled "Commonwealth of Independent States" (in Russian and English); "The Commonwealth of Independent States and other countries" (in Russian and English); "Principal accounts of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States" (in Russian and English); "Investment, finance and prices in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States" (in Russian and English); "Foreign trade of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States" (in Russian and English); "The labour market in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States" (in Russian and English); "The Commonwealth of Independent States: a Statistical Portrait" (in Russian and English). New activities: The publication "International comparisons of the gross domestic products of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Mongolia for 2000" will be issued in 2003, and the compilations "Agro-industrial sectors of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States" (in Russian and English) and "The consumer market in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States" (in Russian and English) will be released.
6.1	Activities of PARIS21	of the Commonwealth of Independent States" (in Russian and English) will be released in 2004. All these publications may be made available in hard-copy form and on diskette. See the activities of PARIS21 described under Programme Element 1.4 of the Integrated Presentation

PE 6. 2

6.2	Title	Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat
6.2	Goal	To provide effective statistical services to its customers with a high degree of professionalism
6.2	Issues & problems	 For ECE: ◆ To collect statistical data and to provide other statistical support needed for the ECE's economic analysis (some macro-economic data from the EU candidate countries is collected jointly with Eurostat, see also PA 3: Economic statistics). ◆ To develop and maintain a statistical database for this purpose with emphasis on countries under the transition process. ◆ To provide statistical services to other ECE divisions. ◆ To further develop electronic data interchange between national statistical offices and the ECE secretariat based on international standards developed within the Western European EDIFACT Board.
6.2	Strategic medium-term objectives	◆ For ECE, database on macroeconomic data from market economy countries and transition economies; operational network for EDI collection of macroeconomic data from market economy and transition economies; periodic progress reports to the CES plenary sessions.
6.2	Expected outcomes in the next two years	◆ Increasing availability on the WEB of a core set of macro-economic indicators for all economies in the ECE region.
6.2	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	Nothing.
6.2	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of ECE Statistical Division" below).
6.2	Rapporteur	ECE
6.2	Activities of the ECE Statistical Division	 Ensure that economic analysis conducted by the ECE, including the two issues per year of the "Economic Survey of Europe", is founded on relevant, timely and harmonized statistics, and on a professional statistical advisory capacity and statistical services, while minimising duplication with other international organisations involved in similar activities. Ensure that the statistical assets of the division are properly documented and managed, and can be easily retrieved when required. Provide advisory services to other divisions of ECE concerning the management of their data assets. Develop "off the shelf" analytical products for use by economic analysts both inside and outside ECE. Enhance the public value of the Division's statistical holdings by publicising and