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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 (MSIS)
(Geneva, 17-19 May 2004)

Topic (i): Web technology in statistical information systems

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING SDMX AT OECD

Invited Paper

Submitted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)¹

Summary

1. SDMX (*Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange*) is an international cooperation initiative aiming at developing and employing more efficient processes for exchange and sharing of statistical information and metadata between international organizations and countries.
2. The paper will describe work under way at the OECD towards the practical implementation of SDMX. This includes contributions to four major projects:
 - participation in a practical case study on emerging e-standards (XML and Web Services) for data and metadata exchange (External Debt Statistics);
 - the maintenance and advancement of standards for batch time series data exchange (GESMES/TS);
 - the creation of a common vocabulary for statistical metadata;
 - the development of a model for metadata repositories.
3. The paper will also describe development work at OECD involving the use of XML and Web Services – basic SDMX building blocks – for sharing of data and metadata, both within the Organisation and with its partners. Four practical implementations will be described, highlighting lessons learnt, including methods of invoking web services, performance and security:

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- Accessing data from OECD's central data repository, OECD.Stat²;
- Exchange of national accounts data between the OECD and member countries (NAWWE);
- Joint UN/OECD Foreign Trade Statistics project;
- Technical Collaboration Project on Web Services, being carried out with the IMF.

4. A start-up "toolkit" will be presented, aiming to facilitate implementing a "consumer" Web Service for accessing OECD.Stat data and metadata via OECD's "provider" web service.

² OECD's new corporate database for internal and external sharing of statistics