

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32 N 0751

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Request for Category C Liaison for Eurostat to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32/WG 2 - Metadata

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32 has received a request for Category C Liaison from Eurostat.

Type and Category of Liaison requested

Type: Technical Liaison
Category: Category C

Expected Benefits to SC 32/WG 2

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32/WG 2 believes that the benefit will be the knowledge and practical experience it will gain from this statistical community.

Expected Benefits to Eurostat

Over the years, Eurostat produced an extensive range of rules and guidelines to coordinate the collection, production, exchange and dissemination of EU statistics based on harmonized methods in all statistical areas. Some of these rules, discussed with member States and embodied in Community Regulations and Directives, have a legal power for EU countries. Examples are the European System of Accounts, the Community Labour Force Survey, the Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices and Intrastat. International cooperation with partner organisations (such as ECB, IMF, OECD and UN) and national offices is the basis of this standardization activity. The Index of existing international statistical classifications, together with correspondence tables and other methodological documents is available on Eurostat website at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ramon>.

Eurostat is also paying attention to the development of guidelines for statistical metadata and for the exchange of statistical information. Together with UN/ECE, Eurostat is organising next METIS Work Session on Statistical Metadata (6-8 March 2002) and - together with BIS, ECB, IMF, OECD and UN - it is particularly involved in implementing a common standard for the exchange of statistical information by using the latest technological standards. In cooperation with BIS and ECB, Eurostat developed and maintains the Gesmes/CB standard for data exchange.

As the ISO is also developing standards in these areas, a good liaison between JTC1/SC32, Eurostat and other international organisations could make the standardisation work progress at a higher speed. This could also provide a better coordination between the work conducted at European or international level and the work conducted within each country in the same area.

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The following is the statement on the international status and mission of Eurostat

Eurostat

Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Communities situated in Luxembourg. Eurostat was established in 1953 to meet the requirements of the Coal and Steel Community. When the European Community was founded in 1958 it became a Directorate-General of the European Commission. Eurostat supplies statistics to other DGs of the Commission and other European Institutions so that they can define, implement and analyse Community policies.

The European Statistical System (ESS) comprises Eurostat and the statistical offices, ministries, agencies and central banks that collect official statistics in EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. Member States collect data and compile statistics for national and EU purposes. The ESS functions as a network in which Eurostat's role is to lead the way in the harmonization of statistics in close cooperation with the national statistical authorities. Eurostat's main task is to process and publish comparable statistical information at European level, trying to arrive at a common statistical 'language' that embraces concepts, methods, structures and technical standards.

The Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) is chaired by Eurostat and brings together the heads of Member States' national statistical offices. SPC discusses the most important joint actions and programmes to be carried out to meet EU information requirements. The SPC coordinates the following activities: a) development of common classifications, methodology and definitions for application in Member States; b) implementation of common statistical surveys based on harmonized methods, and c) collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical data for the EU, including comparisons between countries and regions.

In addition to cooperating closely with international organisations such as European Central Bank, IMF, OECD and UN, Eurostat also works with countries outside the EU. A key task for Eurostat is to coordinate the improvement of statistical systems in candidate and developing countries. Special programmes have been established with countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. Eurostat also works closely with national statistical offices in Mediterranean countries and in many African countries.

