

Progress Report on SDMX Implementations

Updates about six important SDMX implementations are provided below:

- **Dissemination of euro area statistics**
- **Joint External Debt Hub (JEDH)**
- **SDMX Open Data Interchange (SODI)**
- **ComTrade**
- **Metadata Repositories**
- **National Accounts World Wide Exchange (NAWWE)**

Dissemination of euro area statistics

This is a project of the ECB and euro area central banks, completed in December 2005, aimed at improving accessibility to national contributions to euro area aggregates. Data are reported to the ECB in SDMX-EDI (GESMES/TS) and are disseminated from the ECB website in SDMX-ML so that all or parts of the available data sets are able to be instantly re-used on national central banks websites. This allows for consistency in content and flexibility in presentation (adjustable to the “look and feel” features and national language labels of each institutions' website). This also provides an important service to users so that they no longer need to navigate across many different web sites to find data across countries, as they can find them either on ECB's or on any national central bank's web site. This approach also minimises maintenance and other support related work across a number of institutions.

Joint External Debt Hub (JEDH)

This project, scheduled to be completed in March 2006, involves the collaboration of the BIS, IMF, OECD and World Bank in the domain of external debt statistics under the guidance of the Interagency Task Force on Finance Statistics. The data compilation for these statistics has involved many manual processes to prepare and send data sets in various media or electronic formats from the other institutions to the OECD, manual entry into a data base and manual processing procedures for formatted output on the website. Whenever the latest data are available in SDMX-ML, under the new JEDH arrangements, the agencies simply indicate electronically the web location of these statistics to the BIS-IMF-OECD-World Bank Joint Statistical Registry that is hosted at the OECD. The JEDH web application running at the World Bank (and which makes use of its Development Data Platform) reduces manual processes by automatically retrieving information about the web location of the data, accesses the statistics, updates its data base and the JEDH website provides immediate access to these statistics for the user community.

SDMX Open Data Interchange (SODI)



This is a Eurostat project designed to test the feasibility of simultaneous publication at national and EU level of short-term statistics from EU Member States. The project is designed to make use of the SDMX data sharing approach for collecting and disseminating statistics (in particular, the Principal European Economic Indicators). It has finalised its pilot phase, during which successful testing was achieved, and it is envisaged that the first public access to information via SODI will be ready by Q3 2006.

Detailed annual trade statistics: the UNSD-OECD Joint Trade Data Collection and Processing System (Joint System)

This is a joint UN-OECD data sharing project, which is in operation since December 2005, and which applies SDMX standards in the collection and sharing of annual foreign trade data. The data base contains detailed yearly import and export data for more than 260 countries and areas. OECD (for its member countries) and UN (for the remaining countries of the world) receive data from national statistical authorities and convert them to internationally comparable time series. Data is available since 1961 for up to some 6500 commodities depending on the classification used (HS, SITC and others). This database (called ComTrade by UN and ITCS by OECD) is the most comprehensive commodity trade statistics database worldwide and the coverage currently exceeds 1 billion time series records. SDMX is also used as a data dissemination standard for distributing data to the general public. Data can be downloaded from UN (ComTrade) and OECD (ITCS) in formats such as CSV, Excel and SDMX.

Metadata Repositories

This is an IMF project that intends to facilitate the open exchange of reference metadata. The immediate objectives were to (1) identify commonalities in the content structures of metadata that are collected and stored in existing repositories and (2) to build on these commonalities to create standard formats, structure and vocabulary for the exchange of reference metadata. As such, the project provided inputs to the development of SDMX Technical Standards (Version 2.0) and draft Content-Oriented Guidelines. The IMF is now implementing these developments to the metadata it collects for the 62 countries subscribing to the Special Data Dissemination Standard and the 83 countries participating in the General Data Dissemination System. One important impact envisaged is to help reduce the metadata reporting burden of national statistical agencies. In this context, it is expected that institutions preparing metadata on their websites in SDMX-ML format following the content-oriented guidelines will make it possible for the IMF to access this information directly rather than having it be transmitted to them in various formats.

National Accounts World Wide Exchange (NAWWE)

This is an OECD project aimed at using SDMX-ML and a “pull” approach for reporting an internationally agreed set of national accounts data. The objective is to allow any authorised user, in particular international organisations, to access directly a set of internationally comparable data made available by countries on their web sites, generated directly from their own dissemination databases using a common SDMX data structure definition. If all of the international organisations were to agree to use this mechanism, it would reduce the reporting burden on member countries to improve the accuracy, coherence and timeliness of the data. NAWWE is based on the common questionnaire agreed by Eurostat and OECD for the collection



of national accounts data and, if successful, would mean that countries willing to participate would no longer have to submit national accounts questionnaires to OECD. Following successful initial testing, latest efforts have focused on development of the necessary data structure definitions to implement SDMX-ML. The aim is to fully implement NAWWE reporting in 2006 for OECD member countries wishing to join now.