Tips & Tricks
Data Entry Tool
How to import files from Excel or Access into the DET

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This document explains how data prepared in other programs (e.g. Excel, Oracle, Access, …) can be imported to the Data Entry Tool.
It is written based on the experience on the DET version 3.3 and will be adapted according new versions. You might need to contact your IT department in order to help you.

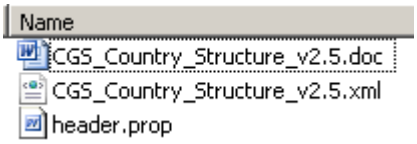
0. General overview

The DET writes and reads all price observations in XML files. XML files are nothing but text files that can be read in a web-browser or text editor. The content of the files is structured according to definitions laid down in a "Key Family" (or "Data Set Definition"). Thus, a database program needs the Key Family to understand the content of an XML file. The PPP Key Family is compatible with SDMX standards (see www.sdmx.org).

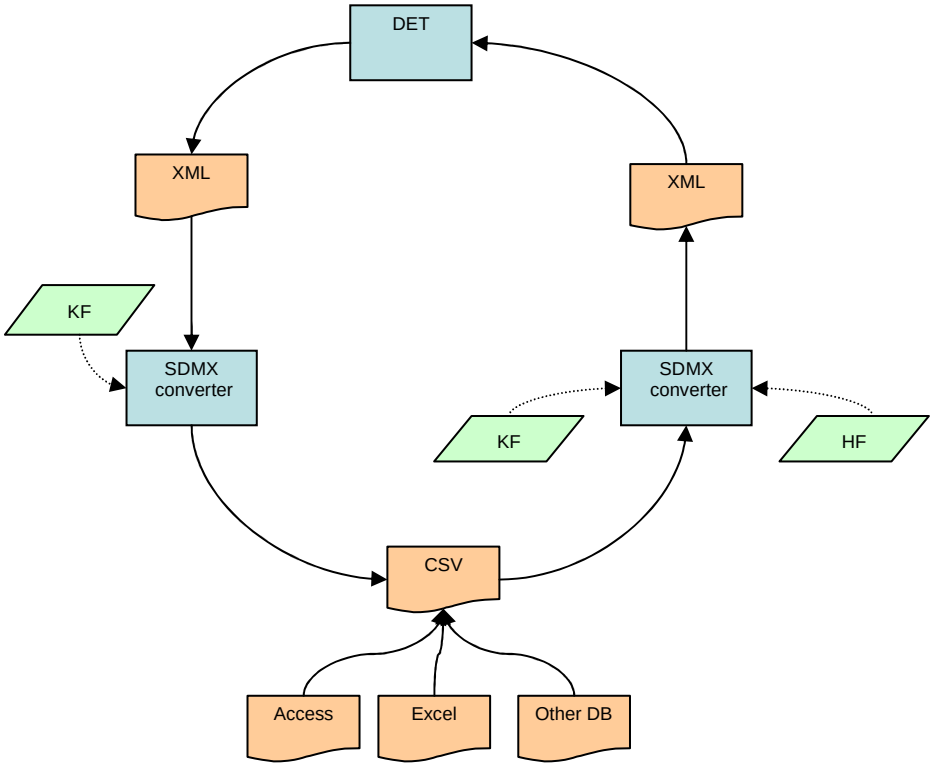
Because of this compatibility, it is possible to convert XML files into CSV files (and back) that can be read by Excel or Access. It is thus possible to prepare price observations in a CSV file and then convert this into a XML file that can be imported into the DET, provided the CSV file follows the Key Family definitions. This document provides you with an overview of how this can be managed.

Here below you see the overview of how files can be exchanged between the DET and other databases. A tool named "SDMX converter" can be found on CIRCA (see annex A) and is used for the conversion of the XML file to the CSV file (and vice versa). To use this convertor, you also need to have the Key Family file (KF) and a header file (HF). Both files are available in the zip-file on the DET homepage.

The content of the zip-file is displayed below. The HF-file is called "header.prop" and the KF-file is called "CGS_Country_Structure_v2.5.xml"

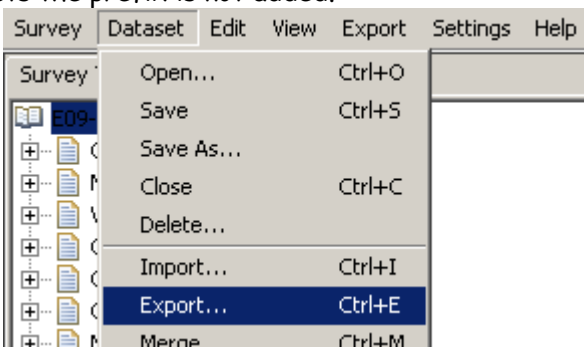


The diagram on the next page describes the whole cycle of starting and ending at the DET with the CSV file as an in between stage, in which this CSV file acts as the gateway to your database(s). Obviously, once you have created the CSV file and you are familiar with its format, you can skip this step for future uploads.



1. Export out of the Data Entry tool

- Go to the Data Entry tool, import your SUA-file and fill in (at least) 1 complete observation as an example.
- Go to "Dataset" select "Export" and save your file (e.g. Export.xml). Please notice that the DET adds automatically a prefix to the file name that contains the abbreviation and the year of the survey, e.g. PERAP2009Export.xml. If a file with the same name already exists the prefix is not added.

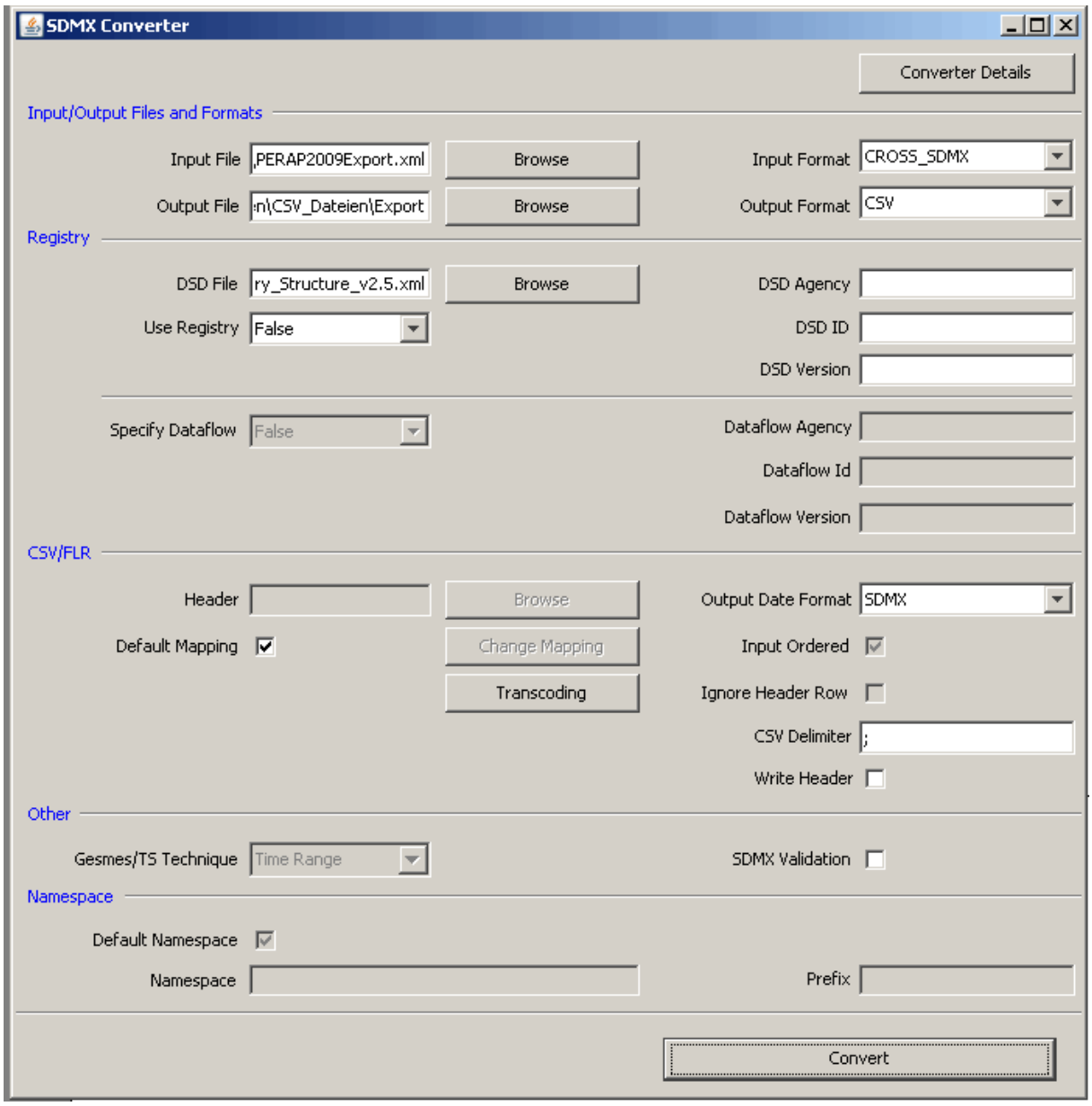


2. Use the SDMX-converter to convert to CSV

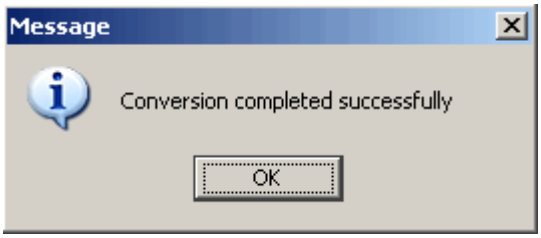
Open the SDMX-converter (Annex A) and fill in the following fields :

- Input : select the input file (PREAP2009Export.xml, see step 1) and the format (CROSS SDMX)
- Output : select the output file (e.g. Export.csv) and the format (CSV)
- Use Registry : Select "False"
- DSDFilename : This is the KF-file in the zip-file on the DET homepage, named "CGS_Country_Structure_v2.5.xml"

- Click on the "Convert"-button



You'll see the following message when the conversion was successful :



3. Fill the CSV with the data in your own DB's

Since you have the CSV-file, you also have its format (structure definition). You can easily import this file in e.g. MS Access and fill it with your own observations. If you use Access or Excel for data entry, then the best way would be to program a macro that exports your data in the format of the CSV file.
The complete definition can be found in Annex B. Pay attention to column 18 (VAT rate) which should be defined as a field with double precision.
Pay also attention to the following rules :

- Don't add columns (e.g. don't add a primary key)
- Don't use quotes (' or ") to define text fields
- Each line in your CSV file should end with a semi colon (;)
- Field delimiter = semi colon (;)
- The delimiter for concatenated fields (e.g; Specify) is a pipe (|)

Export your CSV-file once you have filled it with the data of your own DB's , e.g. Export_DB.csv

4. Use the SDMX-converter to convert to SDMX

Open the SDMX-converter again (Annex A) and fill in the following fields :

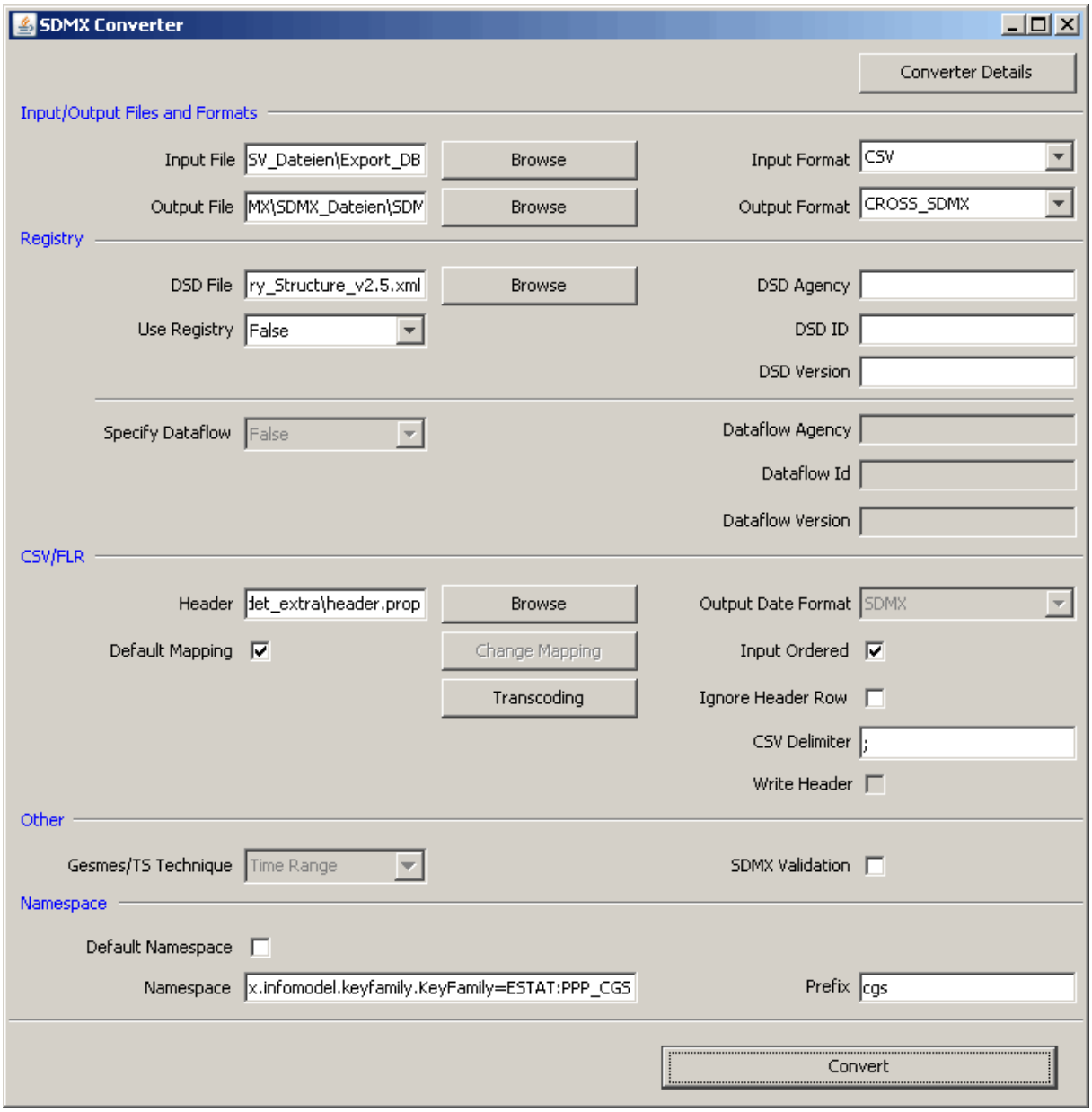
- Input : select the input file (Export_DB.csv) and the format (CSV)
- Output : select the output file (e.g. SDMXData_db.xml) and the format (CROSS SDMX)
- Use Registry : Select "False"
- DSDFilename : The same as in step 2 (CGS_Country_Structure_v2.5.xml)

Additionally, you need to specify the following :

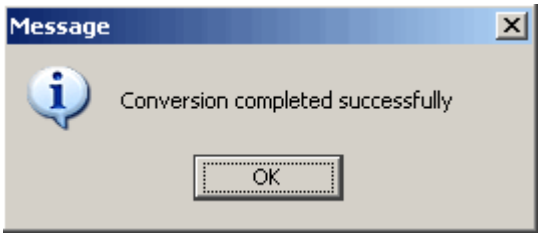
- Input Parameters : this file (header.prop) can be found in the zip-file on the DET Homepage :

- Check if the CSV delimiter is filled in correctly (;)

- Prefix of the namespace : cgs
- Uncheck the default namespace
- Namespace : **urn:sdmx:org.sdmx.infomodel.keyfamily.KeyFamily=ESTAT:PPP_CGS**
- click on "Convert"

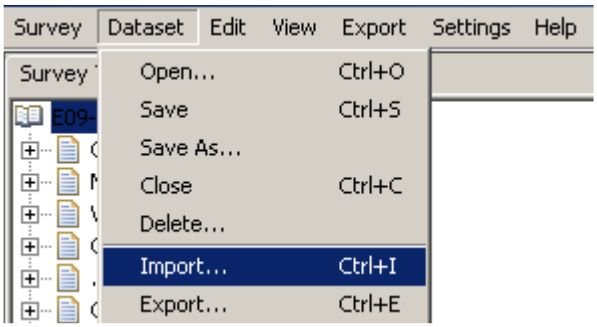


Again, you'll see the following message when the conversion was successful :



5. Re-import the SDMX file in the DET

You can easily import the created SDMX file into the DET. You just need to use the feature Import in the menu Dataset.



6. Good to know

- Don't forget to update your own Survey Details in the DET on clicking "Settings" > "Contact Information"
- Pay attention that each observation in the CSV-file has 2 records : one for the measure "Price" and one for the measure "Quantity". Analyze the CSV file very carefully before updating/appending data.
- You can also change the mapping of the columns in the SDMX-converter and also the delimiter. However, it might be easier to create in your own DB a query which matches the columns perfectly.

ANNEX A : SDMX-converter

The SDMX-converter (Version 2.5.0) and documentation can be found on the following CIRCA link here below.

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/stne/library?l=/x-dis/tools/sdmx_converter&vm=detailed&sb=Title

ANNEX B : Description of the CSV-file

			Example
1	column A	Name of the DATASET	SRVIC
2	column B	Name of the COUNTRY	IS
3	column C	Item code	11.03.14.1.01.aa
4	column D	N°of observation	1
5	column E	P(rice) or Q(uantity) of the observation	P
6	column F	Year	2008
7	column G	Value of column E	20
8	column H	Year and mont of observation (with hyphen inbetween)	2008-6
9	column I	Currency	EUR
10	column J	Brand	
11	column K	Model	
12	column L	Shop Type (if column E = P, else "null")	
13	column M	Shop Identifier (if column E = P, else blank)	
14	column N	Specify : name of Specify parameter & "="&value. Concatenated	NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED=2.5|TRAVEL COSTS=0 MATERIALS=125
15	column O	Separator used in column N	|
16	column P	Comments	Comment 1
17	column Q	Concatenation of OTHER & PRICE COLLECTOR	OTHER=Other 1|COLLECTOR=Price Collector 1
18	column R	VAT : Rate or null	0.20
19	column S	Representativity : TRUE or FALSE (or null)	TRUE
20	column T	Flag	
21	column U	Item Comments	Item Comments
22	column V	Comments for local use	LOCALCOMMENTS=Comments for local use
23	column W	Finalized (TRUE or blank)	TRUE