

CBS-IRIS

(Extract from CoRD 019 [version2], 'A brief outline of existing data collection tools and new developments at Statistics Netherlands', K-J Metz, 2001)

1. Short description

IRIS is an acronym for Interactive Registration for International trade Statistics. It is Statistics Netherlands' own alternative to the IDEP/CN8 software that is supplied by Eurostat. CBS-IRIS was initially developed in 1992 in order to solve the problem of collecting data on intra-community trade as of 1 January 1993 when the customs formalities regarding foreign trade between EU Member States were cancelled. During the project co-operation with the Dutch Tax Department ("Inland Revenue") has been established because some of the respondents' data were of interest to both parties. CBS-IRIS provides for the filling of an electronic questionnaire by keying in the appropriate data. Also, some import facilities are available for the automatic inclusion of data from the respondent's computerised accounts. Some 50 software suppliers in the Netherlands have made provisions in their software packages to allow for a connection to CBS-IRIS, but the user of CBS-IRIS can make his own provisions for establishing such a connection as well. The final results of data entry can be sent to the data collector by using diskette(s) or via data communication.

Note: CBS-IRIS has been discussed and demonstrated at length within EDICOM.

2. Platforms

There is a CBS-IRIS version for both the MS/DOS and the Windows platforms (Windows 95 or up). CBS-IRIS is used by Statistics Netherlands and Statistisches Bundesamt (Germany). In the Netherlands CBS-IRIS is being used by some 8 500 enterprises¹, 3 500 of which use the Windows version. Some 3 500 users also use the ICT module (Intra Community Transactions) for reporting VAT data to the Dutch Tax Department. In Germany currently only the MS/DOS version is used, at some 6 000 enterprises.

3. Availability to other NSIs

No official license policy has been defined for CBS-IRIS. Statistisches Bundesamt and Statistics Netherlands have signed an ad hoc bilateral contract for the use of CBS-IRIS in Germany. Interested other parties may contact Statistics Netherlands (jtnt@cbs.nl) for discussing this topic or bring this up in EDICOM meetings.

¹ This numbered was higher in the past (some 12 500). At that time the threshold value for the obligatory supplying of intra-community trade data was lower than it is now.