EDISENT

(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

EDISENT is an acronym for Electronic Data Interchange between Statistics and ENTerprises. It is a software program that has been further developed within the TELER project, partially funded through the European Union in the 4th Framework Programme. EDISENT was designed to reduce the administrative burden caused by conducting surveys at enterprises and institutes. After completion of a once-only adjustment, EDISENT allows for the *automatic* filling of electronic questionnaires and for sending the results to the data collector(s). It is essential to understand that the use of EDISENT implies more than just entering data into an electronic questionnaire by keying in. EDISENT *can* be used as a data entry engine for keying in data, but the added value of EDISENT is the possibility to fill the questionnaire automatically ("auto fill") and to also translate the data automatically from one coding system (i.e. that of the enterprise) to another (viz. that of the NSI).

EDISENT has been discussed at several STNE and SERT meetings, where it also has been demonstrated. More detailed information can be found in the TELER deliverables (see below) and in the following STNE documents: STNE/98/8/013B; STNE/97/7/011; STNE97/6/019. In STNE10 there was an unnumbered document (TELER.PDF) under the title: General presentation of TELER.

2. Recent development

In the second half of 2000 it has been decided to use an adapted version of EDISENT as a data entry engine in the E-quest project (see under 3.1). The information on the *unit of observation* is separated from the electronic questionnaire and will be sent to the enterprises separately. An e-mail transport facility is built into EDISENT as an extension on the already available options for sending the results to the data collector.

3. Platforms

There is an EDISENT version for both the MS/DOS and the Windows platforms. The MS/DOS version is only used by Statistics Netherlands for its own purposes; it currently has been distributed among some 1 200 enterprises in the Netherlands. For the pilots in the TELER project a 16 bits Windows (3.1 or up) prototype version has been made with different, much enhanced functionality. After the end of TELER, EDISENT for Windows has been adapted: some bugs were solved, some functional improvements were made based on the results of the TELER trials in 8 countries and the sending module was rewritten completely and adapted to the Dutch situation. Further improvements on EDISENT are being considered.

If feasible, during 2001 the MS/DOS version will be replaced by the windows version at all enterprises and subsequently it will be phased out altogether.

4. Availability to other NSIs

As mentioned above, the MS/DOS version will be phased out and will thus not be made available to other parties. Interested parties may try and test the EDISENT for Windows prototype that has been used for the TELER project and use this *as is*, but without any support.

All TELER deliverables, including a lot of information on EDISENT, are available at the web. The first 5 (out of 8) deliverables can still be found on the web site that has been maintained by Datacare (one of the participants) during the TELER project: http://www.datacare.ie/teler/download.htm Since TELER has ended now, this TELER information may be removed from the Datacare site in the near future. A more reliable URL to be used for the coming months (or years?) therefore is http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/eurostat/research/dosis/teler/index.htm where all the (8) TELER deliverables are available in PDF format.

Parties who are interested in the EDISENT prototype may contact Statistics Netherlands bilaterally in order to acquire the improved demo version of EDISENT (plus the User Manual in English) and discuss possibilities for further use. The contact e-mail address is nkmr@cbs.nl. Note that *no support* whatsoever will be given on this demo version by Statistics Netherlands. As of now, there is no licensing policy for the use of EDISENT as an official product (including the necessary support and maintenance).