"XML AND INTRASTAT", BUSINESS CASE

1. FORMAT OF THE INTRASTAT DECLARATION

The UN/EDIFACT message CUSDEC/INSTAT is the most used format for the Intrastat declaration. Each month about 122,000 Intrastat declarations in CUSDEC/INSTAT format are exchanged in 12 Member States.

Member States and Eurostat specify and maintain this European EDIFACT message within the framework of the EEG6/WG5 group. Eurostat publish for free the specifications of CUSDEC/INSTAT as Message Implementation Guidelines (MIG) on paper or electronically for the CNAs and software companies who want to implement them. Eurostat also maintains and distributes to CNAs the free software package IDEP/CN8 which allows a PSI to generate the Intrastat declaration in CUSDEC/INSTAT format and to send it to the CNA.

In general, the CNA receives CUSDEC/INSTAT messages generated by the PSI using either IDEP/CN8, another commercial software package or an EDIFACT converter. This CUSDEC/INSTAT message is then converted into an in-house format to be loaded into the CNA database. The following diagram gives a simplified representation of this exchange:

2. THE EMERGENCE OF XML

XML (eXtensible Mark-up Language) is a W3C recommendation for structuring information on the web. The design goals for XML (from the W3C recommendation) include the following:

- It will be straightforwardly usable over the Internet
- It will support a wide variety of applications
- It will be compatible with SGML
- It will be easy to write programs which process XML documents
XML documents should be human-legible and reasonably clear

XML documents shall be easy to create

Terseness in XML mark-up is of minimal importance.

XML is expected to become a widely accepted standard for data reporting, including the reporting of statistics.

3. **The Advantages of XML**

The potential advantage of XML from our point of view is that it gives a way of sending data over the internet as identified data items. In other words, it does not send the data only with display information (as HTML does), but also says what the data represents. So, the number "01011100" does not only arrive as a string of digits which have to be displayed in blue, Arial font, size 12 point (say), but can also be recognised as representing a commodity code.

In the context of Intrastat, XML could allow the same message format to be used from data input by a declarant (off-the-shelf browsers handle XML), to the integration of these data into databases at the CNA (more and more XML interfaces for DBMS are available or under development).

Ultimately, the use of XML could allow Intrastat data to be extracted automatically from the PSI’s information system, sent on-line to the CNA (using the Internet for example) and then integrated directly into the CNA’s database. The following diagram represents this example:

![Diagram](image)

The advantage for software developers is that they could offer added functionality in their packages which makes them more attractive to purchasers. The users could get simpler generation of administrative declarations which become quicker and cheaper for them, and the CNAs and Eurostat could get a higher percentage of electronic declarations.

4. **The Need for Action**

The first demands for designing an XML document for the Intrastat declaration are coming from the United Kingdom. HMC&E already collects Intrastat declarations via a web-form using HTML, and plans to upgrade the system to accept the declarations in XML. They plan...
to collaborate with BASDA (Business & Accounting Software Developers Association Ltd.) which intends to develop an Intrastat XML schema for the members of their Association.

In the future, we can expect to see further requirements from:

- CNAs who intend to implement an XML web-form for Intrastat,
- CNAs who intend to implement an XML interface to their database and need to collect the data directly in XML format,
- Software developers who want to generate an XML Intrastat declaration as an output of their commercial packages.

Clearly there is a fairly pressing need for an XML definition of the Intrastat message. If this can be made a European standard (i.e. an XML equivalent of CUSDEC/INSTAT) it will be to the advantage of both the administrations and the software developers, because the larger ones produce software which is used Europe-wide.

5. PROPOSED ACTION

Considering these existing and anticipated requirements, we propose that Eurostat and the Member States, working with EEG6/WG5, should initiate work to develop a European implementation guide of the Intrastat declaration in XML. This implementation guide would serve as the basis for software developments for Intrastat using XML, whether by MS administrations or independent software developers. It could also be the basis of a European standard and would occupy the same position as the current CUSDEC/INSTAT MIGs.

Objectives

The proposed objectives are:

a) To have a European implementation guide of the Intrastat declaration in XML by the end of this year at the latest;

b) To obtain the agreement of CNAs to use the implementation guide for any development involving XML for Intrastat.

Roles

The following organisational model is proposed:
EEG6/WG5 has a place in the European standards organisation and will provide the framework for the development of the standard (for the moment, France and United Kingdom are active members in EEG6/WG5, but membership is open).

Eurostat supports the work of EEG6/WG5, and its role will also be to work with the CNAs within the EEG6/WG5 framework.

The role of the CNAs will be to contribute to the development of the implementation guide if they wish, to ensure its adoption as the XML standard for Intrastat in their administrations and to interact with software developers and trade organisations in their countries interested in XML applications for Intrastat.

6. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The actions identified to achieve a European implementation guide of the Intrastat declaration in XML are:

1) **Develop the implementation guide according to the European and national rules.** This action needs to be expanded to a full implementation plan, and may include:

   - Developing an XML schema and prototypes. These would be based on the CUSDEC/INSTAT MIG. The aim would be to test and demonstrate the standard document and show the feasibility and benefits.
   - Specifying a stable data model for Intrastat to be mapped into XML, based on future standard recommendations (ebXML).

   This action is covered by a Eurostat-EDICOM contract supporting the work.

2) **Publish and promote the implementation guide.** The document would be made available for free to CNAs and software developers. Eurostat would take over this action.
3) **Maintain the implementation guide according to any change in XML or the Intrastat regulation.** This action is covered by the contract mentioned in item 1.

The actions identified to obtain the agreement of the CNAs to use the European implementation guide of the Intrastat declaration in XML are:

1) **Obtain the agreement of the delegates of EEG6/WG5** to work with Eurostat in the development of the implementation guide. France and United Kingdom are active members at the moment, others are welcome.

2) **Prepare a note to be sent to the EDICOM Task Force members** explaining the plan to develop the implementation guide, and inviting them to participate. This participation could be active in EEG6/WG5 or more passive in reviewing and commenting on the work results. This note could be prepared by Eurostat, United Kingdom and France and sent to the delegates in July 2000, inviting them to the EEG6/WG5 meeting in Paris (18-20 Sept. 2000).

**ANNEX**

This annex contains the documents which are the basis of this business case. These are three e-mails exchanged following the EEG6/WG5 meeting in Southend (19/05/2000), and a report about the collection of raw data from Enterprises.

- Mail from Jonathan Bates to Leonhard Maqua (Eurostat) - 24/05/2000
- Response from Leonhard Maqua to Jonathan Bates (Eurostat) - 30/05/2000
- Contribution from Antoine Egea (EEG6/WG5 convener, French Customs) on the definition issue of XML specifications for the implementation of the Intrastat declaration - 30/05/2000
- Collection of Raw Data from Enterprises by Uwe Kunzler and Jonathan Bates (Eurostat) - 26/05/2000 (STNE bulletin)

**GLOSSARY**

A glossary of technical terms used is given at the end of the document.
ANNEX

MAIL FROM JONATHAN BATES TO LEONHARD MAQUA (EUROSTAT) - 24/05/2000

I have kept out of this debate to date, but now I have been to the EEG6/WG5 meeting in Southend and know a bit more about it. I would like to offer the following comments.

BASDA is the British Accounting Software Developers Association. In other words, it is a non-profit making trade organisation. But it has a large membership - it represents 80% of accounting applications developers IN THE WORLD (including the big ones). Only 5% of these have an integrated EDI interface in their packages - the reason Dennis Keiling (BASDA’s Chief Executive) gave for this is that the software developers perceive standards such as EDIFACT to be ‘difficult and complicated’. Who are we to argue? It is these software developers who are asking BASDA for XML standards.

BASDA has developed an XML Schema for the Inland Revenue tax return. The Inland Revenue is the UK government department responsible for direct taxation, so their interest is primarily internal to the UK. BASDA has found the schema to be a better way to define the message than a DTD (and it can be converted automatically to a DTD if required). The electronic tax return will be available in a demo version in a few weeks, and Dennis Keiling says that it will be a world first for government e-commerce.

Now we come to the Intrastat part. As you know, HMC&E have an HTML/Javascript webform to collect Intrastat data. They are now interested in extending this to an XML implementation and BASDA has agreed to do some work within its existing Inland Revenue project to develop a prototype XML Schema for the UK Intrastat message. Working from the existing CSV file definition which HMC&E have already developed (and which is public on their web-site), they very quickly produced a schema. Dennis Keiling said that this took a matter of hours.

BASDA and HMC&E are keen to press ahead with this development and I have no doubt that it will progress rapidly, with us or without us.

The advantages for all are plain to see. The software developers get added functionality in their packages which makes them more attractive to purchasers, the users get simpler generation of administrative declarations which become quicker and cheaper for them, and the CNAs and Eurostat get a higher percentage of electronic declarations (we don’t need to repeat the advantages of this here).

But, as I pointed out in the meeting, the Intrastat schema they have developed is based on SEMDEC and is for the UK message only and it would be more useful if it covered the whole Intrastat message (i.e if it was based on the CUSDEC/INSTAT MIG). Fortunately for us, it would be more useful to them too because BASDA’s larger members produce software which is used Europe- (and even world-) wide, and as the MS CNAs progressively adopt XML data collection systems they don’t want to be repeatedly adding additional and different XML schemas to their software packages.
We have a choice to make - and to me it seems simple. Either we ignore the work that HMC&E and BASDA are doing and insist on the moratorium (incidently, it is Dennis Keiling’s view that ebXML will not achieve anything useful very soon), or we seek to influence what they are doing to ensure that it is as useful to us as possible (but NB: as Uwe has already pointed out, ALL this discussion concerns trade standards, not official standards). If we ignore it, they will press ahead quickly and implement an XML schema for use with UK data collection systems. The larger prize of a usable European Intrastat schema will be lost.

If we co-operate with them, we will end up with a European schema which software developers are more likely to integrate into their packages (because it is European and not just UK), and which should ultimately lead to an increased use of EDI for statistical data collection.

We have to ask ourselves what we are really interested in. Are we interested in developing standards for the sake of standards, or are we interested in increasing the use of EDI in the statistical cycle? For me it is clear that statistics are our core business and we are interested in standards only as a tool to improve their quality.

Antoine Egea, Sylvie Colas and I agreed at the meeting last Friday to co-operate with them to the extent that EEG6/WG5 will provide any information and advice they need and will review (and maybe ultimately approve) the schema they produce.

RESPONSE FROM LEONHARD MAQUA TO JONATHAN BATES (EUROSTAT) - 30/05/2000

As it is really easy to develop an XML schema for nearly any type of data structure, it seems very straightforward to simply proceed and implement it. The disadvantage of this practice, however, is that there will be thousands of different schemata with very different approaches, confusing because the same things would be expressed differently in each schema, and no off-the-shelf software available supporting your messages.

That is the point where ebXML steps in: With the participation of ANSI, BIZTALK, DIN, EAN, EDIFER, EDIFICAS, EDIFRANCE, ISO, OASIS, ROSETTANET, SWIFT, UN/CEFACT and W3C (to name only the standardisation bodies) plus all major industry players they really will set standards supported by the software industry. They have to be fast, but the participants know that this is their once-in-a-lifetime chance.

I'm just back from the Internet and e-Business Europe conference, where I could get a good impression of what is the situation in the industry. My answers to your comments are as follows:

1. With thinking of XML, you are of course on the good way. XML is a standard, which will last for a very long time (imagine decades rather than years), and suitable for much more than just EDI.

2. The way to protect your investment is to invest in a good data model. Once you have this data model, the mapping to a certain standard is easy, and even the conversion between two standards.

3. Having said this, my recommendation is quite obvious: Try to influence the data model for the Intrastat message. Do not get involved in the mere XML implementation (like tag-
naming), but have also an eye on the coding used. So you will be able to benefit from the work done in the UK without breaking the moratorium; and with ebXML going life next year you will have the choice either to make the existing message ebXML compliant or to implement your data model directly in an ebXML compliant schema (the mapping from the UK schema to our schema should be simple).

4. I fully agree with you that we need co-ordination between the raw data team and the EDI standardisation team, and I propose to use one of our Wednesday unit meetings to this.

CONTRIBUTION FROM ANTOINE EGEA (EEG6/WG5 CONVENER, FRENCH CUSTOMS) ON THE DEFINITION ISSUE OF XML SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTRASTAT DECLARATION - 30/05/2000

DGDDI – Bureau C/1

Paris, 30 May 2000

REFLECTIONS ON THE DEFINITION ISSUE OF XML SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTRASTAT DECLARATION

The WG5 meeting, which was held in Southend (UK) on May 19, was, in my view, very profitable for all the participants, and it appears significant to me that the questions, which were raised, should make the subject of a broader discussion with Eurostat and the national administrations.

Firstly, it gave the possibility to have a view on the various solutions in Intrastat web-forms and their progress. In this field, it is important that the Member States exchange their experiences and think with Eurostat about the best way of co-ordinating these actions and using common tools (access to the CN8 for example, within the framework of EDICOM 2?).

Secondly and more importantly, this meeting allowed to widen the reflection, to question about the issue of the use of XML as a standard for exchange and to consider the respective roles of the Member States, Eurostat and the software companies in the standardisation process and the development of tools intended to ease the task of the PSIs.

It was noted that there is a broad consensus on the interest to consider XML as the language and the standard of exchange for the next years and the need for using a data model in conformity with the requirements of the Intrastat regulation and the national administrations. The XML Web language allows integrating the flow of information between the providers and the administrations, since the data entry by a declarant, in line or asynchronous mode, until the integration into the databases of the foreign trade.

In addition, we noted a growing interest of the software publishers and a lot of products already integrating XML, even if the constant evolution of this language remains a significant obstacle for its dissemination.

As WG5, our role consists not only in defining one data model for the Intrastat declaration, but also in proposing an XML structure for example an XML schema, in conformity with national
and community regulations, available to the Member States and software companies which would wish to develop tools.

The responsibility for Eurostat (and the WG5) is also to maintain this structure according to any change of the regulation or evolution of the XML standard and to ensure its broader dissemination, without any commercial considerations. The respective roles of Eurostat on one side and private companies on the other side are distinct and complementary.

The role of Eurostat is to define specifications in conformity with its own needs and those of the national administrations. The role of the software companies is to implement these specifications in order to develop tools corresponding to the demand of their customers. It is not the responsibility of a company to define a schema corresponding to the needs of the administration, but it is the responsibility of Eurostat to work out, as quickly as possible, the specifications corresponding to its domain of activity, i.e. the intra-community statistics.

This work is already a part of the WG5 work programme and the increasing interest shown by our colleagues in the Member States and in particular in United Kingdom, encourages us to respect the proposed calendar.

I thus propose to take the opportunity of the next EEG6/WG5 in Paris to involve all the Member States, to demonstrate them through a prototype the interest of XML solutions and the work already done within the WG5 and in other Member States. The XML draft schema could then be achieved and provided to the Member States for comment and validated during the next EEG6/WG5 and the EDICOM Task force.

As a conclusion, taking into account Jonathan and our British colleagues’ proposals, I fully agree for a close co-operation with the commercial companies, software publishers and trade associations of any kind, if we keep the whole responsibility of the specifications and if these specifications are published in order to put private firms a situation of equality.

What do you think about this?

Antoine EGEA

COLLECTION OF RAW DATA FROM ENTERPRISES BY UWE KUNZLER AND JONATHAN BATES (EUROSTAT) – 26/05/2000 (STNE BULLETIN)

COLLECTION OF RAW DATA FROM ENTERPRISES

Jonathan.Bates@cec.eu.int
Uwe.Kunzler@cec.eu.int
Eurostat – 26 May 2000
Enterprises have to report statistical (and other) data to administrations. Enterprises are highly interested in automating this process. What they want is a system of Electronic Data Reporting (EDR), which saves time and money.

Administrations collect statistical (and other) data from enterprises. Administrations are very keen to automate this process. They would like a system of Electronic Collection of Raw Data (eCoRD), which saves time and money.

EDR and eCoRD are two names for the same process, depending on where you are standing. Both parties involved, enterprises and administrations, can save a lot of money. A few of the benefits are listed here:

- Automation makes the data gathering and formatting within the enterprise by far faster.
- Data arriving in electronic format can be input directly to the administration’s IT system.
- Automated procedures may include validations making data less error-prone.
- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) accelerates the data transfer.

THE PROBLEM FOR ENTERPRISES

Enterprises report data on forms (we ignore here other ways of reporting like interviews). Forms may be completed within the enterprise or by a third party acting on behalf of the enterprise. Examples of third parties are accountants or professional associations.

In the past paper forms had to be filled in manually. A first step in automating the process was to use computers to print forms completed with data. The second step is a natural progression: instead of printing data on paper it can be copied on magnetic media like diskettes or tapes which then can be sent by mail. Automation step number three is sending data on-line via modem-to-modem connections or computer networks like the Internet.

Nowadays many enterprises use business software to manage their activities. These business software systems hold most of the data requested by administrations. A logical progression is to take the data from these electronic sources, a process that can be largely automated.

THE PROBLEM FOR ADMINISTRATIONS

Raw data has to be fed into the administrations’ IT systems for further processing. Keying in data from paper forms is very resource intensive and error-prone. Automation is possible through Optical or even Intelligent Character Recognition (OCR, ICR). But even better, is for data to arrive in electronic format as it requires no transcription.

While magnetic media (diskettes, tapes) still need some manual treatment, on-line reporting leads to total automation of the input process. Administrations have to describe in detail the electronic format in which they expect data.

Format standards like EDIFACT or XML allow further economies if tools readily available on the market can be used for data processing. This is also true for enterprises where off-the-shelf
software supporting standard formats may be used to generate and send reports to administrations. XML is expected to become a widely accepted standard for data reporting, including the reporting of statistics.

**EXISTING SOLUTIONS**

There were a number of Electronic Data Reporting projects in the past years at EU and national level. We will have a closer look at some of them.

Projects in statistical areas with a strong legal background were particular successful. Intrastat, the statistical system for trade between EU Member States, may be cited as an example. Trading enterprises are legally obliged to report their trade within the EU to the competent national administrations on a monthly basis.

Eurostat has developed an Intrastat software package for enterprises, named **IDEP/CN8** (Intrastat Data Entry Package with the Combined Nomenclature at 8 digit level). IDEP/CN8 is used by more than 36,500 enterprises in 12 EU Member States. Another package, **IRIS** (Interactive Registration for International trade Statistics), developed by CBS, the Dutch Statistical Office, is used in Germany and the Netherlands by about 15,000 enterprises.

Both IDEP/CN8 and IRIS, allow data to be entered manually or to be imported from other systems like business software systems. IDEP/CN8 and IRIS format the data as required by the relevant administrations. Data may be sent on diskette or via a telecommunications link. In the case of IDEP/CN8 an EDIFACT format is applied – CUSDEC/INSTAT, the Intrastat subset of the Customs Declaration message.

CBS has developed a next generation solution – **EDISENT** (EDI between Statistics and ENTerprises) in close co-operation with other Member States within the EU-funded research programme. Like IDEP/CN8 or IRIS, EDISENT is a software package supporting enterprises in their duty to report data to administrations. Unlike IDEP/CN8 or IRIS, EDISENT can contain several questionnaires (forms) for different administrative purposes. Furthermore, EDISENT is able to fill-in questionnaires automatically with data from other systems e.g. the firm’s accounting system. For this purpose it can be linked to any kind of accounting system provided that it has export facilities. The output format (as well as the encryption function and the choice of transport media) is very flexible, as the transport layer is implemented on a modular base. EDISENT has already been applied using RDRMES (EDIFACT) and tested with XML. EDISENT is only available for a Windows platform.

A new option has appeared recently with the now ubiquitous Internet, or more precisely, the World-Wide Web (WWW). **Web-forms** can be used for on-line declaration, especially for short questionnaires. Some Member State administrations offer web-forms for statistical declaration. This option has proved very attractive for small and medium-sized enterprises.

**OUTLOOK**

The future for raw data collection lies in three directions – integrated EDI, the Internet and automatic extraction.
Firstly, the future should see an increase in the number of commercially available business management software packages that have an integrated module to make statistical declarations electronically. Administrations need to continue to encourage software developers to provide statistical EDI modules in their products, working in partnership with software developers, trade organisations and other administrations wherever possible.

Secondly, we can expect an increase in the use of web-forms for the collection of statistical data. As the cost of telecommunications drops and the use of Internet technologies becomes more widespread amongst smaller enterprises this will become an increasingly popular and cost effective way of collecting raw statistical data. Administrations need to develop the infrastructure and skills to be able to deliver their surveys in this way.

Thirdly, the emergence of XML standards will facilitate both of these trends. The real prizes come with automatic extraction of the statistical data from an enterprise’s existing information systems. To achieve this requires the development of standards for the data required and the questionnaires themselves. XML offers the possibility of achieving this, and projects such as IQML (Intelligent Questionnaire Mark-up Language) offer the means to develop the standards.

**MORE INFORMATION…**

- IDEP/CN8 and web-forms: [http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/edicom/library](http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/edicom/library)
- Community Research & Development Information Service: [http://www.cordis.lu/](http://www.cordis.lu/)
- Information Society Website: [http://www.ispo.cec.be/](http://www.ispo.cec.be/)
- IQML: [http://www.e pros.ed.ac.uk/](http://www.e pros.ed.ac.uk/)
## GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANSI</td>
<td>American National Standards Institute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDA</td>
<td>Business &amp; Accounting Software Developers’ Association Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BizTalk</td>
<td>Industry initiative started by Microsoft and supported by a wide range of organizations. BizTalk is a community of standards users, with the goal of driving the rapid, consistent adoption of XML to enable electronic commerce and application integration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Dutch Statistical Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNA</td>
<td>Competent National Administration compiling statistics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CoRD</td>
<td>Collection of Raw Data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSV</td>
<td>Comma-Separated Values. Data format for any kind of data; data items are separated by commas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUSDEC</td>
<td>EDIFACT message format for customs declaration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUSDEC/INSTAT</td>
<td>EDIFACT message format for Intrastat declaration, subset of CUSDEC. Maintained by EEG6/WG5. Accepted in all EU Member States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declarant</td>
<td>Company providing statistical information (see PSI), or an agent doing this for other companies (see TDP).</td>
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<tr>
<td>DBMS</td>
<td>Data Base Management System.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DTD</td>
<td>Document Type Declaration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAN International</td>
<td>Association of Suppliers and Retailers for the development of communication standards: EDI and Bar Code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBES</td>
<td>European Board for EDI Standardization. EBES standardization work is carried out by a number of EBES Expert Groups (EEG). See for example EEG6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EbXML</td>
<td>Electronic Business XML Working Group (UN/CEFACT and OASIS). EbXML working group develops a technical framework that will enable XML to be used in a consistent manner for exchanging all electronic business data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDI</td>
<td>Electronic Data Interchange.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name/Acronym</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDICOM</td>
<td>Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for Commerce. Community programme supporting Intrastat through automation and electronic data interchange. EDICOM projects are carried out by the competent administrations at national and Community level. Eursotat is responsible for co-ordinating the EDICOM programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDIFACT</td>
<td>Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport. UN and ISO standard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDIFICAS</td>
<td>EDI in Finance, Accounting, Audit, Fiscal and Social domains. European and national associations of accountants and auditors promoting the use of EDI in the accounting area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDIFRANCE</td>
<td>EDI and Electronic Commerce French national association.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDISENT</td>
<td>EDI between Statistics and Enterprises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEG6</td>
<td>EBES Expert Group 6. Statistical Experts Group within EBES. EEG6 studies are primarily carried out by Working Groups (WG), each group concentrating on a particular aspect relating to the collection or the dissemination of statistics. Example: EEG6/WG5 – Exchange of External Trade Statistics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMC&amp;E</td>
<td>Her Majesty's Customs and Excise. Customs in the United Kingdom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEP/CN8</td>
<td>Intrastat Data Entry Package with the Combined Nomenclature at 8 digit level. Software package for Intrastat declaration, currently used by more than 35,000 companies in 12 EU Member States.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IQML</td>
<td>Intelligent Questionnaire Mark-up Language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRIS</td>
<td>Interactive Registration for International trade Statistics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>Global network connecting millions of computers. Services offered by the internet include e-mail, file transfer, WWW, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intrastat</td>
<td>Intra-Community Trade Statistics. Statistical system relating to the trading of goods between EU Member States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO</td>
<td>International Organization for Standardization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIG</td>
<td>UN/EDIFACT Message Implementation Guideline.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OASIS</td>
<td>Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards. OASIS is an international consortium working on structured information processing like SGML, XML, HTML and CGM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSI</td>
<td>Provider of Statistical Information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name/Acronym</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROSETTANET</td>
<td>World-wide initiative created by Trading Partners in Information Technology and Electronic components in order to develop e-business tools (in particular supply chain processes based on XML).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMDEC or CUSDEC/SEMDEC</td>
<td>Single European Market Declaration. EDIFACT message format, subset of CUSDEC. Used in the United Kingdom for Intrastat declaration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web browser</td>
<td>Software application to access the World Wide Web.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG5</td>
<td>See EEG6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Wide Web</td>
<td>Also known as “the Web”. Internet service offering access to multi-media documents (web pages, web documents) on remote computers (websites, web servers) through a specific web-access software (web browser).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWW</td>
<td>World Wide Web.</td>
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</tbody>
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