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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE  
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**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
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STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

**Work Session on Statistical Metadata**

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**Topic (i): Metadata standards and models**

**Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM)**

**Working Paper**

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**I. Introduction**

1. Across the world statistical organizations undertake similar activities, albeit with variation in the processes each uses. Each of these activities use and produce similar information (for example all agencies use classifications, create data sets and publish products). Although the information used by statistical organizations is at its core the same, all organizations tend to describe this information slightly differently (and often in different ways within each organization). There has not been, until recently, any common means to describe the information we use.
2. The Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) is a conceptual model that provides a set of standardized, consistently-described information objects, which are the inputs and outputs in the design and production of statistics. GSIM must be implementable. In order to support the implementation of GSIM, known standards and tools have also been examined, to ensure that the reference framework is complete and useful in this respect. The relationship between GSIM and other models and standards is two-fold. The standards and models serve as inputs to the creation of GSIM, and also act as targets for the use of GSIM within organizations.
3. Accelerating the development of the GSIM was agreed as a key priority by a workshop with representatives of over 20 expert groups in 2011. A number of “sprint” sessions were held during 2012 that brought together 12-15 experts in statistical production, methodology, information technology, standards and modelling.
4. This presentation will introduce GSIM, explain how it was developed and how this work fits within the broader programme of work on the modernisation of official statistics.
5. For further information, please consult the GSIM Communication Paper at <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/metis/GSIM+Communication+Paper>.