Room Document 7

4 (a): Recent developments in OECD and OECD candidate countries

17-19 September 2007
Salle des Nations
Tour Europe

This report is for information and discussion in the Joint session.

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Framework for country responses to Agenda item 4: recent developments in OECD and OECD candidate countries

2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies

a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:

CAN	Statistics Canada conducted a review of quality assurance practices of key economic statistics programs, including Merchandise Trade. The recommendations of this panel resulted in funding for several initiatives intended to strengthen the quality of trade statistics: 1. Strengthening our production and processing analysis functions 2. Strengthening our analytical and press release unit 3. Supplementing areas about to lose key employees to retirement
CZE	o Development of a new control system that enables better procedures for error detection and correction and interactive communication between the CZSO and the Customs Administration of CR o Development of an on-line application for providing Intastat data
DEU	o Germany has introduced a distribution of its estimations on HS-2 level for Eurostat and plans to modify the estimations procedures also on national level. o Furthermore a foreign trade map server was introduced which displays interactively the geographical distribution of the German foreign trade according to the needs of the user of our so called "foreign trade atlas.
DNK	Implementation of a new error detection algorithm with focus on both the degree of error and the effect on statistics to focus on the most important errors. This has led to more corrections and less contacts to enterprises.
EST	Webform for collecting information about intra-EU trade (INTRASTAT)
GBR	o An EDICOM Quality project was undertaken, which was concerned with the credibility checking of trade statistics data (i.e. checking data that is not incorrect but improbable). Work on this project began with a visit by three UK delegates to Finland and Sweden to gain an understanding the data quality procedures used in these countries. As a result of these visits, a contract was awarded to Amadeus to rewrite a program which calculates credibility checking parameters based on historic data. This program was considerably enhanced by using more advanced statistical methods. A new Risk database was also introduced and is now fully operational; this helps us target resource on data checking and cleaning. o SAD Harmonisation is a major step by the European Union (EU) toward aligning and harmonising the rules for completion of the SAD Customs declarations across all EU Member States. It introduces changes to the way that import, export, warehousing, transit and community status declarations are completed. All appropriate changes have been incorporated into our statistical data collection systems in order that the reduction in the data collected will have the least impact upon the time series and other outputs. SAD harmonisation is currently scheduled to come into effect from October 2007.
GRC	During the last 18 months the following actions were developed: o Implementation of a web-based tool that will enable the easy browsing, searching and retrieval of CN codes. o Development and testing of a prototype web-based system for validating and transmitting data to Eurostat and a full-scale implementation of the XT-NET rules support system. o Exercise on the reconciliation between Balance of Payment and Foreign Trade Statistics.
HUN	- Two actions for the improvement of Intrastat data quality o Action 1. For improving the national validation system of Intrastat system. Further ways of

	credibility checking were introduced and supporting IT tools developed both at item and aggregated level o Action 2. Further development of the data checking system and handling of credibility errors. Development of a workflow system for increasing the efficiency of the work of company referents. This action is under way - Plan in cooperation with the customs authority to increase the efficiency of validation of non-EU trade data, by filtering out some errors already at the customs authority
ISL	Statistics Iceland's ongoing projects (with the Ministry of Finance and the Customs Authorities) to improve timeliness and quality
ITA	o Last year ISTAT put in place a working group to improve the quality of the process of both editing and imputation of Italian Trade Extra-UE Statistics. Based on a two years long time series, we established a new methodology to flag and correct potentially incorrect data, at CN8 level. At this stage, the analyzed variable has been the unit value (value/quantity in kg). This method is actually applied monthly since January 2007 data, and great improvements were achieved in both the data check system and data quality. In the coming months, using a longer time series, continuously incremented by monthly data, we will improve this methodology by using more detailed breakdowns within each CN8 code (e.g. countries and operators). o Besides, we are going to develop a similar method to be applied to Italian Trade UE Statistics.
MEX	o Update of the multidimensional data consultation through INEGI's website with the Merchandise Trade Statistics in an annual basis for the period 1998-2006 (available in the following link: *http://www.inegi.gob.mx/est/default.aspx?c=6795*) o INEGI's will continue providing Monthly Statistics of International Trade with HS Classification. On the other hand, the North American Transportation Statistics On-Line Database (NATS-OD) was updated on November 2006; also the following update will take place on November 2007.
POL	Customs Administration developed specialised unit in the framework of CAAC – Analytical Canter of Customs Administration, which is responsible only for generation of statistical dataset concerning foreign trade statistics. Establishment of such unit resulted in increase of efficiency as regards usage of available human and equipment resources. In order to improve the quality of service and help for providers of statistical information for INTRASTAT system Central Help-Desk has been established. Help Desk is responsible for providing help for PSI's from the whole territory of Poland. Help Desk operates in the framework of Polish Customs Administration, Customs Chamber in Katowice.
SWE	CN at 8-digit level is again published in SSD (Sweden´s Statistical Databases)
USA	o **Foreign Trade Zones E-214** Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ) are geographical areas within the United States where merchandise entered is treated as if it were outside U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) territory. In July 2007, the Foreign Trade Division (FTD) of the U.S. Census Bureau (Census) in conjunction with CBP began the collection, processing and publishing of FTZ import admissions data through the Automated Commercial System. This new automated source of reporting, called the E-214 program, ensures that the data are more accurate by informing the filers of incorrect or incomplete reporting at the time of data submission. Furthermore, the FTD receives these data earlier, which allows for compiling the data quickly for analysis and ensures that data are included in the correct statistical month. The FTD is expecting improvements in the quality and coverage of the FTZ admissions data when the companies filing the FTZ admissions data through the other two existing sources (paper documents and automated FTZ reporting program) start converting to this new source of reporting. o **Processing of the annual Related Party Press Release and new interactive data website**.

	During the past year, the FTD developed and produced a new related party trade data interactive website. The FTD was receiving a growing number of requests from government and private customers for additional related party trade statistics. The annual press release of these data was limited in that it could only provide selected information for the current and prior year. Responding to these requests in a timely fashion was resulting in an increased burden on staff resources, and the FTD charged customers for the cost of the services. Implementation of the interactive website resulted in providing data users with a higher quality of customer service. Customers now can directly and immediately access the data needed, eliminating all their costs and time delays involved in requesting special tabulations. At the same time the FTD is able to operate more efficiently and at less cost. Relevance of related party data and the usefulness of the interactive website continue to be high, as measured by the number of hits on the website, averaging over 800 per month since May 2007.

b) Particular analytical and research work, e.g.:

- ⇒ **e.g. reconciliation exercises Customs - BoP**
- ⇒ **Fob imports**
- ⇒ **mirror exercises**
- ⇒ **import contents of exports,**
- ⇒ **other methodological research**

If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (maximum 3):

CAN	o Measurement of the undercoverage of exports to non-U.S. destinations, in light of changed Customs regulations. Early estimates indicate Customs have been successful in reducing the problem for the marine mode: o Reconciliation of Canada and Russia trade statistics. Project is underway o Processing analysis studies (e.g. effect of new Customs programs on the timing of reporting and the size of revisions). Studies have resulted in Customs addressing our timeliness concerns with large traders o Studies of the impact of rapid exchange rate changes on trade data. (STC – BoP Division)
CHE	Contacts with the involved pharmaceutical companies turned out, that during its manufacturing a medicament can cross the customs frontier several times. In the trade statistics each single crossing of the frontier is collected with the total amount.
CZE	o The CZSO and the Czech National Bank participate in the Eurostat's Task Force on the Reconciliation between Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade Statistics. o To meet needs of BoP compilers, FOB imports and transport and insurance costs (both for imports and exports) were calculated. Calculation procedures were based on coefficients defined for 11 groups of countries (in dependence on the distance from CZ) according to delivery terms and mode of transport. The coefficients were calculated from the data obtained from SADs for the year 2003 and four months of the year 2004 (before the accession of CZ to the EU). o Mirror exercises with Germany and the Slovak Republic took place in 2007 to identify asymmetries and their causes for 2006 data. They will continue in the future. o Participation in the WG Intrastat simplification (Eurostat) and in the Neighbouring cooperation project for Intrastat simplification: the aim of these activities is to investigate possibilities (single flow, changing of thresholds etc.) for Intrastat simplification by bearing in mind both reduction of response burden and data quality and user needs.
DEU	o Extensive research on the effects and preconditions of a single flow system and other

	simplification measures like the change of the exemption threshold for intra-community trade in the EU was undertaken. Germany favours the rise of the threshold. o Studies on the improvement of the estimation procedures as well as on the revision procedures were undertaken and are currently analyzed for the implementation. o Currently mirror exercises with China, Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia are carried out. There are no results yet on the later three. First results of the exercise with China are presented at the meeting.
EST	To identify the burden caused by Intrastat system to data providers. For intra-EU transactions, companies must report specific declarations about their trade instead of customs declarations. The study aimed to examine the situation concerning reporting burden in Estonia and to work out plans to reduce the burden and make system more effective. The results were sent to Eurostat that is responsible for developing Intrastat system.
GBR	o **Missing Trader Intra-Community Fraud (MTIC**). The project started last year completed a review of the methodology and has since developed to monitor the effects of reverse charging. o **Proposed methods of identifying potential money laundering using over- and under-priced trade in goods.** Following the FATF conference the UK Home Office set up a project to identify ways in which under and over invoicing of goods could be seen from the trade in goods declarations. This developed and reviewed methods of highlighting areas of potential money laundering. As a follow up the UK are involved with the USA DARTTS project. o **Mirror exercise with Latvia** to improve data quality A joint piece of work with the Latvians helped to identify some anomalies in the asymmetries which then led to corrections which improved the quality of the data. o **We are planning a bilateral study with Ireland** on asymmetries.
GRC	o Implementation of a web accessible CN-search tool; provide assistance to enterprises for identification and retrieval of appropriate CN codes; enhancement of web-based Intrastat application with added-value services. o Implementation of a large-scale project for the development of an advanced web portal, which will enhance the current dissemination system, providing flexibility to its users. This new web portal will also provide for the application and implementation of additional applications based on new technologies like XML – based systems and web services. Also, implementation of XT-NET rules support system to develop common open modules for system interoperability and integration and production of error-free validated datasets. o To help BoP compilers to monitor the transition from FTS to BoP; to reduce unexplained differences between the value of goods shown in BoP and FTS.
HUN	o Simplification of Intrastat: Action for the examination of effects of single flow system and raise of threshold. Action starts in September 2007 o Mirror studies with Germany and Slovakia. Main objectives are to improve the quality of trade data by decreasing asymmetries and examine the effects of one-flow data collecting system. German study is under implementation, Slovak study starts in 2008
IRL	Working to improve the trade price indices by improving the unit value price estimates and trying to identify and incorporate other sources of price information into our index calculation
ITA	o There is a Task Force in Eurostat to improve this work (reconciliation exercises where are represented Istat and UIC (Italian exchange office). o Import contents of exports: Adoption of new method based on Supply Matrix in National Accounts o A **new UVI** series will be soon released; according to the Intrastat Regulation regarding supplementary units, improvements have been made in terms of level of details of elementary indexes (now at country-CN 8-digit level) and in terms of outlier detection and correction. o Istat participates, since the beginning of 2007, to a specific Working Group (WG) hosted by Eurostat, dealing with **Intrastat simplification**. Substantially, this was set up under a strong political pressure, to release as many as possible small and medium enterprises from Intrastat

	reporting obligations. Two different options have been studied in details (single flow and higher exemption thresholds), with the main focus being to estimate the potential impact of each option on data quality. The WG found that higher thresholds would be the best compromise to tackle the trade off between simplification and data quality. ISTAT supported this option with some simulation on its data. Besides, since 2006, Istat applied the simplification on the variable "quantity", allowed by the latest modification in the European Legislation. Indeed, since January 2006, for NC8 codes that foresee supplementary unit the information on quantity is not obligatory anymore. o **Centralised Customs Clearance –** ISTAT participates in EUROSTAT Committee on Trade Statistics , where the possibility of the application of a Centralised Customs Clearance is being discussed from a statistical point of view. We consider that this simplified system makes it necessary to determine more precisely the procedures, the interested actors and the definition of data sources which should be used for compiling statistics on external Trade. This operation is available only under a modernised and harmonised transmission system between EU countries(Customs, INS and PSI).
MEX	In the North American Transportation Statistics Interchange Mexico (INEGI and the Secretariat of Transportation and Communications), Canada and the United States, started on June 2007 an update of the reconciliation study for our International Merchandise Trade Statistics released on 2000 to get robust technical notes about the current discrepancies in the southbound and the northbound between the three countries.
NLD	o External trade and transport flows: In this project transport statistics and external trade statistics are integrated. The outcome is a consistent database on international good flows to, through and from the Netherlands for 2004, making a distinction (in the near future) between domestically produced exports, re-exports and real transit. This will contribute to an improved understanding of the impact of merchandize trade and transit flows on the economy. The project was funded by Eurostat. The project will be continued: more years, refinements, improvements. o Mirror exercises: Asymmetries. From 1-1-2006 up to 30-6-2007 Statistics Netherlands carried out asymmetry-analyses with both Belgium and Denmark. Several bilateral trade asymmetries were identified, investigated and some were resolved (data changed and asymmetries were eliminated). Reasons for the successful removal of asymmetries are the access to VIES-data (European Sales List) as well as the COBRA-contract (project which allows Statistics Netherlands, Danmark Statistik and National Bank of Belgium to exchange detailed PSI information in order to improve statistical quality). The project was funded by Eurostat. o Reconciliation exercises Customs – BoP: A reconciliation table FTS – BoP was made up for 2004 and 2005. The Reconciliation Table BoP/FTS is an integral part of the Balance of Payments Quality report. This table was filled for the first time.
POL	o Data for BoP are collected from commodity statistical collection. Additional estimations are made with agreement with foreign trade statistic. o We conduct mirror exercises with Russian Federation. There were two meetings, when we straighten out discrepancy in statistical data. In the framework of asymmetric statistic we conduct research with Germany and Lithuania. o In the framework of methodological research we plan to conduct research on determine FOB indicator for import. Such a work should begin in Year 2006/2007. Actually we are waiting for Eurostat decision in which direction will go planned simplification in Intrastat system. That will determine scale and scope of our future research.
SVK	o Calculation of CIF/FOB value (from invoiced amount within Intrastat system) by using new coefficients created after survey of ancillary cost o Mirror excecises with Czech Republic and Germany o Pilot processing of import and export price indices
SWE	o **Revision project**

	The objective of the project was to examine the reasons for large revisions in published foreign trade statistics. This was made according to main products by activity (according to CPA) for previous deliveries to the Swedish National Accounts. Actions to decrease the amount of revisions were presented as well as recommendations to use results of similar studies in the early stage checking procedures. o **Survey on statistical values** Data in the Swedish Intrastat system are collected on invoiced value instead of on statistical value, for reasons of simplicity. The invoiced value collected is then converted to the statistical value using special conversion factors. The conversion factors are calculated using a sample survey carried out some years ago by Statistics Sweden. The new study should carry out a survey in which statistical values are collected from all larger respondents, combined with a sample of smaller enterprises. Results will be available in March 2008. o **Increased automatic processes for partial non-response in Intrastat** The overall objective with this project is to improve the accuracy of the collected invoiced value at enterprise level and to introduce statistical methods to detect incomplete reporting. Another objective is to make the production process and the manual checking of enterprises that is carried out today more efficient and more rational. The manual checking of enterprises can largely be replaced by automatic imputation. Results will be available in March 2008
USA	o **United States – China Reconciliation** Census has been working with the Chinese government on a merchandise trade reconciliation covering data years 2000, 2004 and 2006 under the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) Trade Statistics Working Group. This group was established at the April 2004 JCCT meeting to facilitate bilateral discussion of economic and trade statistics. The goal of the analytical team is to develop a joint report to explain and quantify differences in the US - Chinese bilateral merchandise trade statistics. The third and most recent meeting of the group was held in April 2006 in Beijing. We discussed the outcomes of the analysis of eastbound data (China exports, U.S. imports) that had been exchanged for 2000 and 2004, and agreed to investigate differences in Chinese export prices and U.S. import prices for direct shipments to the United States. In September 2006, we exchanged westbound data for 2000 and 2004. In 2007, Census completed a preliminary westbound analysis. We agreed to add data year 2006 to the overall reconciliation study, and we are tentatively scheduled to meet in the United States in October of 2007 to discuss the analysis results. o **Automated Edit Parameter Updates** In order to ensure the quality of the published merchandise trade data, the FTD edits the reported data by using a set of edit parameters. Historically, subject-matter analysts have manually updated these parameters that are based on commodity. However, there are roughly 10,000 export and 17,000 import commodity classifications, all of which may be edited against 30 or more different parameters that must be maintained individually for each commodity. Manually maintaining effective parameters has become increasingly challenging. As a result, FTD has been researching a new way of automating updates to the edit parameters. In order to develop an automated system to refresh edit parameters, we wanted to select a methodology that would determine an acceptable range of data values by commodity, since all of our editing is done on a commodity basis. We selected an outlier-detection method known as Resistant Fences, which develops edit parameters based on the distribution of data for a particular commodity. The philosophy behind the Resistant Fences method is that the majority of data are reported accurately, so by looking at the bulk of the data, one can develop reasonable parameters (called fences) that would be able to detect unusual data values. The methodology could be applied to most commodities (except those with historically poor reporting), for either imports or

	exports, and any edit parameter for which there is a sufficient amount of data. As newer data become available, the parameters can be updated using this methodology, and this process can be automated. This would allow our commodity analysts to spend less time updating parameters and to have more time for contacting data filers and correcting misreported data. Additionally, our updated parameters would be more current and accurate, resulting in improvements to the quality of our published data. We are continuing to test and refine this methodology. With the help of several commodity analysts, we were able to identify those commodities that are sensitive or often misreported, and thus, these parameters were not eligible for updating using this methodology for fear of producing edit parameters based on incorrect data. Beginning in May 2006, we implemented an update to eligible export unit price (value/quantity) edit parameters for commodities from five out of eight commodity groupings (or sections). Since that time, we have noticed that several commodities receiving the update have experienced changes in the rates at which we impute shipping weight and quantity. We are currently developing a plan to monitor the effects of these new parameters on our imputation rates to gain a further understanding of the methodology and its limitations on the interdependencies of our edits. We are also planning to evaluate using this methodology on other edits, including minimum and maximum shipping weight edits, with the intention of phasing in an implementation of this methodology for other edits over the next few years o **Low Value Estimation Research** The United States does not require importers and exporters to file documents for shipments valued less than a specified exemption level. Currently, the exemption levels are $250 for imports of certain products under quota, $2,000 for other imports and $2,500 for exports. The FTD estimates the total value of trade beneath the exemption level for each country based upon historical patterns of trade. The data upon which this methodology is based are very old and do not reflect recent shifts in trading patterns. The FTD has determined that the most significant change in trading affecting low value statistics is the increase in the small-package courier industry. Thus, the FTD is researching the possibility of developing a low value estimate for courier trade to include with the current low value estimate.

c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of trade and business statistics (interoperability of registers):

CAN	o Exporter register data for 2005 were released (now 1993 to 2005 are available) o Importer register data for 2002-2004 are now available
DEU	o The Federal Statistical Office is currently building up a trade register for extra-community trade, which until now was not available and which only allowed to do links between intra-community trade and the business register. o In addition to the build-up of a combined business register for intra- and extra-community trade, the Federal Statistical Office is currently reprogramming the matching programme between intra-community trade to improve the coverage, validity, and integrity of the sectoral foreign trade data.
GBR	Work has progressed on the linking of HMRC held trade data and the National Business Register for the period 2004. Working with the National Business Register owners a provisional data match and draft methodology has been constructed. Further analysis and quality checking is required before specific outputs are created and the data can be released for dissemination.
HUN	o The two registers are connected, trade register is renewed every month from business register o Export data of the two statistics are compared each month at enterprise level, for data validation o There is an annual comparison of the data at product level

	o Data of international trade statistics are annually examined and analysed according to the business statistics categories
ISR	o We have detailed tables of Exports and Imports by ISIC industries (of exporters and importers), with BOP adjusted data. Owing to the fact that there are common register numbers of companies for data coming from Customs and from the Business Register, we have been able to produce the said tables. o We are actually working on a publication related to this breakdown of international trade by industries for years 2002-2006, including (perhaps) the link between output and trade by industry.
ITA	o Firm performance analysis is carried out through the use of panel data: the link between trade data, SBS and the balance sheets register allows micro analysis on firms behaviour relating to internationalisation, profitability etc. o In 2007 the same panel data was used to study firms behaviour relating to offshoring (intended as the substitution of in-house production with goods and services purchased from abroad).
POL	o Register of PSIs in the framework of INTRASTAT system is linked with National Official Business Register – REGON via REGON identification number. So far there is a possibility to trace the foreign trade turnover of a single company, as long as it uses the same identification number. There is no possibility to create long time series for companies, which changed their identification numbers due to mergers, acquisition, splits or similar operations o Register of PSI s is also linked with VAT system via NIP (tax identification number)
SWE	During 2007 Statistics Sweden is developing methods for regional and sector distribution of foreign trade. Linking possibilities between trade and business registers enable interpolation in order to follow external trade flow within Sweden. This is a large step away from using merely the legal entity. The proposed method uses all information available, broken down on local units instead of legal units.
USA	In early 2006, the FTD agreed to participate on an OECD Steering Group on linking Trade Statistics with Business Statistics. The first meeting was held in Canada in June 2006 where participants from Canada, the European Union, and Norway met to discuss the framework of the combined trade register. In June 2007, a proposal that included a set of 17 tables was offered to all participating countries to consider using in a combined international trade register. All countries were asked to convert their respective data files to an international standard and compile into the proposed set of tables. The FTD agreed to analyze and compile the export tables using the Exporter database. Currently, the FTD has completed the initial processing of converting the 2003 data from the publication, “A Profile of U.S. Exporting Companies, 2003-2004.” Using the information that was provided from the United Nations website, we were able to convert the following files: 1. Export Harmonized System Schedule B product codes to the Central Product Classification (CPC version 1.1). 2. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 3.1). We successfully created all 8 of the proposed export tables. These were tables 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 17. Tables 4, 7, 10, 14, and 15 had no disclosure; tables 5, 11 and 17 had only a minimal amount of suppressed cells due to disclosure. There were a few questions that would be better discussed during a “BEST” meeting if one were scheduled for later this year. We are still planning to incorporate our import statistics once we are cleared by the Internal Revenue Service to use our tax information for this project

d) New forms of trading (e.g. processing abroad), re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:

CAN	o Exporter register data for 2005 were released (now 1993 to 2005 are available) o Importer register data for 2002-2004 are now available
DEU	o In the framework of an „EDICOM“ project, it will be analysed if it is possible to use tax data to control the statistical declarations of processing activities. The fiscal data we want to use contain unfortunately besides data on processing also data on other services. Therefore the project shall be used to find out if the additional fiscal data are appropriate to check the completeness of the statistical declarations of processing activities and permit to really improve the quality of the statistical data on intra-community processing activities.
HUN	For checking their consistency, international trade data of the biggest companies are regularly compared with data from other sources like VAT, business statistics and the reasons behind the discrepancies are analysed. This analyses makes it possible to detect the new forms of trading and changing characteristics of traders.
ITA	Annual data merging trade and business registers are disseminated to analyse the characteristics of traders: number of enterprises by economic activity and employment size class, geographical breakdown. During 2007 an analysis on the merchandise and geographical changes has been carried out on a panel of traders for the years 2000-2006.
NLD	o Further developments on re-exports: now re-exports figures are available and published monthly, where it used to be quarterly. o Also CPB (Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis) did further research on re-exports: Re-exports : international comparison and implications for performance indicators.

d) Globalisation indicators:

CAN	o Exporter register data for 2005 were released (now 1993 to 2005 are available) o Importer register data for 2002-2004 are now available
DEU	Planned seminar in 2008 on globalisation effects on external trade, in cooperation with the German Federal Bank
HUN	Globalization indicators are used in standardization exercise with Eurostat and in national analyses, as well
ISR	o After publication of results related to the first survey on Globalisation indicators for years 2002-2003, we are actually working on the survey for 2004-2005. o Partial and earlier publication of some indicators, mainly those related to International Trade of OUT and IN companies, is actually considered in order to have some information on Globalisation indicators published more frequently and before the complete results from the survey
ITA	ISTAT produces this globalisation indicators: o Systematic: FATS, Analysis for traders: Structural characteristics o Non-Systematic: Performance analysis through firms panel data (link between trade and SBS data), Offshoring, Analysis for traders: dynamic characteristics, intra-firm trade
NLD	In the workprogramme of Statistics Netherlands, several spearheads were defined, one of which is the Spearhead International Economic Relations (SIER). An important objective of this project is to obtain more knowledge of international developments such as globalisation and to integrate all our (economic) output into coherent statistical publications. At the moment, the projectgroup SIER is developing the sub-programme “Internationalization Monitor”, which draws heavily on the OECD Handbook of Globalization Indicators. The projectgroup wants to analyze and publish as much of these (and other globalization)-indicators as possible. In the short run only those

	indicators which can be analysed with existing or easy accessible data will be calculated. In the longer run the other indicators (which make use of other government data) will be analyzed. Another important objective of SIER is to combine economic data more rigorously, in order to make sound conclusions on economic developments in the Netherlands. An additional objective is to match economic results of individual firms to data on employment and personal data.
USA	The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has completed several projects over the course of the last year, designed to improve the services related data available on foreign direct investments, activities of multinational companies and improvements to the presentation of the international transactions accounts. Improving this data is a foundational step in developing globalization indicators. The BEA expanded the geographic detail presented in its quarterly international transactions accounts. A complete set of accounts is now presented for most countries that have substantial transactions in goods, services, income, or financial assets with the United States. In addition, the BEA completed the 2004 benchmark survey of U.S. direct investment abroad which included new detail on the activities of insurance companies, wholesalers and retailers, and banks and on employment by broad occupational class. Based on data from the benchmark survey, BEA published an article on the research and development (R&D) activities of U.S. multinational companies in the March issue of the Survey of Current Business. Data on the operations of multinational companies are now available on the BEA website, www.bea.gov, in an interactive format. The interactive system allows data users to select data items, countries, or industries of interest and to easily construct time series. The BEA is planning to link its datasets on R&D expenditures by U.S. parent companies and the U.S. affiliates of foreign multinational companies to Census Bureau datasets on R&D by all domestic companies to provide more detailed data with no increase in reporter burden. The BEA and Census jointly published detailed establishment level data for U.S. affiliates of foreign companies for 2002; data are presented on the establishments of U.S. affiliates for over 1,000 industries. Furthermore, BEA began collecting more detail by type of service for intra-firm trade in services on its 2006 benchmark survey of transactions in selected services and intangible assets with foreign persons and its follow-on quarterly surveys. Currently, BEA collects data on the activities of U.S. bank parent companies and bank affiliates only on its benchmark surveys of direct investment. The BEA is proposing to collect data from these companies on an annual basis, beginning with 2007