

Managing Internet in a Statistical Institution

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The many exciting possibilities of communicating statistics on the Internet have attracted a lot of attention among National Statistical Institutions (NSI's), and for a span of years NSI's have been busy exploring these possibilities. Less attention has been focused on the way, Internet activities are organized inside the NSI, despite the fact that there are considerable variations among countries in this area. In some NSI's, for instance, Internet management is an integral part of the communication division, whereas in others the Internet is regarded as inherently an IT-matter.

The paper presents results of an international survey on management and governance of Internet activities in NSI's. One conclusion is that Internet governance is not necessarily a result of deliberate choice but in many NSI's rather a matter of organizational culture and coincidences. The paper argues that some ways of organizing Internet governance in a NSI are preferable to others, primarily because they give better possibilities of coordination and professionalization.