

Generic Statistical Information Model
An innovative collaboration which facilitates international collaboration

Jenine Borowik*

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, Australia - jenine.borowik@abs.gov.au

Aurito Rivera

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, Australia – aurito.rivera@abs.gov.au

Carrie Ashley

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, Australia – carrie.ashley@abs.gov.au

Steven Vale

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, Switzerland -
steven.vale@unece.org

The Statistical Network was initiated in June 2010 with the following objective:
Collaboration in practical small steps to industrialise methods and processes to quickly and effectively benefit all participating National Statistical Offices
The Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) was used within the Statistical Network to identify the sub-processes within statistical production where there was greatest interest and opportunity to develop collaborative solutions. At that time, however, there was no common reference framework to describe the statistical information (data and metadata) which would be input to, and output from, each sub-process. The Statistical Network therefore initiated development of the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM). GSBPM and GSIM aim, between them, to provide common terminology, improving communication about the production of statistics, within and between organizations. This, in turn, facilitates collaboration and exchange of good practices, leading to greater efficiency. During 2011, the value and importance of GSIM became recognised more widely beyond the Statistical Network. In 2012, an unprecedented international collaboration effort was initiated by HLG (High Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services) to complete development of GSIM V1.0. This paper will summarise the development of GSIM and provide an overview of the content of GSIM V1.0 which was released in December 2012. The paper will include consideration of the strategic context and benefits associated with GSIM. Now GSIM has been developed, it will facilitate further international collaboration to develop practical, sharable solutions that address specific business needs. The paper outlines these next steps. This includes outlining how GSIM can be used as a framework to guide consistent use of implementation standards such as SDMX and DDI in a manner which supports the business practices and needs of statisticians. The paper also outlines plans to further evolve GSIM, to more fully meet business needs, based on experience from applying the current version in practice.

Key words: GSIM, Statistical Network, HLG