6. Organizational and workplace culture issues (Statistics Canada)

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6.1 Overview of roles and responsibilities

Each change activity identified in the proposed Strategy for Statistical Metadata Management action plan will be assigned a lead division or area to take responsibility for the business plan, resources and reporting regularly on progress.

Centres of expertise or responsibility for each statistical domain in the Agency will also be formally recognized. These centres would provide a stewardship function for statistical metadata within their domain including providing advice related to design and standards development and ensuring that the authoritative source is comprehensive, up-to-date and accessible to the users (people and systems) who need it.

Roles and responsibilities for all areas of metadata management will become clearer as the key activities in the action plan are implemented.

6.2 Metadata management team

A steering committee is expected to oversee implementation of the operational phase of the proposed Strategy for Statistical Metadata Management action plan. This committee would be comprised of senior managers from key stakeholder areas and would focus on the activities necessary to build capacity. A project lead will be assigned to monitor implementation projects and lead the communication and learning initiatives.

Once the first phase of implementation is complete, a permanent governance structure will be established to ensure the use of standard metadata structures, content and exchange protocols; to provide guidance on creation of metadata at the appropriate stage of the statistical business process and to identify opportunities to align the Agency's on-going work with the adopted enterprise architecture.

6.3 Training and knowledge management

Communication and learning initiatives are essential to realize statistical metadata management across the Agency. Building capacity among staff about the scope of statistical metadata, its role in the statistical business process and use of reference models like the GSIM and the GSBPM are key priorities. Roles and responsibilities and best practices for the planning, design, creation, use and management of statistical metadata will also be communicated across the Agency.

6.4 Partnerships and cooperation

Statistics Canada continues to support and participate in international initiatives such as the GSIM and the GSBPM. The Agency was involved in the original GSIM sprints and is currently participating in the Plug & Play sprint and three separate task teams: GSIM-DDI mapping, GSIM-SDMX mapping, and GSIM implementation – all initiatives have senior management commitment.

The Agency is also represented in the UNECE METIS, UN Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications, UNECE High-level Group on the Modernization of Statistical Processes and Services, SDMX Statistical Working Group, DDI/SDMX Dialogue and the Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) Canada Working Group.

Evaluating DDI and the role of other international format standards in the statistical business process has been flagged for further discussions.

6.5 Other issues

A major challenge has been integrating international work with Statistic Canada's internal projects. In particular, (1) the GSIM development with IBSP and ICOS Questionnaire/Survey Instrument (described in Section III-B), and (2) the GSIM implementation task team (*Production* group) with current work on IBSP. The IBSP project is beginning to look at *Production* metadata and it is hoped that involvement in the GSIM Implementation task team can be leveraged to support this stage of development.