



## **Documenting the statistical editing process, a case study of the Luxembourg Financial Accounts**

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We discuss a way to document the statistical editing process in the form of process tables. Work on process tables for official economic statistics has so far focussed on high level aggregates like Gross National Income (GNI) but here we present them for every item of the Financial Accounts statistic, i.e. the financial part of the National Accounts. The generation of process tables forms only a part of our system for the automated generation of metadata, whose basic components we will briefly describe here. We argue that not only provide process tables the users with an important quality indicator, they also provide the compilers with an important management tool as they give insight in which part of the editing process is responsible for which part of the result. We conclude with some observations: Naturally, the design of the statistical production process will determine the ease with which useful metadata can be extracted. The use of a modular software architecture and standardized data formats greatly facilitates the aggregation and translation of both normal data and corrections data and thus the compilation of process tables. The starting point of the process tables can be chosen conveniently, but extensions beyond that point may demand the exchange of metadata on editing corrections with external data providers. Finally, we think that international metadata exchange standards, like Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX), should facilitate the exchange of process tables.

**Keywords:** statistical metadata; process tables; national accounts