The publicity gave extensive coverage to the different options available for persons to identify themselves. The newness of the young nation's institutions, the scarcity of recent identity papers, and the presence of many displaced persons in the country, all this contributed to the absolute need to elaborate this issue carefully and completely.

4.2. Information dissemination

The technology of dissemination of statistical information is undergoing a fundamental shift. The printed publication has certainly not disappeared, and remains important, for example to provide a permanent and continuously accessible record, and for easiest browsing. But on-line consultation of statistical sites - with or without payment for the information obtained - is becoming the principal avenue for information dissemination. This takes place via the Internet, since the independently managed bulletin boards, to be reached through point-to-point communication with the information provider, cannot offer comparable user comfort.

The challenge to statistical offices is considerable. Long used to the relative peace of carefully preparing a publication and then waiting for it to come into print, they now must adhere to a strict calendar of electronic release. Users always want the data sooner, but will complain when later these have to be revised or - worse - turn out to have contained any error.

Under these conditions designing a dissemination strategy for a census has not become any simpler. The user community rightfully expects statistics to make full use of new media, yet there continues to be substantial demand for paper publications. This may happen in a situation of restricted funding and shortage of technical skills. Statistical offices must not only formulate a strategy, but also revisit it periodically. Where costs dictate it, the use of dissemination outlets needs to be adjusted on the basis of reports on their use. Cost recovery may help to improve the situation.

Just like printed publications, publication in electronic form can be of varying cognitive quality, perhaps even more so. Furthermore, the rapid technological developments make providing the best possible interface a moving target. Eurostat identifies the following examples of research in this area:

- Contributing to Internet-related standardization activities so that statistical requirements can be taken into account.
- Bandwidth-intensive applications: statistical queries, audio- and video-broadcasting.
- Use of intelligent agents (knowbots) for information interchange.
- Improving man-machine interfaces, including the use of virtual reality.
- Application of GIS technologies to improve the visualisation of geographically oriented statistical information.

The capability of a statistical organizations' website is becoming of ever greater importance. Statistical and census organizations nowadays are not only assessed on the