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Latest on DEMETRA: usage and IT concepts for today and tomorrow

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The Greek’s mythology goddess of agriculture, the emblematic face of DEMETRA, has perhaps protected the Eurostat’s initiative, in 1997, to put in the same environment the two main seasonal adjustment methods, X-12-ARIMA and TRAMO-SEATS. The first official release in 1999 was DEMETRA 1.4. In 2006, DEMETRA is still important software over the network of statistics producers.

Now, let's replace DEMETRA 2.04, the present version opened on 19th Dec 2003, including TRAMO (Nov 1999), SEATS (Sept 1998) and X-12-ARIMA 0.2.8 by the 2006 release, including TRAMO SEATS in version April 2005 and X-12-ARIMA in version 0.3. New arguments have appeared and, generally speaking, all parameters available from the native libraries are not always accessible from the DEMETRA user interface: the calendar effects specification case is a significant example. This presentation will review the differences.

DEMETRA is often recognized as a good environment for education. Nevertheless, it is a production tool in many locations where statistics are compiled, Eurostat being its leading team. How is DEMETRA used in such a framework? What are the strengths and the weaknesses of DEMETRA today? What are the potential improvements at the IT point of view for the future? Architecture of the system may need a refreshed design for easier capabilities of integration, but the concepts inside the graphical user interface remain relevant.