

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Second meeting of the 2004/2005 Bureau  
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Item 2(a): Integrated  
Presentation

INTEGRATED PRESENTATION: ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

Excerpt from the 2005 edition of the IP

1. The present document represents an excerpt of the sections “Issues and Problems” and “Attention of the Conference is drawn to” of the 2005 edition of the Integrated Presentation. It is submitted to the Bureau for review before finalisation of the 2005 IP and its publication on the web. Both sections are drafted by the ECE secretariat using text from the 2004 edition, and updating and including new text where necessary.
2. It should be noted that the ECE secretariat does not have expertise in all areas and so, for some programme elements, the text was simply carried forward from the previous years. Therefore, the comments of the Bureau are very welcome. It should be also noted that “Issues and problems” and “Attention of...” for the statistical areas that will be reviewed in-depth by the Bureau will be updated after the review. These statistical areas are technical cooperation, migration statistics, income and consumption, labour statistics and transport statistics.
3. The Bureau will note that for some programme elements, such as price statistics (3.9), population and housing censuses (4.2.1), crime and criminal justice statistics (4.8), health statistics (4.9) and social indicators (4.11.1), most of the text refers to the work undertaken by the ECE in these areas. Moreover, the section on “Attention of the Conference...” for these elements represents a short ‘report’ on what has been done in these areas by the ECE secretariat. The ECE secretariat believes that the section could be used to inform the CES members on progress that is being made in the areas where the ECE Statistical Division is active.
4. It is proposed that this excerpt be considered by the Bureau in parallel with document CES/BUR.2005/23: Preparation and procedure for review of the IP, which raises some issues concerning the review of the IP and the mechanism for updating and reviewing the sections on “Issues and problems” and “Attention of the Conference is ..”(para. 5 to 10).

***Proposal:***

The Bureau is invited to comment:

- and make proposals for amendments of the “Issues and problems” and “Attention of ..” defined in the document;
- on whether a similar procedure of reviewing the IP should also be followed in future;
- on the proposal that the ECE secretariat prepare a first draft for review by the Bureau;
- on whether progress made by the ECE secretariat in some areas be reflected in the section on “Attention of ..”, thus informing the CES members;
- on whether a similar document should also be prepared and submitted to the plenary sessions. A document of this kind would raise the awareness of the CES members on the issues and problems that the Bureau has identified. Some comments could also be received from the Conference.

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1.	Title	<b>Organisation and operation of statistical services (edition 2005)</b>
1.1	Title	<b>Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work</b>
1.1:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing multilateral relations between international statistical organizations on matters relating to national statistical offices.</li> <li>• Coordination of multilateral statistical work in conducting global statistical surveys and joint data collection, so that duplication in data collection from member countries is avoided.</li> <li>• Need for more standardised definitions and procedures of metadata.</li> <li>• Improve incoherent definitions of metadata and the dissemination of metadata.</li> <li>• More transparency regarding the different compilation methods and quality assessment procedures used by the international organisations.</li> <li>• Quality of the statistical work.</li> <li>• Monitor the satisfaction of the users of the Integrated Presentation.</li> </ul>
1.1:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for further work on strengthening the coordination of statistical data collection among the various international organisations.</li> </ul>
1.2	Title	<b>Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of National Statistical Offices</b>
1.2:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of the different international players, and the partial overlap of groups of countries require special attention.</li> <li>• Focus and give priority to some specific topics for a certain period of time.</li> <li>• The conflict between increased demand for statistics and shrinking resources.</li> <li>• Promotion of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and assessments by the CES of whether they should be revised or updated.</li> <li>• The development strategy of national statistical offices.</li> <li>• The overall design and conception of official statistics.</li> <li>• Professional ethics in statistics.</li> <li>• Promoting the spread of "best statistical practices" among UNECE countries.</li> <li>• Enhancing the role and policy relevance of statistics at the national and international level.</li> </ul>
1.2:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The enlargement of the European Union and the need for the Conference to evaluate its activities and priorities.</li> </ul>
1.3	Title	<b>Relations with countries in Southeast Europe and the CIS</b>
1.3:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes.</li> <li>• Implementation of international standards.</li> <li>• Evaluation, by both recipient and donor countries, of the progress that is being made as a result of technical assistance given and received.</li> </ul>
1.3:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further activities to achieve comparability of CIS statistics with the statistical data of the other countries in the region.</li> <li>• The development of official statistics in Western Balkan countries is lagging behind the other European countries because of economic and social difficulties in their progress towards a market economy. This calls for a tailored development of statistics in the region supported by a sustained technical assistance by the international organisations active in the region.</li> </ul>

1.4	Title	<b>Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)</b>
1.4:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of international standards in countries outside the UNECE region.</li> <li>• Provision of guidance to countries outside the UNECE region in their efforts to take on the characteristics required of statistical agencies of market economy countries.</li> <li>• Transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes.</li> </ul>
1.4:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a beneficiary of TACIS programme, Mongolia can be associated with technical assistance activities to CIS countries.</li> </ul>

2.	Title	<b>Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (edition 2005)</b>
2.1	Title	<b>Management of information technology infrastructure</b>
2.1:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential of the ICT has not been fully realised and it is perceived that there is considerable potential for improvement.</li> <li>• Countries within the UNECE area vary considerably in their ICT capabilities.</li> <li>• Priority should be given to re-engineering processes in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics holistically as a consequence of the rapid proliferation of Internet services in statistical practice.</li> <li>• The Conference at its 2002 plenary session identified various issues requiring follow up by the International Organisations. In particular, the Conference asked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to investigate the possibility of developing a common system (portal) for monitoring data collection activities by International Organisations;</li> <li>- to ensure the development of data sharing models;</li> <li>- to give both NSOs and other data providers easy access to statistics available at the international organizations in a form allowing comparisons and usage in national dissemination programmes;</li> <li>- to put in place secure and operational methods and tools for the transmission of sensitive information. The experiences from the STADIUM/STATEL solution supporting GESMES CB should be considered in this context;</li> <li>- to investigate the possibility of defining a standard codification scheme for economic time-series (for national accounts and balance of payments) with an initial focus on short term-indicators;</li> <li>- to work with NSOs to facilitate the reuse of their standard products.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.1:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The increased and widespread implementation of ICT calls for new data and meta-data modelling.</li> </ul>
2.2	Title	<b>Statistical data collection and processing</b>
2.2:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of Electronic data interchange standards to further integrate technically the statistical systems of countries and international agencies.</li> <li>• The use and sharing of efficient methodology and software in collection and processing operations carried out by statistical agencies (e.g. sampling, data entry, editing, coding, estimation).</li> <li>• Best practices in data editing, especially those allowing cost savings are to be identified and made available.</li> </ul>
2.2:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible combined use of business registers data and data collected for fiscal purposes.</li> </ul>
2.3	Title	<b>Dissemination and interchange of statistical information</b>
2.3:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of meta-information systems at national level and harmonization of metadata systems of international organizations.</li> <li>• Further spreading of use of Internet for dissemination of statistical data.</li> <li>• Implementation of common EDI standards for statistical data dissemination.</li> <li>• Dissemination of market-sensitive economic data to mass media.</li> </ul>
2.3:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing.</li> </ul>

2.4	Title	<b>Statistical classifications</b>
2.4:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant discrepancies still exist in the classifications used by NSOs within the ECE region, particularly between ISIC/NACE and NAICS.</li> <li>• Differences exist between official statistical classifications and those used by private corporations.</li> <li>• Limited resources to support national adaptations of ISCO-88.</li> <li>• A socio-economic classification has yet to be created, though progress is being made in projects funded by Eurostat with the ILO participation.</li> <li>• The fast-changing nature of some sectors of the economy compared with the limited capacities to update the classifications.</li> </ul>
2.4:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The revision of ISIC.</li> </ul>
2.5	Title	<b>Statistical research and development</b>
2.5:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing research and development priorities.</li> <li>• Avoiding duplication.</li> <li>• Developing guidelines for statistical agencies on policies and practices for managing data quality in statistical programs, including the definition, control and description of data quality, and its implication for data release.</li> </ul>
2.5:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research in the area of data modelling is lacking and should be given high priority.</li> </ul>
2.6	Title	<b>Geographical and regional data</b>
2.6:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and integration of statistics for sub-national and supra-national regions.</li> <li>• The efficiency, quality and comparability of the geographic dimension of official statistics.</li> <li>• The measurement of economic and social cohesion of the European Union using high quality statistical information on the European regions.</li> <li>• Availability of necessary regional data for the definition, follow-up and evaluation of regional policies (both national and European Union) and the evaluation of the socio-economic situation and evolution of the regions of Europe.</li> <li>• Designing and developing concepts and standards, new tools and technology (GIS), dissemination of geographical products and spatial analysis.</li> </ul>
2.6:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There needs to be closer co-operation among National Statistical Offices, national mapping agencies and national administrative systems to improve the availability and comparability of spatial information.</li> </ul>
2.7	Title	<b>Human resource development</b>
2.7:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of experience on training in general, reviewing its organisation and practises, investigating the complementarity between national and international training.</li> <li>• The needs of countries with small internal resources for training should especially be considered.</li> <li>• Training is a fundamental basis of building a harmonised, high quality statistical system. The training aspect should in general be seen to be an important element of most meetings, involving exchange of information on tools, methods and best practises.</li> <li>• Joint international training courses should be promoted, taking into account specific needs for training due to changing methods, tools, staff requirements, and the needs for international harmonisation.</li> </ul>
2.7:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination in the field of statistical training should be increased. As training on an international level shall fill gaps within national training schemes and gain synergies, the</li> </ul>

	drawn to	exchange of information is an important and basic issue.
2.8	Title	<b>Sustainable development</b>
2.8:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International organizations have tried to identify a single set of indicators, but the conclusion was that this is not a feasible and/or useful target. In fact, user needs are different in various contexts and there is no scope to try to force them to adopt a single set of indicators.</li> <li>• Problems have been identified with the currently proposed indicators for SD and their relationship to official statistics. In order to respond adequately to the policy demands, a statistical strategy is needed. On the one hand, more attention should be paid to the development of accounting frameworks for measuring sustainable development, able to take into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Concrete plans to produce methodologically integrated statistics across different subject areas in order to calculate indicators for SD need to be developed in parallel.</li> <li>• Statistics on sustainable development need to be produced in such a way as to ensure that they can be integrated across the social, economic and environmental spheres of sustainable development.</li> </ul>
2.8:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Necessity for active cooperation of NSOs in developing measures for sustainable development.</li> <li>• More coordination is needed between national agencies in charge of sustainable development and national statistical offices.</li> <li>• Better coordination is necessary between the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and other international organizations active in this field. The role of official statistics in measuring SD needs to be brought out and strengthened.</li> </ul>
2.9	Title	<b>Millennium Development Goals and human development</b>
2.9:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International organizations are strengthening their collaboration and efforts to improve the global reporting of MDG indicators (based on the standard list of indicators) through the regular Inter-Agency and Expert Meeting on MDG indicators. However, gaps and quality issues still exist in areas such as environment, malnutrition, maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS and other major diseases. Issues that are also under discussion include principles to compute regional and sub-regional aggregates and common regional desegregations.</li> <li>• A process to review the standard list of indicators approved by the UN General Assembly has started and working groups in the areas of poverty, gender, environment, slums, and education have been established to review current indicators and bring to the Secretary General office a proposal for new indicators by 2005</li> <li>• Countries, with the assistance of UNDP and other international organizations are engaged in developing systems and indicators to monitor MDG at national level. The standard list of indicators is used as reference but national lists are produced to monitor goals that are put in the national context and may require more specific statistics</li> </ul>
2.9:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National MDG monitoring systems should be coordinated with PRSP processes</li> <li>• National statistical offices should be better involved in the national monitoring systems and the role of official statistics should be strengthened in the national reports</li> <li>• Country participation in the global monitoring system should be strengthened</li> <li>• National capacity building in less developed countries should be strengthened in order to improve the availability and quality of MDG indicators</li> </ul>

3.	Title	<b>Economic statistics (edition 2005)</b>
3.1	Title	<b>Implementation of the system of national accounts</b>
3.1:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure broad consultation with countries and regions on the current update of 1993 SNA.</li> <li>• Several task forces of national accounts experts have been set up to produce input to the update of 1993 SNA.</li> <li>• The Canberra II Group (secretariat OECD), chaired by Australia, continues to review the treatment of non-financial assets as an input to the update of the 1993 SNA.</li> <li>• Timeliness of transmission of the accounts, especially institutional sector accounts and general government accounts remains a serious issue.</li> <li>• The production of timely and reliable short term statistics.</li> <li>• Progressive implementation of the SNA 93 is still a significant focus of activity in the Balkan countries.</li> <li>• For the transition economies, over the next few years priority should be given to the improvement of the basic data underlying national accounts.</li> </ul>
3.1:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial and in kind contributions are needed for the update of the 1993 SNA, to be finalised in 2007.</li> <li>• Joint UNECE/OECD expert meeting on national accounts was held in October 2004 to provide a forum for discussing the update of 1993 SNA. A similar meeting is planned for 2005.</li> </ul>
3.2	Title	<b>Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments</b>
3.2:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid change in the areas covered by finance statistics - especially in monetary and financial statistics.</li> <li>• How to put in place an international financial architecture that will enhance and spread the benefits of globalization while minimizing its risks.</li> <li>• Dissemination of data and metadata in finance statistics is especially challenging because, first, the use of data for monetary policy puts a high premium on timeliness of dissemination and, second, because the increasing extent to which data and metadata are needed beyond the national boundaries puts a high premium on rapid and user-friendly modes of distribution.</li> <li>• Data quality is an especially important and/or difficult issue in areas of statistics that are, inter alia, derived from multiple sets of source data; are relatively newly developed and thus less familiar to users; and are used for policy and operational purposes. Several of the sets of finance statistics meet one or more of these criteria.</li> <li>• Harmonisation with 1993 SNA of balance of payments, international investment position (IIP), government finance, and money and banking statistics.</li> </ul>
3.2:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmonization of public sector accounting with the statistical guidelines (GFS Manual 2001 and SNA).</li> <li>• Problems that countries are facing in collection of good quality data on balance of payments.</li> </ul>
3.3	Title	<b>Statistics on international trade in goods</b>
3.3:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries generally tend to implement the recommended international concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics. However, there are still differences in the levels and details of implementation between countries.</li> <li>• National authorities also tend to report international merchandise trade statistics to international organizations on different time schedules. At the international level, organizations adjust the data for comparability and can estimate non-reported data. The methodologies applied are not fully harmonised, leading to different results that unnecessarily confuse users.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assessment of data quality of national data.</li> <li>• the exchange of information on statistical metadata in trade statistics and the identification of best practises.</li> </ul>
3.3:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Manual on Foreign Trade Indices (Lead: IMF).</li> <li>• The work led by WTO to develop a commonly agreed data set on aggregate merchandise trade statistics through an interagency cooperation which should provide consistent analytical data to the statistical user.</li> <li>• Development of a SITC, Rev.4.</li> </ul>
3.4	Title	<b>Transport statistics</b>
3.4:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve data comparability through the development of a standardized terminology, definitions and classifications in transport statistics.</li> <li>• Develop a set of standard price and quantity indices for transport services.</li> <li>• Monitor developments in the field of transport database and information systems and promote the co-ordination of these.</li> </ul>
3.4:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very little progress has been made in developing price indices for transport, which remains an area of high demand.</li> </ul>
3.6	Title	<b>Statistics on international trade in services</b>
3.6:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop suitable international nomenclatures and standards to ensure that national measurements are internationally comparable and consistent with basic economic statistics.</li> <li>• To identify and establish a basic set of comparable data that meet the requirements of revised international standards for reporting Balance of Payments (BOP), National Accounts (SNA) data, the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS) and of recent agreements on international services trade.</li> <li>• To give due attention to data quality and provision of sufficient detail to address the needs of users including trade negotiators and analysts.</li> <li>• To ensure that transition economies have access to the methods and practices developed for the measurement of trade in services.</li> <li>• To contribute to the adaptation of the CPC to the specific needs of international trade in services.</li> </ul>
3.6:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for resources to be devoted to technical assistance in development of country reporting of trade in services.</li> </ul>
3.7	Title	<b>Tourism statistics</b>
3.7:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of conceptual frameworks.</li> <li>• Common concepts and methodologies for measurement and integration of data.</li> <li>• Information should also support the broad range of non-government interests (industry, public) including research, and coherent linkages with other areas such as social, demographic, business, economic and environmental studies.</li> <li>• Development of sustainability indicators</li> </ul>
3.7:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing.</li> </ul>
3.8	Title	<b>Statistics on other marketed services, and non-marketed services</b>
3.8:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of suitable international nomenclatures and standards to ensure that national measurements are internationally comparable.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support policy-makers' analytical needs with data offering new possibilities for analysis in the areas of emerging activities, small- and medium-sized enterprises, productivity or employment at a disaggregated level.</li> <li>• To ensure that countries in transition have access to the methods and practices developed for the measurement of activity in the services industries.</li> <li>• To keep pace with developments in business services and e-commerce.</li> <li>• Keep international manuals and standards in this field up-to-date in the light of changes taking place in the structure of the retail and wholesale sectors.</li> <li>• Supplementary detail in NACE/CPA needed in this area.</li> <li>• International comparison of the public sector and its management.</li> </ul>
3.8:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2007 revision of ISIC and the need for substantially better coverage of the information sector and other service sectors.</li> <li>• Information Society Statistics, see also PE 3.11 and PE 3.13: The OECD Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), after having developed an OECD activity-based definition of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector, is now extending the ICT sector definition to a commodity-based one.</li> </ul>
3.9	Title	<b>Price statistics, including purchasing power parities</b>
3.9:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To define standards for the collection, compilation and dissemination of timely, reliable and internationally comparable measures of changes over time in the prices of goods and services acquired by households that are relevant for users' needs, and for their correct interpretation.</li> <li>• Timeliness of PPP statistics.</li> <li>• To improve comparability between national accounts time series and PPP comparison results.</li> <li>• Developing the measurement of PPPs for dwelling services and for non-market services.</li> </ul>
3.9:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPP work could benefit significantly from the participation of national accountants.</li> <li>• Implementation of the Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice into practice. Translation of the Manual into Russian is extremely important for its implementation in the CIS-countries</li> <li>• UNECE is planning to launch, jointly with the ILO, a users' feedback survey on the CPI Manual: usefulness, applicability and completeness</li> <li>• UNECE is preparing and will conduct a survey on the scope of the consumer price index in relation to its main uses in the countries of the ECE region.</li> <li>• A meeting of the Steering Group on CPIs to discuss the above mentioned surveys and the preparation of the Joint ECE/ILO Meeting on CPI is proposed for June 2005, most likely in conjunction with the next HICP meeting.</li> </ul>
3.10	Title	<b>Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics</b>
3.10:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To adapt the concepts and definitions used in agricultural statistics to encompass a wider view of agriculture reflecting economic, rural, social and environmental linkages.</li> <li>• To exchange information on experiences in collecting and compiling food, agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics including their environmental aspects, to ensure that such data are integrated, comply with comparable conceptual frameworks and help answer current policy concerns.</li> <li>• To develop recommendations for agricultural censuses and to ensure that the concerns and requirements of countries in transition are adequately reflected.</li> <li>• To assist national statistical offices to develop agricultural statistical systems capable of being used for organizing agricultural surveys for the collection, analysis and dissemination of current data on both crops and livestock.</li> <li>• To continue close inter-organisation co-operation in collecting and publishing forest sector data, relevant to the monitoring of sustainable forest management.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The issue of food safety will have increasing importance in the future.</li> </ul>
3.10:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing joint data collection: Eurostat and OECD have implemented a unified and harmonised framework for the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA).</li> <li>• Future action in joint data collection (fishery statistics): Proposals are being formulated to minimise the duplication of demands made on the national services and to improve the exchange of data between the international agencies.</li> <li>• Future action in joint data collection (agro-environment indicators): See PE 5.1.</li> <li>• Future action in joint data collection (agriculture other than economic accounts for agriculture): Eurostat and FAO have agreed to co-operate in the area of agriculture price statistics. Other types of data sets are successively to be identified and included in framework of Common Data Consultation and Utilization.</li> </ul>
3.11	Title	<b>Industrial statistics</b>
3.11:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that industry statistics are consistently classified for purposes of international comparability.</li> <li>• To ensure that recent trends in the structure of the economy (industry and services) can be analysed by means of series of statistics that are harmonised, comparable, detailed and up-to-date.</li> <li>• To support policy-makers' analytical needs with longitudinal micro-level databases offering new possibilities for analysis in the areas of small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurship, productivity, technology or employment at a disaggregated level.</li> <li>• To contribute to the development of internationally comparable and policy-relevant indicators such as productivity measures at detailed industry level.</li> <li>• To provide relevant short-term economic indicators for industry and services sectors.</li> </ul>
3.11:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future action in joint data collection (structural business statistics): agreement on joint data collection has been reached between OECD and Eurostat.</li> </ul>
3.12	Title	<b>Energy statistics</b>
3.12:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The integrated compilation of statistics on energy</li> <li>• The growing gap between the quantity of data to be collected and the resources allocated to do so (countries, organisations)</li> <li>• The use of internationally agreed and harmonised concepts and definitions</li> <li>• Proper linkages between energy statistics, other fields of economic statistics (e.g. conventional industrial statistics and transport statistics) and environmental statistics</li> <li>• Monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) (EU) (IEA)</li> <li>• Monitoring of sustainable development in the energy sector (EU)</li> <li>• Monitoring of progress in energy efficiency (EU) (IEA)</li> <li>• Monitoring of electricity and gas markets liberalisation (EU) (IEA)</li> <li>• Development of methods for temperature correction of energy consumption monthly statistics (EU)</li> <li>• The rapid development of renewables energy (IEA) (EU)</li> </ul>
3.12:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing.</li> </ul>
3.13	Title	<b>Science and technology statistics, including Information and Communication Technology</b>
3.13:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe statistically the role of S&amp;T in the national innovation systems of member countries and the economic impact and determinants of S&amp;T activities;</li> <li>• Improve the set of internationally agreed standards and conceptual frameworks for the compilation of S&amp;T statistics, adapt them to evolving economic conditions (e.g.</li> </ul>

		emergence of New activities such as IT and biotechnologies) and changing policy needs.
3.13:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and expand existing methodologies and surveys in order to provide better indicators of the internationalization of science and technology and its application.</li> <li>• Continue to develop and improve surveys of technological innovation and the associated indicators and, where necessary, improve the Oslo Manual.</li> <li>• Continue analytical and methodological work on patents and where necessary improve the Patent Manual.</li> <li>• More coordination is needed to avoid duplication of work on ICT and the confusing roles of different organizations.</li> </ul>
3.14	Title	<b>Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics</b>
3.14:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the use of business registers and general purpose survey frames for business surveys.</li> <li>• Harmonization of the coverage of business registers and the concepts used, and of the uses of business registers.</li> <li>• Developing business registers that deal effectively and consistently with Multi-National Enterprises.</li> <li>• Developing business registers as a tool for business demography.</li> <li>• Dissemination of best practices used by countries in the construction and maintenance of business registers.</li> <li>• Training in business registers, recognising the latest technological developments in leading statistical offices.</li> </ul>
3.14:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A global harmonization of the treatment of enterprise groups is necessary, as the information on enterprise groups is essential for improving statistics on globalisation; in this context, the development of the OECD Manual of Economic Globalisation Indicators is important and an agreement at the UN level should be achieved.</li> <li>• Many countries are still in the implementing phase of the harmonization and development of business registers as a survey frame and source of information.</li> <li>• A joint UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on business registers will be held in June in Luxembourg. The results of the 2004 joint survey on business registers together with the analytical papers will be presented. The Steering Group that was created by the Bureau in June 2003 will have its meeting back-to-back with the seminar.</li> </ul>
3.99	Title	<b>Other work in the field of economic statistics</b>
3.99:	Issues and problems:	To be defined
3.99:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing.</li> </ul>

4.	Title	<b>Social and demographic statistics (edition 2005)</b>
4.1	Title	<b>Demographic statistics (including projections, migration and fertility)</b>
4.1:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality of international and internal migration statistics needs improvement.</li> <li>• Varying quality of local population registers (undercounting and over-counting).</li> <li>• Relative infrequency of national population censuses.</li> </ul>
4.1:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new EU regulation on migration and asylum statistics is being finalised.</li> <li>• Estimates of international migration flows and stocks remain very low in quality, and in order to improve them it is important that NSIs work in close cooperation with the other Government agencies and administrations concerned. Countries are urged to work towards achieving a greater degree of harmonisation in national definitions of immigration and emigration, and to comply more fully with the UN recommendations.</li> <li>• Under the auspices of the Bureau a Task Force on Families and Households has started its work in reviewing current practices in the collection and dissemination of census data in this field and has elaborated a timetable to develop new census recommendations by 2006.</li> <li>• The cooperation among international organisations in data collection should be further improved.</li> </ul>
4.2.1	Title	<b>Population and housing censuses</b>
4.2.1:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As approved by the Bureau, a new set of census recommendations will be developed by 2006. As recommended by the Steering Group appointed by the Bureau to monitor this process, the following topics will have an in depth review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- migration</li> <li>- families and households</li> <li>- usual residence</li> <li>- collective dwelling</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other issues may be identified as problematic after evaluating the results of a questionnaire that ECE sent to countries to evaluate their practices in the 2000 round of censuses.</li> </ul>
4.2.1:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The planned transition from traditional censuses to register-based censuses or other forms of censuses such as rotating samples that are to take place in some countries in the region can have important consequences (e.g. in areas such as statistics on special groups).</li> <li>• Some countries were unable to carry out the censuses for financial or technical reasons.</li> </ul>
4.2.2	Title	<b>Statistics on population groups of special interest</b>
4.2.2:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better coordination of research on the older population, minorities, children, refugees, the homeless, etc.</li> <li>• Integration of data collection on these groups with that of current surveys.</li> </ul>
4.2.2:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing.</li> </ul>

4.3	Title	<b>Human settlements and housing statistics</b>
4.3:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social aspects of housing and in particular social exclusion to be included.</li> <li>• This is a low priority area e.g., in Eurostat this work depends entirely on data sources that currently exist, namely, the ECHP, population and housing censuses and household budget surveys.</li> </ul>
4.3:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing.</li> </ul>
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4.4	Title	<b>Labour statistics</b>
4.4:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of statistics on labour market dynamics.</li> <li>• Need to revise ISCO-88.</li> <li>• Reconciliation of labour statistics from different sources.</li> <li>• Child labour.</li> <li>• Informal employment.</li> <li>• Social dialogue.</li> <li>• Decent work and quality of employment.</li> <li>• Working time.</li> <li>• Demand for labour.</li> </ul>
4.4:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the Lisbon Special European Council (March 2000) the EU set itself as the strategic goal for the next decade to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs, and greater social cohesion.</li> <li>• The 17th International Conference of Labour Statistics (November-December 2003) adopted a Resolution concerning further work on the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO), recommending that ISCO-88 be modified and updated by the end of 2007.</li> <li>• There is a need to reinforce communication and coordination between international and supranational agencies working in the field of labour statistics, particularly with reference to the collection of data from NSIs and the development of international guidelines.</li> <li>• The ILO considers that there is a growing need for NSIs to collect information needed for measuring the quality of work, and to measure progress being made by countries towards decent work.</li> <li>• Work is needed on the harmonization of the measurement of income earnings. A higher degree of harmonisation of the measures of income should be achieved with the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions developed by Eurostat.</li> </ul>
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4.5	Title	<b>Education and training statistics</b>
4.5:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development work is still required on indicators of educational systems, in particular with respect to resolving outstanding definitional and comparability questions, enhancing the comparative understanding of national educational systems and fostering the analytical use of the indicators.</li> <li>• Development of “learning outcomes” indicators.</li> <li>• Development of statistics on adult education and early childhood education.</li> <li>• Implementation of new methods to measure literacy.</li> </ul>
4.5:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work by the CES in this field has been essentially dormant for several years. No activities are foreseen for 2005-2006.</li> </ul>
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4.6	Title	<b>Culture statistics</b>
4.6:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of an international framework for culture statistics with linkages to social and demographic statistics and to economic statistics (especially national accounts).</li> <li>• The need to establish or improve programs of integrated data on cultural activities.</li> <li>• Exploration of the link between cultural participation and social goals.</li> </ul>
4.6:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries are encouraged to start using international classifications already available (NACE, ISCO) in the production of their national statistics on culture. This would be a useful starting point for the design and implementation of the common framework referred to above in the medium-term objectives.</li> <li>• Work by the CES in this field has been essentially dormant for several years, awaiting UNESCO's Institute for Statistics, the international organization that has primary competence in this work area, to propose work of possible mutual interest to it, the CES and other international organizations.</li> </ul>
4.7.1	Title	<b>Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality</b>
4.7.1:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of internationally comparable measures of household income.</li> <li>• Difficulties in measuring non-income poverty.</li> <li>• Difficulties to measure poverty disaggregated by other social-demographic variables such as sex, age, education, ethnicity.</li> <li>• International comparability of earnings.</li> </ul>
4.7.1:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major improvements have been made in relation to the definition of income and for monetary income poverty, but there is a need to do more work on non-monetary indicators of social exclusion (including longitudinal indicators). Further work is also needed in the area of the measurement of income earnings, to improve data quality and international comparability.</li> <li>• The 17th ICLS supported the idea of creating a city group on expenditure statistics; a national statistical office is looking into the possibility of setting it up; others have stated their intention of participating in it.</li> </ul>
4.7.2	Title	<b>Social security statistics</b>
4.7.2:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifying and improving the link between social protection statistics and the national accounts.</li> </ul>
4.7.2:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the field of Social Protection, it is particularly important for NSIs to involve in the work the Ministries of Labour, Social Security, etc. Therefore, closer co-operation between the NSIs and the different Ministries in collecting administrative data should be encouraged in order to ensure better quality of the data.</li> <li>• The increasing attention and the various activities on the ageing of the population and the costs associated with it.</li> </ul>
4.8	Title	<b>Crime and criminal justice statistics</b>
4.8:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurement and reporting of illegal activities, e.g., corruption, organised crime and trafficking in human beings.</li> <li>• Vast differences in legal and justice systems create problems for statistical comparability.</li> <li>• Survey methods used in official statistics should be more harmonized.</li> </ul>
4.8:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECE and UNODC organized in November 2004 a meeting where priorities in crime statistics were identified. A task force was established to improve the harmonization of victimization surveys. The work of the task force will start with an inventory of methods used in national statistical offices and by the international victimization survey</li> </ul>

		<p>programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The field of victimization surveys is for some statistical offices an emerging area and this increases the need to provide international guidelines.</li> <li>• Attention should also be paid to the differences existing between survey data and administrative data.</li> <li>• Further work is needed to improve data comparability of crime statistics.</li> </ul>
4.9	Title	<b>Health statistics</b>
4.9:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring the performance of health care systems by tracing the inputs, throughputs and outcomes of health care systems in both monetary and non-monetary terms.</li> <li>• Development of standardised instruments in household surveys to measure health and disability in order to supplement health data from administrative sources, and promotion of their use in national and international surveys.</li> <li>• Integrating the many diverse statistics into a coherent system of health statistics and assisting countries in developing national health information strategies.</li> <li>• Agreed common methodology in public health issues such as morbidity, disability, injuries and performance of public health systems needs further development.</li> </ul>
4.9:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination needs to be improved between the WHO programme on health statistics and the activities related to health surveys carried out by other national and regional organizations. An Inter-secretariat Working Group on Health statistics has been created with the participation of international organizations and the ECE Steering Group on Health statistics.</li> </ul> <p>The ECE Steering Group and task force on the measurement of health status is working toward the identification of a common set of health domains and questions to improve the harmonization of statistics measuring the health status of populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of information: Informal agreements exist between OECD and Eurostat to exchange information and data obtained from MS for the purpose of cross-checking and completing respective own data collections.</li> <li>• While good progress has been made in recent years towards a common framework on health care statistics, as well as progress with survey instruments, the absence of a comprehensive and up-to-date international classification on procedure in health care poses a major challenge for future work on health care statistics.</li> <li>• Joint data collection: Informal agreements exist between WHO, OECD and Eurostat for improvement of data collection, harmonised data collection and analysis, the use of common instruments, mutual exchange of data of common interest. A close collaboration is also developed with ILO in the field of Occupational Health and Safety statistics.</li> <li>• The issue of data confidentiality, which is particularly felt in the area of health statistics.</li> </ul>
4.10	Title	<b>Gender statistics</b>
4.10:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of the gender perspective, not only by having data disaggregated by sex, but also by the improvement of data collection methods, concepts and definitions.</li> <li>• Developing policy -relevant approaches for monitoring and assessing women and men's conditions in countries and highlight the concerns that are related to unequal access to resources and participation in social, economic, and political life</li> <li>• Assessing and monitoring women's and men's contribution to the economy and society in the form of paid and unpaid work.</li> <li>• Implementation of EU recommendations on household satellite accounts.</li> </ul>
4.10:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further work is needed to improve the measurement of gender differences in earnings. Eurostat will try to improve this measurement using the best sources (or a combination) available from each country in order to cover the whole labour market.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To respond to the policy concerns that have emerged in the region on the Status of Women and Men, organizations should work towards developing and/or harmonizing statistical methods and improving statistical data related to the following areas: i) violence against women, ii) economic and political power, iii) ) gender attitudes,) gender pay gap; iv) employment conditions.</li> </ul>
4.11.1	Title	<b>Social indicators and frameworks</b>
4.11.1:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to continue the work on social indicators by building selectively on the ideas developed in the 1960s and 1970s, and taking account of the reasons for the failure of efforts at that time. This work should also build on the sectoral work and on links between different sectoral levels. Initially, work should focus at the conceptual level.</li> <li>Questions of standardization of concepts and definitions to follow the general conceptual work, and the detailed work of the specific sectors.</li> <li>How to improve the harmonization of social statistics and to tackle the emerging areas of changing societies (such as crime, extreme forms of poverty, cultural and social attitudes, all forms of migration) where new solid methodology need to be developed.</li> </ul>
4.11.1:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Siena Group on Social Statistics will have its last meeting in Helsinki in February 2005. Crime, migration, the use of administrative sources are among the themes of the meeting.</li> <li>The Bureau considered that more work is required to improve international collaboration on social statistics, and it noted that there is a need to establish a new mechanism where the work on social statistics could be coordinated. It proposed to establish an ECE programme of meetings on social statistics in collaboration with Eurostat. ECE meetings will be organized back-to-back to the Eurostat meetings of directors of social statistics.</li> </ul>
4.11.2	Title	<b>Multi-purpose social surveys</b>
4.11.2:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The multi-dimensional nature of social change.</li> </ul>
4.11.2:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the timeliness and comparability of data from multi-purpose social surveys is of prime importance.</li> <li>Eurostat is the only organization doing this kind of Europe-wide multipurpose social surveys. A wider ECE programme on social statistics could consider the possibility to develop ad-hoc common modules to include in EU multi-purpose surveys and other non-EU member countries.</li> </ul>
4.11.3	Title	<b>Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics</b>
4.11.3:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The costs of data collection.</li> <li>The burden on respondents.</li> <li>The quality of data.</li> <li>Combining administrative and statistical requirements in the same system.</li> </ul>
4.11.3:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In many countries of the region registers and administrative records are increasingly used for census purposes, representing in some cases the main sources of information (see P.E. 4.2.1).</li> <li>The Nordic countries are developing some material on the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes. It is expected that this material will be ready in 2006 and will be disseminated for a wide use.</li> </ul>



5.	Title	<b>Environment statistics (edition 2005)</b>
5.1	Title	<b>Sectoral concepts, definitions, classifications and environmental databases</b>
5.1:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for further work on developing methodologies, harmonising the concepts and identifying common sets of indicators. The following areas can be mentioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- measuring emissions to air, especially relating to climate change</li> <li>- monitoring waste generation and movements, especially hazardous waste</li> <li>- bio-diversity</li> <li>- water resources, water use and discharges of water</li> <li>- other natural resources including land and sea resources and biological resources</li> <li>- environmental expenditures and revenues</li> <li>- chemicals and health issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Need for filling the gaps and improving the quality of data collected in the field of environment.</li> <li>• Need for a more visible, common priority among environmental topics. In this respect, it should also be pointed to which topics there is a need of legal instruments, general agreements or other regulatory instruments.</li> <li>• Need for better co-ordination between work in the field of environmental statistics, environmental accounts and sustainable development indicators.</li> <li>• As environment statistics is cross-sectoral, there is a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- focus on needs for data covering environmental dimensions in structural statistics</li> <li>- focus on the share of response for sectoral-environmental data production and dissemination</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Need for improving institutional cooperation in data collection, data treatment and data exchange</li> <li>• Need for better dissemination and simplified communication of statistics, accounts and indicators, independent of what kind of these 'labels' are put on the results.</li> </ul>
5.1:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The constant and urgent need for better coordination of data collection, avoid duplication and focus on priority data sets (“streamlining data collection”).</li> <li>• The need to fill data gaps for prioritised environment statistics and to improve the data quality.</li> <li>• The development of indicators to monitor progress towards sustainable development (see also PE 2.8 Sustainable development).</li> </ul>
5.2	Title	<b>Environmental accounting</b>
5.2:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To review developments in natural resource accounting.</li> <li>• Further methodological work on water accounting and practical implementation of environmental accounts.</li> <li>• To suggest ways in which a synthesis of different approaches may be constructed to ensure flexibility for special cases within a framework that is consistent overall.</li> <li>• To work to avoid a divergence in approach taken by ECE Members and that taken by countries outside the region (specifically developing countries).</li> </ul>
5.2:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close interaction of environmental and economic accounting.</li> <li>• The need to implement SEEA in as many countries as possible</li> </ul>

6.	Title	<b>Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (edition 2005)</b>
6.1	Title	<b>Dissemination of data and co-ordination of international data collection</b>
6.1:	Issues and problems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To coordinate policies of the international organizations involved in the collection of national statistical data, which are needed for their socio-economic analysis and publications.</li> <li>• To avoid any inefficient duplication in the data collection activities between international organizations, and to ensure that the burden placed on NSOs in responding to international data requests is kept to a minimum.</li> <li>• To implement jointly prepared questionnaires in international data collection.</li> <li>• Further improvement in on-line data capture aiming to improve timeliness of data collection.</li> <li>• To share data stored in statistical databases that are maintained by international organizations.</li> <li>• To make collected data available to national and international statistical agencies in printed or electronic form.</li> </ul>
6.1:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The increasing role of Internet in data collection. These innovations represent an opportunity to reduce the burden on NSOs. Further development of electronic data interchange standards (e.g. the XML-based standard for Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)) is expected to considerably enhance the use of Internet based data collection. However, in order to take full advantage of this opportunity, a high level of coordination among international organizations on data collection is required.</li> <li>• Differences in pricing policies used by different national and international statistical agencies in the dissemination of statistical information.</li> </ul>
6.2	Title	<b>Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat</b>
6.2:	Issues and problems:	<p>For ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To collect statistical data and to provide other statistical support needed for the ECE's economic analysis (some macro-economic data from the EU candidate countries is collected jointly with Eurostat, see also PA 3: Economic statistics).</li> <li>• To develop and maintain a statistical database for this purpose with emphasis on countries under the transition process.</li> <li>• To provide statistical services to other ECE divisions.</li> <li>• To further develop electronic data interchange between national statistical offices and the ECE secretariat based on international standards developed within the Western European EDIFACT Board.</li> </ul>
6.2:	Attention of the CES is drawn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing.</li> </ul>