



# UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

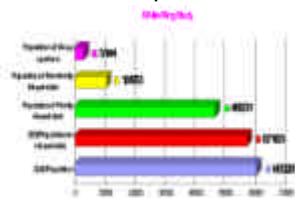
Issue N° 117 – 25-29 April 2005

## It's just happened ...

### Integrating statistics and ICT

Statistics is an information-based activity. Its links with information and communication technologies are therefore somewhat closer than in other areas, and this creates a permanent need to respond to the rapid developments in the field of ICT. The importance of ICT for statistical offices was evidenced by an exceptionally large participation at the [Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Meeting on Management of Statistical Information Systems](#) that took place in Bratislava (Slovakia) on 18-20 April. The discussions identified a trend towards integrating the management of core statistical businesses and supporting ICT. Improvement and change in one area implies changes and improvement in the other. The spiral of progress comprises statistical processes, complex information systems, individual applications and the underlying ICT infrastructure. For the staff of statistical offices, and for project managers in particular, this implies a necessity to combine statistical and informatics skills.

The integration of statistics and ICT changes the management culture towards a project-based organization, influencing planning, budgeting and human resources. The integration as well as specificities of statistics also call for independence of statistical offices in managing their ICT, obviously in coordination with other government departments.



Unlike experts in subject-matter areas who have many possibilities to participate in international meetings, ICT specialists in statistical offices are exposed mostly to internal users. They thus find this forum particularly useful for an exchange of experience.

For more information contact Juraj Riecan ([juraj.riecan@unece.org](mailto:juraj.riecan@unece.org)).

### Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR)

The Working Group on PRTR held its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 13-15 April to further preparations for the entry into force of the PRTR Protocol to the Aarhus Convention, adopted at the Kiev Environment for Europe Conference in May 2003. No State has yet ratified this unique public right-to-know instrument, although many States and the European Community reported that preparations are well underway to implement the Protocol at the national and, in the case of the EU Member States, regional



level. The session agreed upon its plan of work for 2006-2008, the period when the Protocol is expected to come into force.

The session also reviewed options for rules of procedure and a compliance mechanism to the Protocol and appointed a facilitator to prepare draft

elements for these for consideration at its next session. Participants gave the draft guidance on the Protocol on PRTRs its first reading and agreed to prepare a final version through electronic consultation based on the drafts circulated and amended during the session, with the aim of completing the guidance in 2005.



The session called attention to the need to address the capacity of EECCA countries to implement the Protocol successfully and called for greater outreach to the business sector, which has indirect obligations to report to national PRTRs. The secretariat reported on a revised study of the costs of implementing the Protocol in UNECE countries and invited delegations to participate in a trial of the cost model developed to support the study.

For more information contact Michael Stanley-Jones ([michael.stanley-jones@unece.org](mailto:michael.stanley-jones@unece.org))

Not an official record - For information only

## Towards a world electronic trade documents standard

At its recent meeting in Kuala Lumpur, UN/CEFACT adopted the United Nations electronic trade documents project (UNeDocs) as the basis for a new, global standard for digital trade documents. Traders are seeking to move from traditional paper documents to electronic document processes, and UNeDocs is a simple and low-cost answer for the exchange of document-based data. The new UNeDocs standard will simplify international trade and increase security in the international supply chain through the exchange of less but better data that integrate with the latest Internet-based technologies. UNeDocs trade documents implement

international standards and best business practice. Traders and administrations can use the documents in both paper and electronic format depending on their needs, capabilities and the regulatory framework – the digital paper concept allows a trader to convert at any time the electronic document into a valid paper document, if such is required.



For more information contact Markus Pikart ([markus.pikart@unece.org](mailto:markus.pikart@unece.org)).

## Business Incubation Development Programme

An Advisory Workshop on Business Incubation took place on 14 April at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Belgrade, organized jointly by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Serbia, the Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research at the Norwegian Institute of Technology SINTEF, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and UNECE. A significant part of the Workshop was devoted to a presentation of the expansion of the «ENTrepreneurship TRaining ANd SERVICES – ENTRANSE – programme 2004/2005» for Incubator Building and Entrepreneurial Training, financed by the Norwegian Government. A pilot business

incubator will be established at the University of Nis with the financial and technical assistance of Norway, and Hungary intends to provide assistance for establishing a pilot incubator in Voivodina within the framework of the Cross Border Cooperation programme.

Further assistance will be given by UNECE during the development of the first business incubators and in designing a step-by-step Guide on how to set up business incubators.

For more information contact Antal Szabo ([antal.szabo@unece.org](mailto:antal.szabo@unece.org)).

## Coming up soon ...

April

25-26	Meeting of Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
27-29	Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment
27-28	International Coal Mine Methane Project Network Partnership Meeting
29	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane – Task Force on Mine Safety
25-27	UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE Region

## Facts and figures:

**Women's average wages as a percent of men's**  
Selected UNECE countries in Southeast Europe and CIS

Country	1995	2000	2002
Albania	...	0.69 <sup>3</sup>	...
Bulgaria	0.71 <sup>2</sup>	0.76	...
Czech Republic	0.77	0.73	0.76
Estonia	...	0.75	0.73 <sup>5</sup>
Hungary	0.84	0.84	...
Latvia	...	...	0.82
Lithuania	...	0.82	0.81 <sup>6</sup>
Poland	...	0.75 <sup>4</sup>	...
Romania	0.79	0.83	0.82 <sup>5</sup>
Slovakia	0.77 <sup>2</sup>	0.75	...
Slovenia	...	0.89	...
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	...	0.82	0.82
Armenia	...	0.52	0.39
Belarus	0.79	0.81	...
Georgia	...	0.56 <sup>3</sup>	0.50
Kazakhstan	...	0.59 <sup>5</sup>	0.61 <sup>6</sup>
Kyrgyzstan	0.74	0.68	0.65
Tajikistan	0.65 <sup>1</sup>	0.43	...
Ukraine	0.65 <sup>1</sup>	0.71	...

Source: Compiled from the UNECE Gender Statistics Database and national statistical offices

Notes <sup>1</sup> 1996 <sup>2</sup> 1997 <sup>3</sup> 1998 <sup>4</sup> 1999 <sup>5</sup> 2001 <sup>6</sup> 2003

**For further information please contact:**

**Information Service,  
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland**

**Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44**

**Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05**

**E-mail: [info.ece@unece.org](mailto:info.ece@unece.org)**

**Website: <http://www.unece.org>**