

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Second Meeting of the 2002/2003 Bureau
Geneva, 13-14 February 2003

**RAPPORTEUR REPORTS FOR PROGRAMME ELEMENTS IN PROGRAMME
ACTIVITY 1,
ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

**PE 1.1: PROMOTION AND COORDINATION OF MULTILATERAL STATISTICAL
WORK**

Rapporteur: ECE

**I. Important issues that should be brought to the attention of the Bureau and the
Conference**

1. In the past two years, which constitute the reviewed period, the international organisations continued working towards the coordination of their statistical work. A good example of this are the various joint statistical activities in different subject areas and the way they are being planned so that duplication is avoided. However, in order to improve the efficiency of the joint statistical activities in the CES work programme, it is important that the Bureau reviews them regularly to ensure that each activity has a specific purpose and product in mind and is completed within a specified time framework.
2. Annual Joint Programme Review Meetings used to be conducted between ECE, Eurostat and OECD. These meetings have performed so well that there was no need for any meetings in the past two years. However, the Joint Programme Review Meetings of the three organisations should be re-established in order to take stock of the present situation. It is proposed to organise the next meeting sometime in early summer 2003.
3. There is still a need for further work on strengthening the coordination of statistical data collection among the various international organisations. In June 2002, the Conference identified several issues that require follow-up by the international organisations in response to the call by the NSOs for better coordination of statistical data collection, improved efficiency of data collection and decreased reporting burden. A progress report on these issues should be presented at a future plenary session. Further details on the work undertaken in this area are specified in the Rapporteur report on Programme Activity 2 and document CES/BUR.2003/19/Add.1.
4. An issue of general concern in the past two years has been the lack of coordination in the field of health statistics, more particularly the lack of coordination between the World Health Survey launched by

the WHO and similar work already undertaken by both countries and organisations in the ECE region. The resolving of the issue is still pending. Despite the various approaches used by the Bureau to find an agreement with the responsible managers in the WHO, so far no progress has been achieved. Therefore, the Bureau requested to meet with the top management of the WHO at the time of its meeting in February 2003.

5. During the last two years, the format for presentation of the Integrated Presentation has been significantly improved. The new format, developed by the ECE secretariat, is easier to read and clearer for the users. However, some further adjustments have to be made. For example, the section on “Expected outcomes in the next two years” should also include the expected deadline, so that the Bureau can follow-up on the achievements.

6. The work on converting the IP into a database has advanced, but not at the speed desired. The final goal is to ensure the remote updating of the document. It is also desirable that the IP become more concise and easier to comprehend. Currently its compilation requires a lot of time and resources from the major contributors, Eurostat and OECD, and especially from the ECE secretariat, responsible for putting it together. There is a need to review both the contents of some of the programme elements and the compilation procedure for the IP.

7. The 50th Conference, held in June 2002, changed the format and the structure of its future plenary sessions so that it could better respond to major changes affecting countries in the ECE region and consequently the international statistical work in the region. The Conference also decided to contribute to the strengthening of official statistics outside the European region. A summary report of the planned future work of other Regional Committees on Statistics will be prepared as background information for future plenary sessions of the Conference, starting with 2003.

8. There is a growing need for improving the coordination in statistics among the organisations within the UN system. After the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities was disbanded on 31 December 2001, the UN Statistical Division called for an Inter-agency Meeting. The meeting decided to establish a Committee of Statistical Activities (CSA) with the main objective of promoting coordination, integration and complementarity among the statistical programmes of the international organisations.

9. Furthermore, the ECE secretariat has recently been appointed a co-leader, together with the UN Statistics Division, for coordination in statistics for those UN organisations that are members of the Executive Committee – Economic and Social Affairs, or EC-ES (including the UN Secretariat, the UN Regional Commissions, UNCTAD and selected organisations but excluding the specialised agencies). The goal of this new initiative, which covers nine different areas in addition to statistics, would be to improve the efficiency of the UN system by creating synergies. In this capacity, the ECE secretariat developed some proposals and ideas for new actions related to the coordination of the various statistical activities of the UN organisations and moving towards a UN system of official statistics. The proposals are still at a very preliminary stage of discussion. Some of these proposals and ideas include:

- A possible extension of the Integrated Presentation to cover the statistical activities of the organisations that are members of the EC-ESA; as a consequence, the activities of the other four Regional Commissions would have to be included;

- The analysis and assessment, through a peer review, of the entire system of official statistics of the UN organisations;
- Examine the possibility of setting up jointly comparable reference series of key statistical indicators in one or two subject areas to be determined. The scope of the reference series could be gradually extended to cover all areas of official statistics, if their feasibility is demonstrated in one or two subject areas;
- The setting up of a mechanism for filtering and specifying both existing and forthcoming proposals for indicators and sets of indicators as a follow-up to the various UN summits between the organisations concerned;
- Making an overview of valid and relevant UN statistical standards and developing a mechanism for the continuous updating of the information on these standards. The work could be linked to the Integrated Presentation;
- With regard to the advisory services and field projects undertaken or financed by the various UN organisations and directed to statistical capacity building, the statistical and policy units of the UN organisations could consider establishing jointly a set of good practices for involving the national statistical offices in the various statistical activities, so as to lay down the basis for a successful continuation of the work after the UN involvement is terminated.

10. Finally, at the 2002 Conference a suggestion was made that the Conference of European Statisticians should reconsider its role in view of the changes that take place in the ECE region. The new initiative for improving the coordination in statistics among the organisations within the UN, if approved, would have implications that need to be taken carefully into consideration. Since the Bureau has a key role in steering the work of the Conference any changes to the work of the Conference will have implications on its work. In this context, it may be desirable to enlarge the Bureau of the Conference.

II. Progress made collectively by organisations towards the Objectives and Expected Outputs

11. The IP identified four objectives for this work area. They are listed below together with brief comments.

12. *Decisions by the Conference of European Statisticians on the Conference's own work programme, on the work programme of the ECE Population Activities Unit, and guidance by the Conference to other ECE PSBs and to other international and supranational organisations on statistically-related activities in their work programmes*

- As noted earlier, the Conference reviewed the format and structure of its plenary sessions, so as to better respond to the changing environment in the ECE region. The ECE Population Activities Unit reports to the Conference, prepares papers for the Bureau and contributes to the Rapporteur reports for the in-depth reviews of PA 4: Social and demographic statistics;
- The Conference has done very little to provide guidance to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies on statistically related activities as specified by the medium-term objectives. The need for

such guidance was emphasised by the Economic Commission for Europe already back in 1987 and later re-affirmed in 1990 and 1997. In this context, the ECE Statistical Division will strengthen its role in coordinating the statistical activities carried out by other ECE divisions. Moreover, a proposal is being developed for an annual ECE Statistical Programme.

- Guidance to other international and supranational organisations continued to be provided through the compilation of the IP. The IP is the tool for identifying any gaps and possible duplications in the work of the various international organisations.

13. *Reach agreements with wide dissemination on unified questionnaires, single databases, work programmes and meeting agendas*

- This objective is being met primarily through the work of the various Intersecretariat Working Groups in subject-matter areas. Their work is included in the Integrated Presentation and reviewed by the Bureau at the time of the in-depth reviews or within the context of the IP.

14. *Submit to the plenary session of the CES integrated work programmes and streamlined programmes of data collection; make them available to the UNSD for its Integrated Presentation*

- In June 2002 the Conference carried out an in-depth review of programme Element 2.2: Statistical Data Collection and Processing, identified the issues of concern to member countries and other organisations and decided to follow up on the work undertaken in this respect in future. More details are provided in the Rapporteurs' report on Programme Activity 2.

15. *Consistency in the data dissemination by international statistical offices*

- The Bureau needs to review this objective and identify actions if necessary.

16. *The IP identified in the section on "Issues and Problems" the following issue: Possibility of the Conference to establish more interaction with academia, NGOs (e.g. IAOS and ISI), the media and the business community.*

- So far no action has been taken in this direction.

III. Outputs for the programme element

17. At its October 2002 meeting, the Bureau decided that the IP should gradually introduce a new form of presentation of outputs. It was agreed that the Rapporteurs prepare their reports to the Bureau in February 2003 according to a new form of presentation, as a first attempt. The following outputs for Programme Element 1.1 are identified below:

(i) Standards and norms of official statistics: methodologies, classifications, recommendations and guidelines, best practices, manuals:

- The 'corporate data glossary' developed by OECD in support of the work on developing common e-standards for collection and sharing of data and metadata;

- UNSD website on millennium indicators maintained in response to the need for coordination of international indicator activities.

(ii) Surveys and inventories of countries'/organisations' practices and data availability:

- Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work.

(iii) Data dissemination: statistical databases, publications and websites:

- Not applicable.

(iv) Statistical support for policy analyses work (data collection and processing):

- Not applicable.

(v) Technical assistance:

- Not applicable.

IV. Suggestions and recommendations to the Bureau and/or the Conference related to I and II above

18. The Bureau may wish to consider the following issues:

- Possible extension of the Integrated Presentation, after reviewing its content, to cover the statistical activities of the organisations within the UN system: consequences for compiling the IP and for the work of the Bureau in reviewing the IP;
- The possibility for conducting analyses and assessment, through peer reviews, of the system of official statistics of the UN organisations and the role of the Conference and its Bureau;
- Possible enlargement of the Bureau (the issue is discussed in document CES/BUR.2003/24);
- The role of the Bureau in providing guidance to the statistical activities carried out by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies (Transport, Timber, Human Settlements and Environment).

V. Suggestions for amendments to the text as defined in Programme Element 1.1 in the IP.

19. It is proposed to retain the text for "Goal".

20. It is proposed to amend the section on "Issues and problems" as indicated below:

- Managing multilateral relations between international statistical organisations on matters relating to national statistical offices;

- 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;
- Improve efficiency of data collection by the international organisations and decrease reporting burden to member countries. Improve data sharing and data exchange;
- Improve incoherent definitions of metadata and the dissemination of metadata;
- More transparency regarding the methods used by the international organisations for different compilation and estimation methods, as well as the various quality assessment procedures;
- Monitor the satisfaction of the users of the Integrated Presentation.

21. The following strategic medium-term objectives are proposed:

- Strengthen the work of the Conference so that it could better respond to major changes affecting countries in the ECE region;
- Further strengthen the role of the Conference and its Bureau in providing guidance on statistically related activities carried out by other ECE PSBs;
- Contribute to improving the coordination in statistics among the organisations within the UN system depending on developments in this direction. Recently a proposal has been developed for new actions related to the coordination of the various statistical activities of the UN organisations.

23. With regard to the section on “Expected outcomes in the next two years”, it is proposed to retain the ‘outcome’ identified at present – OECD/EU glossary of metadata terms, and to add “Extension of the Integrated Presentation” to cover the statistical activities of the organisations that are members of the EC-ESA and the activities of the other four Regional Commissions.

PE 1.2: MANAGEMENT AND POLICY ISSUES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES

Rapporteur: Statistics Norway

I. Important issues that should be brought to the attention of the Bureau and/or the Conference

24. Improved coordination between supranational/international bodies in the field of data collection should be supported and all countries are urged to take an active part in initiatives related to standardisation of transmission formats, metadata and web databases.

25. All countries are asked to take an active part in a review of the implementation of the fundamental principles and in specific actions related to exchange of 'best practise' and benchmarking.

II. The extent to which progress is being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs

26. The medium-term objectives as formulated as part of the 'problem statement' at the 2001 Conference were rather general and extensive and thus it may be difficult to identify specific actions. However, several of the topics have been touched upon within the framework of the work of the Conference.

Objectives (2001 Conference)	Actions since 2001
To review managerial and statistical policy issues	?
To facilitate the exchange of views and experiences between Heads of NSOs on matters affecting the organisation	The Conferences provides a framework and possibility for this exchange
To formulate priorities for the development of standards and methods	Reviewed standards in the economic field 2001
To enable heads of NSOs to exchange views and experiences on changing requirements	Seminar on new economy 2001
To consider issues such as development strategy and the overall design and conception of official statistics and professional ethics	The Bureau has discussed the issue of performance indicators and possible follow-up
To promote the application of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	An ECE-ESCAP-World Bank seminar held in 2001 in Ulaan Baator. Will be reviewed in the publication in connection with the 50th anniversary
To monitor the conflict between increased demand and shrinking resources	No clear action?
To promote the spread of 'best statistical practises'	The issue of peer reviews has been discussed based on some recent experiences
To enhance the role that statistics play at the national and international level	No clear action?

Strategic medium-term goals (2001)	Results by end of 2002
Proceedings of meetings of Heads of Agencies	Achieved
Decisions and guidance from the Conference on international organisations' planned statistical work programmes	Achieved as part of Integrated Presentation and Conference discussions
Minutes of the major Bureau meetings, and briefing notes of the meetings of the Conference's parent bodies to be available at the plenary session as room documents	Achieved
Substantive papers and in-depth reviews prepared for the plenary sessions on development of international statistical standards and methods and their application in statistical practice	Achieved in some areas
Provide examples of the application of the Fundamental Principles and report periodically on them to the ECE	Some examples are expected to be provided in the publication in connection with the 50th anniversary

27. It should be noted that, according to the new structure of the Integrated Presentation, the strategic medium-term objectives in the 2002 IP were reformulated and simplified to:

- Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- Formulating priorities for the development of international statistical standards and methods, and promoting their use;
- Enabling heads of statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on changing statistical requirements that create pressures for the reform of statistical policies and institutions.

28. An achievement noted at the CES 2001 was the establishment of a Task Force on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) aimed at developing a common standard for the exchange of statistical data and metadata. Background for this initiative were the discussions in the UNECE work sessions on metadata on the need for standardisation.

29. The CES 2001 further reviewed in depth the following items:

- The growing use of the Internet for the collection and dissemination of statistics;
- New manuals and standards in the field of economic statistics, and their inter-relationship with SNA'93;
- Measuring the new economy and adapting to it

30. The Conference, as well as the Bureau, has actively reviewed the future of the Integrated Presentation, and initiated measures for improvement.

31. The seminar of the CES 2001 addressed the following topics:

- Statistics for small countries;
- Small area statistics.

32. The 2002 Conference focussed particularly on statistical data collection and processing, and identified several issues to be followed up by the international organisations in order to improve data sharing and cost-efficiency of data exchange.

33. The Conference was further informed about the database for the Integrated Presentation.

34. The topic of the seminar was the 50th anniversary of the plenary session of the UNECE conference and comprised the following items:

- a) The CES in the past 50 years - Book on the history of the CES;
- b) Possible scenarios for future CES plenary sessions.

35. Under item b) some improved procedures for the Conference's plenary and seminar sessions were agreed upon, i.e. improved preparation, clearer focus and more time for discussion.

The ceremonial part of the celebration as well as the panel discussion on the past and the future of the CES highlighted several areas for improvement and issues to be addressed.

36. To summarise: over the last two years the Integrated Presentation has been reformed, and the development of the IP database has been a major achievement. Further, the performance and the future of the Conference has been discussed, and reforms have been initiated. The celebration of the 50th anniversary has also contributed to the focus on the Fundamental Principles. There has been focus on the

coordination of data collection and exchange, and in general the cooperation between the major international organisations has improved.

37. There is still a need to discuss how some of the original objectives might be pursued, for instance in relation to the role of statistics, setting priorities with limited resources and performance measurement/benchmarking. Coordination of the programmes of international organisations related to data collection activity, projects and meetings still appear to be a major challenge.

III. Identification of the outputs for the programme elements as proposed

38. As we understand it, this section should discuss further possible outputs of this programme element in future, much as the achievements in the previous period are discussed above.

(i) Standards and norms of official statistics: methodologies, classifications, recommendations and guidelines, best practices, manuals

39. This program element should focus on the major standards developed or under development and especially on the systems of standards and classifications. Areas in need of standardisation should be identified and regularly reviewed. This programme element should also ensure that proper and transparent processes are put in place for the development of standards, methodologies, classifications and manuals.

(ii) Surveys and inventories of countries' practises and data availability

40. This program element should in general stimulate the exchange of 'best practice' in specific subject-areas that might be identified. It should particularly focus on exchange of 'best practice' related to legal frameworks and management, development and evaluation of national statistical programmes. Regular reports on methods for performance measurement, methods for quality assurance and benchmarking should be produced as a basis for discussion. Improved monitoring of exchange of data between NSOs and international organisations should be high on the agenda.

(iii) Data dissemination: statistical databases, publications and websites

41. Improved coordination between international organisations in the field of data transmission, metadata and re-use of data shall have high priority. Data sharing through a joint and harmonised development of statistical databases available on the web should be encouraged.

(iv) Statistical support for policy analyses work (data collection and processing)

42. The present and future demand for statistics for governance should be addressed on a regular basis, and involvement of users in this area should be ensured at the CES Conferences.

(v) Technical assistance

43. Some limited concrete technical assistance can be envisaged, for instance in the form of seminars on topics relevant for management and planning or as part of a benchmarking exercise.

IV. Suggestions and recommendations to the Bureau and/or the Conference related to I and II above

44. In the near future, 10 new countries will probably become members of the European Union. The effects of this process on the activities of the CES should be evaluated, possibly leading to a shift in priorities and focus.

45. Given that the rather broad and long-term 'problem' description is retained, one option can be to try give a clearer and more limited focus on the objectives, for instance by giving a clear priority to the implementation of the Fundamental Principles and coordination of data collection/exchange. This will also have some repercussions on the formulation of the expected outcomes.

46. One major issue is the linkage between this program element and the objectives set and actions planned within the other program elements. As this program part should have a central strategic and coordinating function, it is necessary to ensure that the main objectives and priorities are followed up in the diverse working groups and action plans.

47. At present there is a rather extensive structure of working groups/committees/task forces organised by UNECE, Eurostat and OECD (see separate annex). Even if some of these groups now are jointly organised, there might be reasons to evaluate on a global level this meeting structure, especially in the light of the extension of the European Union, and the intention to reduce the number of regular working group meetings. An issue in this context is the possibility to introduce groups ensuring improved coordination within sectors (such as 'sector groups' within the Eurostat structure). Another issue might be the introduction of networking structures and possible regional meetings.

V. Suggestions for amendments to the text

48. We suggest retaining the description of 'issues and problems'

49. On the basis of the discussion above, we propose some revisions of "Strategic medium-term objectives":

- To ensure that data collection activities by international organisations are coordinated and monitored ([see Programme Element 6.1 on Dissemination of data and coordination of international data collection](#));
- To review the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and perform benchmarking studies;
- To review the functioning of different meetings and processes supporting standardisation, methodological development and exchange of 'best practice';
- To focus on the relevancy of statistics in relation to policy purposes.

50. Furthermore, we propose the following 'expected outcomes', divided into an "on-going part" and a "special" part:

(i) Regular/ongoing outcomes:

- Proceedings of meetings of Heads of Agencies;
- Decisions and guidance from the Conference on international organisations' planned statistical work programmes;
- Minutes of the major Bureau meetings, and briefing notes of the meetings of the Conference's parent bodies to be available at the plenary session as room documents;
- Substantive papers and in-depth reviews prepared for the plenary sessions on development of international statistical standards and methods and their application in statistical practice.

(ii) Specific outcomes in the next period:

- Provision of a review of the application of the Fundamental Principles in all CES member countries;
- A solution for improved monitoring of international data exchange should be demonstrated, and improved coordination of data collection in specific areas documented;
- A review of the meetings structure within the international framework should be presented.

PE: 1.3: COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION IN THE ECE REGION

Rapporteur: ECE

I. Important issues that should be brought to the attention of the Bureau and the Conference

51. The process of transition among the countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS has reached very different stages of development. Eight transition economies in Central and Eastern Europe will become members of the European Union in less than one year. These countries are now recognised as having market economies and are adjusting their economic and social infrastructure to the EU framework known as “acquis communautaire”, including the statistical acquis. The official granting of the status of market economy by EU to Russia in May 2002 has marked the progress towards the integration of the EU and Russia within a “common European economic space”.

52. The situation is very different in Southeast Europe where countries are facing economic and social difficulties in their progress towards a market economy. Some of them are more advanced, while others are experiencing strong internal political tensions. In the CIS countries, leaving aside Russia, there is considerable diversity among countries in their progress towards a market economy. This calls for a tailored development of statistics in the region, supported by a sustained technical cooperation effort by the international organisations that are active in the region.

53. Two important events that have taken place at the world level in 2002 have had an impact on the demand for statistical information in the ECE region, especially in the countries that are dealing with critical development issues in Southeast Europe and in the CIS. The UN Secretary General presented his first report on the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to the UN General Assembly on 1 October 2002. The report will be presented annually. The UNDP has received the

assignment of leading the UN efforts to coordinate the MDG campaign and the country-level monitoring activities associated with it. The second event is the World Summit on Sustainable Development that was held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002. A plan of implementation of sustainable development was adopted with concrete commitments, targets, and timetables at the level of countries and regions.

II. Progress made collectively by organisations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs

54. The international organisations have devoted a significant amount of human and financial resources to the development of economic and social statistics in Southeast Europe and the CIS. This effort is expected to continue.

55. In Southeast Europe, a new European Union programme has replaced PHARE. The implementation of this new programme, called CARDS, has taken more time than initially planned, but is now starting in all countries of the sub-region. Beyond the European Union, the international community, including UNECE, the Council of Europe, UNDP, IMF and the World Bank, is devoting specific attention and resources to the strengthening of statistical capacity in these countries, e.g. (i) the monitoring of the population census in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (TFYRM); (ii) the development of reliable and timely economic and social statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and (iii) the Eurostat/UNECE cooperation on global assessment, i.e. evaluation of the current status of the public statistical system in Southeast European countries and recommendations on improvement (recent examples are Yugoslavia and Bosnia & Herzegovina); and (iv) the development of statistical legislation in Yugoslavia.

56. The EU TACIS programme is a major source of technical cooperation in statistics in the CIS countries with the exception of Belarus and Tajikistan. Other international organisations such as UNDP, IMF, World Bank, UNECE, and the CIS Inter-State Statistical Committee are also active in the region. At the same time, the OECD is withdrawing from providing technical assistance in statistics to the CIS countries due to re-orientation of its strategy.

III. Outputs for Programme Element 1.3

57. The following outputs should be achieved in Programme Element 1.3:

- Development of medium- and long-term master plans for statistical capacity building in all Southeast European and CIS countries, including a reference to statistical needs related to the monitoring of the progress toward Millennium Development Goals, as well as the plan of implementation of sustainable development adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- Adoption of statistical legislation in countries where it does not yet exist, including an explicit reference to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- Implementation of UN and EU statistical standards in economic, social and environmental areas;
- Periodic overview of technical cooperation activities of international and national organisations in Southeast Europe and the CIS.

IV. Rapporteur's suggestions and recommendations related to items I and II above

58. The formulation "countries in transition" should be reviewed in order to better comply with the situation created by the enlargement of the European Union in 2004 and the development of the common European economic space.

59. The development of regionally relevant indicators for monitoring progress towards Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of sustainable development indicators should be given better visibility in the programme of work of the Conference and the technical cooperation activities of international and national organisations. Objectives and expected outcomes listed in the Integrated Presentation should be amended in order to better reflect the outputs identified in item 3 above.

PE: 1.4: RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE ECE REGION, INCLUDING COUNTRIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Rapporteur: ECE

I. Important issues that should be brought to the attention of the Bureau and the Conference

60. The ECE region is in close interaction with the African and Middle-east countries around the Mediterranean, which requires cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The same is true for the Central and Eastern Asian countries. It is worth noting that the ECE member countries in Central Asia are also members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Mongolia, an ESCAP member, is participating in the EU-led TACIS Programme.

61. In recent years, inter-regional cooperation across the UN regions has gained increasing attention from decision-makers and other economic stakeholders in the economic and social development. The economic globalisation and its social impact is certainly playing an important role in this growing attention. Another reason is the recent development of two worldwide initiatives by the United Nations: (i) the 2000 Millennium Summit held in New York and the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals; and (ii) the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, and the adoption of a plan of implementation of sustainable development. The follow-up of both initiatives requires good cooperation among the UN regional commissions.

62. Finally, it has been recently decided within the UN Secretariat to give the role of coordinator for statistics to ECE, together with the UN Statistics Division. Resources permitting, this will lead ECE to strengthen its relations with all other UN regional commissions.

II. Progress made collectively by organisations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs

63. Eurostat, with ECE participation, has developed over the last couple of years the Medstat programme. This programme plays a fundamental role in Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation.

ECE has been involved in migration statistics (MED-MIGR).

64. Links between ECE and ESCAP have strengthened recently in two ways: (i) an ECE-ESCAP seminar on the application of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the CIS and selected Asian developing countries was organised in collaboration with the National Statistical Office of Mongolia and the World Bank in Ulaan Baatar in December 2001; and (ii) a systematic exchange of information between the Statistical Divisions of ECE and ESCAP on technical cooperation activities in Central Asian countries that are members of the two Commissions.

Eurostat is developing a number of statistical training activities for ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) countries.

65. Eurostat is working with India and China on the harmonisation of bilateral trade statistics.

66. A Paris 21 task team has developed a set of statistical capacity building indicators, with the participation of experts from IMF, World Bank, UNSD, UNECE, UNECLAC and Afristat. An experimental implementation of these indicators was conducted by UNSD in Angola and Bolivia in 2002. UNSD will conduct a worldwide implementation exercise in selected countries in all regions, in coordination with an effort on implementation of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

67. OECD will develop its work with the 'big six' countries, i.e. Brazil, Russia, India, China, Indonesia and South Africa.

III. Outputs for Programme Element 1.4

68. The following outputs should be achieved in Programme Element 1.4:

- Development with other UN regional commissions of regionally relevant sets of Millennium Development Goals indicators and sustainable development indicators, in collaboration with the UN standing committee on economic and social indicators;
- Establishment of regional transition tables between the above-mentioned regional sets of indicators and UN-DESA sets of indicators at the world level;
- Implementation of UN statistical standards in economic, social and environmental areas in ACP and Mediterranean countries;
- Implementation of the Paris 21 statistical capacity building indicators in selected countries from all UN regional commissions, following the experimental work conducted by UNSD in Angola and Bolivia in 2002.

IV. Rapporteur's suggestions and recommendations related to items 1 and 2 above

69. Links between cooperation projects of Eurostat in non-ECE countries and technical cooperation by regional commissions should be strengthened and publicised. Mutual information on technical cooperation conducted by UN regional commissions in their respective geographical areas should be developed in order to identify possible synergies and develop new partnerships.

Annex

An overview of different WGs/coordinating bodies (IP 2003)

1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work

- ◆ ECE OECD-Eurostat: Joint Programme Review Meetings (Annual) **TO BE CONFIRMED**
- ◆ ECE-Eurostat-OECD: Numerous meetings of various Inter-secretariat Working Groups.

1.2 Management and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices

- ECE: CES Plenary session (annual, next in June 2003 in Geneva)
- ECE: Four meetings of the CES Bureau per year
- EUROSTAT: Task Force: Financial Partnership with the ESS, once a year (23 May 2003)
- EUROSTAT: Statistical Programme Committee, 4 meetings per year (13-14 March, 15 May, 17 September, 20 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT: DGINS Conference, once a year (18-19 September 2003)
- EUROSTAT: CEIES - 1 plenary (21 November 2003), 4 sub-committees (2 meetings each), 3 bureau meetings per year
- EUROSTAT: Working Group: ESS Programming and Co-ordination, once a year in June (24-25 June 2003)
- OECD: Statistical Advisory Group, March 2003 and March 2004
- OECD: High level statistical meeting, June 2003 and 2004

1.3 Countries in transition in the ECE region

- EUROSTAT: Working Group: Management Group PHARE, once a year (20-21 March 2003)

1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (inc. countries in the Mediterranean region)

- EUROSTAT TF: MEDSTAT, 3 times a year (27-28 January, 3-4 April, 16-17 June 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: MEDSTAT once a year (10-11 March 2003)
- EUROSTAT TF: Statistical Co-operation with the Developing Countries, once a year (27-28 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: The measurement of Poverty, once a year (15-16 September 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: PARIS21, once a year (1-2 December 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Tacis Steering Group on EU Statistical Co-operation with New Independent States and Mongolia, once a year (22-23 May 2003)
- EUROSTAT: Policy group on statistical co-operation with CARDS Countries, once a year (23-24 October 2003)
- PARIS21 - Regional Workshops worldwide
- OECD: PARIS21 - Rural and Agricultural Statistics, Task Team Meeting, 2nd Quarter 2003
- OECD: PARIS21 - Strategic Statistical Development Plan, Task Team Meeting, 2nd Quarter 2003
- OECD: PARIS21 - Strategic Statistical Development Plan, Task Team Meeting, 3rd Quarter 2003
- PARIS21 - Steering Committee Meeting, 2nd quarter 2003

- PARIS21 - Consortium Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting, October 2003
- OECD: 4th joint ADB-OECD-ESCAP Workshop on Business Tendency Surveys and Leading Indicators for countries of the ESCAP region, February 2003
- OECD: Workshop on Cyclical Analysis and Leading Indicators for countries of the ECLAC region, December 2003

2.1 Management of information technology infrastructure

- ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on Statistical Information Technology (2004)
- EUROSTAT: Working Group: IT Steering Committee, once a year (13-14 October 2003)

2.2 Statistical data collection and processing

- EUROSTAT WG: EDICOM IDEP/EDIFACT, twice a year (16-17 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Workshop on Statistical Metadata, once a year (3-4 April 2003)
- EUROSTAT Committee/WG on statistical confidentiality, twice a year (8-9 April, 3 December 2003)
- ECE: Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (timing to be decided by the CES Bureau on the basis of proposal put forward by the ECE).
- ECE/EUROSTAT Work Session Electronic Data Reporting, 2004.

2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information

- EUROSTAT WG: Statistics, Telematic Networks & EDI (STNE), twice a year (13-14 March 2003, 16-17 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Dissemination of statistical Information, twice a year, (24-25 April 2003, 9-10 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT TF "Groupe de réflexion sur l'avenir de la diffusion", twice a year, (24 January 2003, 20 June 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Data Shop Network Meeting, twice a year, (22-23 May 2003)
- ECE Work Session on Statistical Output of statistical commentary (2003/2004).
- Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Metadata (2003/2004).

2.4 Statistical classifications

- EUROSTAT Committee: SPC NACE/CPA – Nomenclatures, twice a year (19-21 February 2003, 3-5 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT Committee: Customs Code Committee - Nomenclature, twice a year (25-26 February 2003, 13-14 March 2003)
- UNSD: Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications (Nov.2003)
- UNSD: Meetings of the Technical Subgroup (March 2003, October 2003)

2.5 Statistical research and development

- EUROSTAT WG: Seasonal Adjustment, once a year (1-2 April 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Quality in statistics, once a year (2-3 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: European Plan for Research in Official Statistics (EPROS), twice a year (4-5 March 2003, 30-31 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT Committee: Scientific Committee, twice a year (11 April 2003, 12 September 2003)
- FAO: Workshops for capacity building in food and agricultural statistics in Central and Eastern European countries.

2.6 Geographical and regional data

- ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Methodological Issues involving the integration on Statistics and Geography (2004).
- EUROSTAT WG: Urban and Infra-regional Statistics, once a year (4-5 December 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Geographical Information Systems for Statistics, once a year (23-24 October 2003)
- OECD: Working Party on Territorial Indicators (June 2003; January 2004)
- OECD: Experts Workshop on the analysis of the OECD Territorial Database (June 2004)

2.7 Human resource development

- EUROSTAT: Working Group: Training of European Statisticians (TES) once a year (4 April 2003)

2.8 Sustainable development indicators

None

3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts

- ISWGNA: Working group meetings, autumn and spring 2003
- EUROSTAT WG: National Accounts, 3 times a year (25-26 February 2003, 20-21 May 2003, 17 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: National Accounts Directors, twice a year (28 January 2003, 17 June 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM), once a year (15 December 2003)
- EUROSTAT Seminar: Quarterly National Accounts, once a year (7-9 July 2003)
- EUROSTAT: GNP Management Committee, 3 times a year (25-26 March 2003, 3-4 July 2003, 5-6 November 2003)
- OECD: task-force on insurance: February 2003
- OECD: task-force on banking services: February 2003
- Canberra II Group on non-financial assets: First meeting, 15-17 April 2003; Second meeting, 13-14 October 2003
- OECD: meeting of Financial Statistics Working Party, October 2003. Special session on pension funds.
- OECD Annual expert meeting, October 2003 and 2004
- OECD Workshop on National Accounts for Balkan countries, April 2003
- Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics: the next meeting will be held in 2003. It will most likely be a joint meeting with the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics and held in New Delhi.
- Joint ECE/OECD/Eurostat Meeting on National Accounts, Geneva, Spring 2004

3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments

- ECB Statistics Committee: about 5 meetings per year (Working groups reporting to the Committee meet with varying frequency)
- EUROSTAT WG: Financial Accounts, twice a year (13-14 May 2003, 20-21 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Short Term Public Finance Statistics, twice a year (18-20 June 2003, 11-12 December 2003)
- Joint Eurostat-ECB WG incl. Quarterly Financial Accounts for the Government Sector (June 2003)

TO BE CONFIRMED

- EUROSTAT WG: Balance of payments, twice a year (20-21 March 2003, 15-16 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of payments statistics (CMFB), twice a year (30-31 January 2003, 26-27 June 2003)
- OECD: Steering Group on Revenue Statistics (3 June 2003, 25 November 2003, 8 June 2004)
- OECD: Working Party on Financial Statistics, November 2003
- OECD: Working Group on Insurance Statistics (ad hoc meetings, as required)
- Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (ad hoc meetings, as required)

3.3 International trade in goods

- EUROSTAT Committee: Trading of Goods - Intrastat/Extrastat (joint with EDICOM – Electronic Data Interchange for the Commission), 3 times a year (12-14 March 2003, 25-27 June 2003, 10-12 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: EDICOM Information & Communication Technology (EDICOM-ITC), twice a year (5-6 February 2003, 15-16 October 2003)
- OECD: 4th Meeting of Experts on International Trade Statistics, 7-9 April 2003, followed by the Trade in Services meeting
- WTO: Inter-secretariat Task Force on International Trade Statistics, 2004 and 2005

3.4 Transport Statistics

- ECE (ICT) Working Party on Transport Statistics, once a year (Fifty-fourth session, Geneva, 11-13 June 2003)
- ECE: Ad Hoc preparatory meeting for the 2005 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe, Geneva, 29-30 September 2003
- ECE: Ad hoc Meeting on the Rail Traffic Census, Geneva, 2-3 October 2003
- ECMT: Meeting of the ECMT Group of Statisticians, May 2003 and May 2004 (to be confirmed)
- EUROSTAT WG: Co-ordinating Committee for Transport Statistics, once a year, (11-12 March 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Passenger Transport Statistics, every 1-2 years, (24-25 April 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Road Transport Statistics, every 1-2 years (9-10 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Rail Transport Statistics, every 1-2 years (April 2004)
- EUROSTAT WG: Maritime Transport Statistics, every 1-2 years (23-24 January 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Inland waterway transport statistics, every 1-2 years (2005)
- EUROSTAT WG: Air transport statistics, every 1-2 years (10 March 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Intermodal Transport Statistics, every 1-2 years (November 2004)

3.5 Distributive trade

None

3.6 International trade in services

- Inter-Agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, twice a year
- OECD: Meeting of Experts on Statistics of International Trade in Services, (9-10 April 2003)
- OECD meeting on Measuring Economic Globalisation is provisionally planned for November 2003

3.7 Tourism

- EUROSTAT WG: Tourism Statistics, once a year (16-17 January 2003)
- OECD: Statistical Working Party of the Tourism Committee (30-31 October 2003)
- World Tourism Organisation: International Conference "Understanding and measuring tourism in a global economy" (First half of 2005)
- CIS-STAT: Seminar on tourism statistics to assist CIS countries (2003)

3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services

- EUROSTAT WG: Information Society, twice a year (10-11 February 2003, 29-30 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Communication, once a year (17-18 March 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Audio-visual services, once a year (2-3 June 2003)
- OECD: Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), 5-7 May 2003
- OECD: CSTP Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators (NESTI), June 2003
- OECD: Statistical Working Party of the Industry Committee (SWIC), 1-3 December 2003; (special session on globalisation: 3-7 November 2003)
- OECD: ICCP Committee, Working Party on the Information Economy (WPIE), 5-6 June 2003, 2004
- OECD: Short-term Economic Statistics Expert Group (STESSEG): 26-27 June 2003
- OECD: SME Workshop: 16-17 September 2003
- OECD-Eurostat Task Force on Services Producer Prices 12-13 Feb 2003
- Voorburg Group: 6-10 October 2003 (Tokyo, Japan) + once a year

3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities

- Inter-secretariat Working Group on Agriculture Statistics (IWG.AGRI, composed of ECE, Eurostat, FAO and OECD. Meetings twice a year on a rotating basis
- Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics, meetings about twice a year (membership: ECE, FAO, Eurostat, ITTO, OECD, EEA, CEC)
- Third International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS III), Cancún, Mexico, November 2004.
- PARIS21 Agricultural and Rural Statistics Task Team. The Team may organize seminars on specific areas of interest to donors and recipients of technical assistance in agricultural and rural statistics.
- Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (March 2004 and 2005)
- Global Forest Resource Assessment Advisory Group
- ECE/FAO: Meeting of national statistical correspondents (as funds allow)
- EUROSTAT WG: Land use statistics, twice a year (10-12 March 2003, 20-21 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Rural development statistics, once a year (4-5 December 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Farm structure survey and typology, twice a year (6-8 May 2003, 2-3 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Agricultural price statistics + Economic accounts for agriculture, twice a year (30 June – 1 July 20, 2-3 December 2003)
- EUROSTAT: Meeting on Vineyards + Fruit Trees + Crop products, once a year (9.11 July 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Animal products statistics, twice a year (19-21 March 2003, 20-21 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG + Committee: Crop products statistics + CPSA + 3rd workshop for CCs (8-10 December 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG + Committee: Animal products statistics + CPSA + 3rd workshop for CCs (10-12 March 2003)

- EUROSTAT WG + Committee: Livestock and Meat Statistics + CPSA + Workshop for CCs, twice a year (19-21 March 2003, 20-21 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Milk statistics, once a year (26-27 June 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Agro-industry statistics, twice a year (10-11 April 2003, 17-18 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Food security statistics, once a year (12-13 May 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG + Committee: Agricultural Statistical Committee (ASC) and CPSA, twice a year (7-11 July 2003 incl. Agriculture Seminar in Poland, 4-5 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Agriculture / environment statistics, twice a year (6-7 March 2003, 29-30 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Forestry Statistics, once a year (6-7 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG + Committee: Fishery Statistics + CPSA + 3rd workshop for CCs (5-7 May 2003)
- ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD Meeting on Food and Agriculture Statistics, 2-4 July 2003.

3.11 Industrial statistics

- EUROSTAT WG: SBS Implementation Annex 6 and 7, once a year (4-5 March 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Business Statistics Directors, once a year (11-12 June 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Business Statistics Directors - PHARE, once a year (13 June 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: SBS Implementation + SBS Quality, once a year (29 September-1 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Foreign Affiliates Trade Statistics (FATS), once a year (13-15 January 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Structural Business Statistics (SBS) Steering Group, once a year (11-12 February 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Business Services Statistics/Demand for services, twice a year (31 March – 2 April 2003, 3-5 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Enterprises Demography, once a year (10-11 April 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Short-term Statistics (STS) General Working Party, twice a year (30 June-1 July 2003, 24-25 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Short-term Statistics (STS) Special Thematic Working Party, once or twice a year (15 September 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Factors of success, once a year (7-8 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT: Committee: Statistical Programme Preparatory Committee for European Statistical System Regulation PRODCOM , twice a year (16-17 June 2003, 17-19 November 2003)
- ECE/FAO Joint Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, spring 2003, Geneva
- OECD: Statistical Working Party of the Industry Committee, Autumn 2003
- OECD: Short-term Economic Statistics Expert Group, once a year (two days). Second meeting to be held on 26-27 June 2003
- Joint OECD – European Commission meeting on Business Tendency Surveys and Consumer Surveys to be held around November 2003.

3.12 Energy statistics

- EUROSTAT WG: Energy Statistics Committee, once a year (13-14 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG/TF: Price Statistics, once a year (6 March 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Energy Efficiency, once a year (26 March 2003)
- IEA/OECD-EU: 4th International Meeting on Oil Statistics – Cairo – May 2003 – Joint meeting with Eurostat/APEC/OLADE/OPEC and UNSD
- IEA/OECD-EU International meeting on Energy Statistics (2004)

3.13 Science and technology statistics

- ECE/OECD/EUROSTAT/UNCTAD/ITU/UNESCO Workshop on Monitoring the Information Society: Data, Measurement and Methods (8-9 December 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: S&T and Innovation Statistics (19-21 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: R&D Benchmarking and Innovation statistics, 3 times a year (7-8 May 2003, 23-24 September 2003)
- OECD in co-operation with Eurostat: workshop for launching the revision of the Oslo manual, March 2003.
- OECD: workshop on HRST statistics, March 2003.
- OECD and WIPO: Conference on Patent indicators, April 2003.
- OECD: meeting of the ad-hoc group of NESTI for biotechnology, May 2003.
- OECD: Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators -- NESTI--, yearly meeting, June 2003.
- OECD: Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), 5-7 May 2003

3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics

- Joint ECE/EUROSTAT Seminar on Business Registers (25-26 June 2003). Agenda items include:
- EUROSTAT TF: Statistical Units, 3 times a year (20 May 2003, 15 December 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Statistical Units – Enterprise Group, once a year, October 2003 (2 days) (not yet defined)
- EUROSTAT WG: Business Registers, once a year (24-25 June 2003)
- Roundtable on Business Survey Frames: Next meeting is scheduled for October 2003 in Rome, Italy.

3.99 Other work in the field of economic statistics

- EUROSTAT: WG FEBI-FEBS-UNICE-Eurostat-INS, once a year (10 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Euro-Indicators, once a year (10-11 June 2003)

4.1 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration, fertility and families and households)

- Joint ECE/EUROSTAT Work Session on migration statistics, once every two years, in spring (next on 28-30 April 2003)
- Joint ECE/EUROSTAT Work session on demographic projections (Vienna, 15-18 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Demographic Statistics and Census, once every two years in February (19-21 February 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: CIREA Statistical experts group (25 September 2003)
- EUROSTAT: CIREFI Statistical experts group (7 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Migration Statistics, once every two years in February (next in 2004)
- OECD: Continuous reporting system on migration (SOPEMI) Expert Group, 10-12 December 2003
- UNSD: Interregional workshop on compiling international migration statistics (June 2003)
- UNSD: Expert Group on Review of demographic yearbook: collection, compilation and dissemination of demographic statistics (October 2003)
- United Nations Population Division: Expert Meeting on the Measurement of Adult Mortality (14-18 July 2003)
- United Nations Population Division: Expert group meeting on mortality and HIV/AIDS (2004-2005)

- United Nations Population Division: Expert group meeting on population policies: past, present and future (2004-2005)
- United Nations Population Division: Expert group meeting on social and economic implications of changing population age structures (2004-2005)
- United Nations Population Division: Technical meeting on projections methodology, with special emphasis on the projection of the impact of HIV/AIDS (2004-2005)

Meetings organized by the ECE Population Activities Unit:

- Meetings of the Consortium Board of the Generations and Gender Programme on the launching of the data collection (Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2005)
- Meetings of the Informal Working Group of the Generations and Gender Programme (Fall 2003 or Spring 2004, Fall 2004 or Spring 2005)

4.2a Population and housing censuses

- Joint ECE-Eurostat Work Session on population and housing censuses (21-23 May 2003, Ohrid, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).
- EUROSTAT WG regional statistics (accounts), (22-23 May 2003).
- EUROSTAT: See also P.E. 4.1 – Demographic Statistics.
- UNSD: Workshop on Census Management in ESCWA countries – 2003.

4.2b Statistics on population groups of special interest

Meetings organized by the ECE Population Activities Unit:

- Meetings of the Consortium Board of the Generations and Gender Programme on the launching of the data collection (Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2005)
- Meetings of the Informal Working Group of the Generations and Gender Programme (Fall 2003 or Spring 2004, Fall 2004 or Spring 2005)

4.3 Human settlements and housing statistics

None

4.4 Labour statistics

- EUROSTAT WG: Employment Statistics, twice a year (18-19 September 2003)
- EUROSTAT: WG: Statistics on Wages and Labour Costs, twice a year (27-28 March 2003, 7-8 October 2003)
- ILO: 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 24 November - 3 December 2003
- Joint ECE-Eurostat-ILO Seminar on Measurement of the Quality of Employment (to be confirmed)
- Paris Group: Meeting in 2003 on (most probably) measurement of working time

4.5 Education and training statistics

- EUROSTAT WG: Education and Training Statistics (ETS), once a year in January
- EUROSTAT WG: Technical subgroup of the ETS WG on “UOE (UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat) data collection”, once a year (10 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Continuous Vocational Training Survey (CVTS), twice a year (3-4 July 2003, 13-14 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT TF: AES meetings (26-28 March 2003 in Paris; 16-18 June 2003 in Helsinki; 23-24 October 2003 in London)
- OECD Network A: 20-21 March 2003, Mexico; October 2003.

- OECD Network B: 3-5 February 2003, Spain; November 2003.
- OECD Network C: 14-16 May 2003, Netherlands; December 2003.
- OECD Technical Group: July 2003, Paris; December 2003, Mexico.

4.6 Culture statistics

- ECE-Eurostat-UNESCO-OECD: Joint work session on culture statistics (2004/5 or later)
- EUROSTAT WG: Cultural Statistics, once a year (23-24 September 2003)
- EUROSTAT: Meeting of the three TFs twice a year; first meetings in January/February and second meetings in June/July each year. These meetings are mainly prepared and chaired by Member States.

4.7a Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income statistics

- 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 24 November to 3 December 2003
- EUROSTAT WG: Income, poverty and social exclusion, once a year (28-29 April 2003)
- EUROSTAT TF: Income, poverty and social exclusion, once a year (14-15 July 2003)

4.7b Social security statistics

- EUROSTAT: WG: Social Protection, every 18 months (17-18 February 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Labour Market Policies, (13-14 November 2003) (once a year in November/December)

4.8 Crime and criminal justice statistics

- Meeting of the International Crime Victim Survey Board in preparation for the fifth "sweep" of the ICVS.

4.9 Health statistics

- Joint ECE/WHO Meeting on Health Statistics (2004)
- Washington Group on Disability Measurement (October 2003)
- EUROSTAT: Techn. Meeting on Causes of Death statistics (15-16 May 2003)
- EUROSTAT: Techn. Meeting on Health Care Statistics (20-21 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Public Health Statistics, once a year (26-27 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Public Health Statistics with PHARE countries, once a year (28 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: European Statistics on Accidents at Work, twice a year (3 April 2003, 16 September 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: European Occupational Diseases Statistics, twice a year (6 May 2003, 15 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT: Techn. Meeting on Health and health-interview survey data (12-13 June 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Statistics on Accidents at Work with PHARE countries, once a year (17 September 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: European Occupational Diseases Statistics with PHARE countries, once a year (16 October 2003)
- OECD: Meeting on waiting times project, 15-16 May 2003
- OECD: Meeting of OECD Health Data National Correspondents; once a year in February/March (6-7 March 2003)
- OECD: Annual meetings of experts in national health accounts (next meeting 27-28 October 2003)
- OECD: Meeting of experts on human resources for health care, Fall 2003

- OECD: Meeting of Task Force on Private Health Insurance, Fall 2003
- OECD: Meeting of experts on health care quality indicators, September 2003
- ILO: 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 24 November - 3 December 2003
- WHO: Advisory committee meetings under the Strategy for Long-term Development of Core Health Indicators.
- WHO: Regional and country consultation meetings as appropriate as well as meetings to adapt different tools to the country level.
- WHO: Annual meetings of the Collaborating Centres established to oversee the implementation, maintenance and updating of the WHO Family of international classifications (FIC).

4.10 Gender statistics

- EUROSTAT WG: Time Use Survey, once a year (4-5 December 2003)
- 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 24 November - 3 December 2003 (see programme element 4.4)
- ECE: Work session on gender statistics (timing and refined terms of reference of the meeting to be decided later)

4.11a Social indicators and frameworks

- Siena Group, general meeting to be hosted by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, autumn 2003 (Subsequent meetings are envisaged in 2004 and 2005)

4.11b Multi-purpose social surveys

- EUROSTAT WG: Household Budget Survey, once a year (5-6 May 2003)
- EUROSTAT TF: EU-SILC (Survey on Income and Living Conditions), (10-11 June 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: EU-SILC (Survey on Income and Living Conditions), (16-17 December 2003)

4.11c Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics

- ECE-Eurostat: Joint work session/seminar on registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics (to be confirmed)
- EUROSTAT WG: Directors of Social Statistics, once a year (7-9 April 2003)

5.1 Sectoral concepts, definitions, classifications and environmental databases

- Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Work Session on Methodological Issues of Environment Statistics (2004/2005)
- EUROSTAT WG: Environment statistics incl. economic accounts for the environment, once a year (10-12 September 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Environmental expenditure statistics once a year (24-26 November 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Waste statistics, twice a year (9-10 April 2003, 27-28 October 2003)
- EUROSTAT WG: Sustainable Development indicators (3-4 February 2003)
- OECD: Working Party on Waste Prevention and Recycling (two meetings per year)
- OECD: Joint Working Party of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment (16-18th June 2003; 17-19 November 2003)
- OECD: Working Group on Environmental Information and Outlooks (one or two meetings per year, next: 24 June 2003; 26-28 November 2003)

- OECD: Working Party on National Environmental Policies (two meetings per year)
- OECD: Joint Meeting of Environment and Tax Experts (one meeting per year)
- OECD: Working Party on Territorial Indicators (one or two meetings per year; next: June 2003)
- UNSD: Expert meeting to discuss the draft second volume of the Manual of Environment Statistics (2003) (to be confirmed)
- EEA: National Focal Point meetings (4-5 February 2003, 7-8 May 2003, 7-8 October 2003)

5.2 Environmental accounting

- OECD Working Group on Environmental Information and Outlooks (one or two meetings per year, next: 24 June 2003; 26-28 November 2003).
- UNSD: Regional workshop on environmental accounting for the Latin American and Caribbean jointly with ECLAC (2003).
- UNSD: Expert Group Meeting on the draft Handbook on Tourism and Environmental Accounting (2004).
- London Group: (date and location of the next meeting to be decided).

6.1 Dissemination of data and co-ordination of international data collection

None

6.2 Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat

None