

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Second Meeting of the 2002/2003 Bureau  
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**RAPPORTEUR REPORTS FOR PROGRAMME ELEMENTS IN PROGRAMME  
ACTIVITY 4,  
SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS**

**PE 4.1: DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS, INCLUDING PROJECTIONS, MIGRATION,  
FERTILITY AND FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS**

**General Comments from Eurostat on PE 4.1 as a whole**

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

1. The specification of the important issues and problems, as well as the strategic medium-term objectives have been clearly improved. However, still the role of high quality local/regional/centralised population registers and their integration should be stressed more.
2. It should be still more emphasised that the basic requirement of any coherent demographic accounting system is integration of population flows and stocks, both in spatial and in temporal dimensions. In this respect the situation in the ECE region is far from satisfactory. In many countries the annual estimates of total population is still based on the previous population census as the stock reference updated by vital events and by often poor estimates of net migration. In these cases there is not much integration between flows and stocks. The first step should be a concrete specification of demographic accounts for the ECE region. The decision to move this task from the strategic objectives to the expected outcomes is a right one.
3. Because of increasing importance of regional dimension in population statistics, this problem cannot be solved only through survey integration. The only viable long-term solution is to complement vital recording (births and deaths) by good enough measurement of internal and international migration. In principle, this is done in most countries in connection with the local level population registration. The problem has been poor quality of the results, giving both overcount and undercount problems. Also the records have earlier been largely manual. However, during the last 10 to 15 years, there has been a positive development in most of the ECE countries; local population registers have been computerised and overcount problems have been reduced in many countries.
4. So, improvement of population registration and its use for population statistics are key to improvements of the annual population estimates at national and sub-national level. It requires co-

operation between the national statistical institutes and registration authorities, but also real attention and emphasis at the international level.

## **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

5. The following observations can be made on the progress made in certain priority areas:

- Further co-operation in data collection and dissemination with several international organisations (ECE, UNSO, ILO, and CE) has been carried out within the inter-secretariat working group. The major recent achievements of the 2000 joint data collection have been further strengthened and several new international organisations have expressed their interest to join the common activities (especially in the field of migration statistics).
- Contents of Eurostat demographic databases has been further extended and documentation has been improved.
- Preparations for the Community regulation on the migration and asylum statistics have been started. A feasibility study on the use of work permits and travel documents in compiling short term migration statistics has been carried out and a test data collection is being prepared.

### **PE 4.1 i) Projections**

**Rapporteur: Eurostat**

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

6. None.

## **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

7. So-called « nowcasts », which have allowed publication of the preliminary figures on population changes shortly after the turn of the year, have been completed with nowcasts on net migration, which made it possible for the first time to publish estimates on total population in the first week of January 2000. Compilation of “nowcasts” have been normalised and data on the accuracy of the estimates have been published on regular basis.

8. Eurostat harmonised population projections have proved to be extremely useful in policy analysis and research in several fields of Community policies. The extension of projections to the central European candidate countries has finally been started in 2002.

9. Eurostat’s proposed work on the relationship between population and labour market trends has been further delayed. Increase of tasks in relation to available resources has led to a change in the priorities of the work on projections. The emphasis is more clearly on the basics - improvement of projection methods and preparation for the next big projection round. The matter could be studied in the connection of the compilation of the new set of population and labour force projections in 2003 – 2004.

10. Eurostat has collected documentation from the Eea countries and the candidate countries on country practices of revising annual population estimates between population censuses: A small task force has been set up to prepare recommendations and to propose “best practices” of methods to be used.

### **III. Outputs for the programme element**

11. Updated version of Definition and methods of collection of demographic statistics describing country practices of 36 European countries will soon be available as a draft. Working Party on population projections was held in September 2002 in Luxembourg. Documentation is available in the CIRCA site of Eurostat including draft proceedings of the meeting.

#### **PE 4.1 ii) Migration**

##### **Rapporteur: ECE**

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

12. The situation that was reported by the Rapporteur in his 2001 report to the Bureau for this work area has not changed. International migration statistics remain among the least developed of all fields of social and demographic statistics. For many decades now there have been major problems of lack of international comparability in this field. There are several reasons for this, such as: the fact that countries use their own national definition of what constitutes an immigrant or an emigrant, they use a variety of different types of data sources; and there are important differences in the coverage of different categories of migrants in the national statistics.

13. The “new” set of UN recommendations on International Migration Statistics that the Statistical Commission adopted at its February 1997 session and that were published in 1998 in the various different UN working languages remain the approved tool that the international statistical community has produced as the mechanism that countries should use to help them gradually progress towards greater international comparability in this field. However, the different international organizations with an interest in this field of statistics thus far have done relatively little to promulgate the new set of recommendations or to attempt to set in motion some type of programme in which they begin working with interested countries to see whether and how the new set of recommendations can be used by them in real-life situations for producing immigration and emigration statistics. Almost five years have now passed since the new set of recommendations were published; work along these lines could be initiated in the not too distant future by some of the organizations with an interest in this field (e.g., UNSD, ECE and Eurostat), in an effort to encourage countries to begin considering issues like this. Unless this is done, there is a risk that the current situation will continue to prevail for many years to come, and that once again the international statistical community will be faced with the situation where the international standards that they have developed and produced for this field of statistics remain theoretical and of no practical use to countries.

14. In view of the fact that in the contemporary period international migration remains a “hot topic” in many countries in the ECE region and one of continuing high policy interest, this is perhaps an additional

reason why the international statistical community should attempt to stimulate more focussed work in this field of statistics.

15. As indicated in the 2001 report by the Rapporteur, the following are some of the reasons why progress towards greater international comparability in this field of statistics has been hampered over the years:

- The statistics on immigration and/or emigration that countries are now compiling use definitions and coverage that are designed to meet their own national needs. Countries may well be concerned that if they were to instead compile their statistics according to the definitions that are contained in the UN recommendations, their countries' national needs will no longer be met (or they may feel that they might less adequately be met);
- Immigration is a politically sensitive issue in many countries and, as a result, some countries or NSOs may be reluctant to begin compiling statistics in a different way, which, because of improved coverage of immigration inflows, would result in statistics on immigration being published that are considerably higher than the statistics countries are currently publishing;
- UN recommendations, regardless of the field of statistics, by their very nature "have no teeth". The Organisation can publish recommendations and promulgate them as examples of good statistical practice, but it cannot compel countries to implement or use them;
- In some countries, it is not the NSOs but other Government agencies that are responsible for compiling and publishing statistics on immigration and/or emigration, and these other agencies are understandably more motivated and concerned about having the statistics continue to meet their agencies' policy needs than about implementing a set of recommendations that the UN Statistical Commission has adopted.

16. Although it is not to be expected that major improvements are likely to occur in the short term, there remains considerable scope (and need) for useful international work to be done in this field of statistics. In the current circumstances, the most promising way forward appears to be for organizations like UNSD, ECE, Eurostat and other concerned international organizations to concentrate their efforts on specific work that is targeted at realistic and attainable goals.

## **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

17. The IP includes seven different objectives for this work area. They are listed below, together with a brief indication of their continuing relevance and of the extent of progress that international organizations are collectively making towards them.

*Improve integration between stock and flow data.*

18. This is viewed as being relevant, but not of the highest priority, especially in the short term. Little if any progress is being made towards it.

*Increased compliance with the international recommendations on international migration statistics adopted in 1997 by the UN Statistical Commission.*

19. As noted above, this is viewed as being both relevant and important, but little if any progress is being made towards it. It would benefit perhaps by having some stimulus applied to it by UNSD, ECE and Eurostat.

*Improved data on international migration flows.*

20. This is viewed as being both relevant and important. Little if any progress is being made towards it. It would benefit by having some stimulus applied to it by UNSD, ECE, Eurostat and others. In the short term, countries with major gaps in their statistics (e.g., countries that do not compile any statistics on immigration or emigration flows, and countries whose coverage of inflows and outflows is far from complete) could be prompted to try to be innovative in addressing these problems in the national statistics that they are currently compiling.

*Provision of monthly immigration and asylum data in support of Treaty of Amsterdam provisions on security and free movement of people.*

21. This is viewed as being of some relevance, but not of the highest priority, especially in the short term. Unsure of the amount of progress that is being made towards it.

*Promulgation of the revised set of UN recommendations on international migration statistics, and provision of guidance and assistance to countries in applying them at the national level (ECE, Eurostat and UNSD).*

22. As noted above, this is viewed as being both relevant and important, but little if any progress has been made towards it. It would benefit by having some stimulus applied to it by UNSD, ECE, Eurostat and others. In the short term, countries with major gaps in their statistics (e.g., countries that do not compile any statistics on immigration or emigration flows, and countries whose coverage of inflows and outflows is far from complete) could be prompted to try to be innovative in addressing these problems in the national statistics that they are currently compiling. (Filling in some of these important gaps in the current statistics would constitute important progress towards compliance with the UN recommendations, but not necessarily towards greater international comparability of the statistics.)

*Provision of guidance and technical assistance to countries in transition, countries in the Mediterranean region and other countries interested in putting in place statistical systems for measuring immigration and emigration flows (ECE and Eurostat).*

23. This is viewed as being both relevant and important, and some progress is being made towards it, particularly in the Mediterranean region through Eurostat's MED-MIGR project (the ECE Statistical Division has been collaborating with Eurostat in implementing this project, by serving as a resource person and trainer at some of its project workshops). The project has made important inroads in bringing together officials from the national statistical offices and justice and other ministries in exploring ways in which they can work together to begin enabling some of these countries to begin producing statistics on immigration and emigration flows.

*Production and dissemination of annual origin-destination international migration matrices for ECE countries (ECE and Eurostat).*

24. These origin-destination matrices containing statistics on the migration flows compiled by both the sending and receiving countries are considered to be of continuing relevance and usefulness, particularly for highlighting the lack of comparability in the statistics that both a given sending and receiving country compile on the same flow, because they result in the officials in each country beginning to assess why the

figures of the two countries differ so much. Work on the production of these annual matrices has fallen on the “back burner” in recent years because of resource limitations in the ECE Statistical Division, and this situation should perhaps be reviewed.

### **Possible developments in the short-term future**

25. An ECE-Eurostat joint work session on migration statistics is included in the Conference’s work programme for 2002-2003. The meeting will be held in Geneva at the end of April, and it is being organized in collaboration with UNSD. An innovation is taking place at the meeting, in that one of the major substantive items of the agenda is to be devoted to “Synergies between international migration statistics and statistics on other topics with particular relevance to policy needs, including the need for international flow statistics in providing services across borders”. The UNSD is the Session Organizer for this topic, and it has succeeded in obtaining papers from several national experts in the field of international trade in services. It is hoped that the bringing together into the same meeting of experts from the fields of demographic statistics and international trade in services will help to identify synergies between the two fields and possibly result in new ways of thinking of and tackling the statistical problems in both fields.

26. Finally, the ECE secretariat will use the April 2003 meeting as an opportunity to establish a Task Force/Steering Committee composed primarily of interested NSO representatives. The committee who would take on the challenge of developing a concrete programme to take account of national circumstances and needs that would be aimed at facilitating more substantial progress being made by the countries in a step-by-step manner towards greater compliance with the UN recommendations on international migration statistics, so that international comparability in this field can be improved. It is also anticipated that the programme that they would develop along these lines would serve as the cornerstone of the next ECE-Eurostat joint meeting in this field of statistics.

### **PE 4.1 iii) Fertility**

#### **Rapporteur: ECE**

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

27. ECE (through its Population Activity Unit), Eurostat and the Council of Europe along with the UN Statistical Division in New York are continuing with the collection of the aggregate-level vital statistics on fertility. The Council of Europe publishes them in its annual publication *The recent demographic developments in Europe*. This publication is being prepared in collaboration with the European Demographic Observatory operating from the Institut national d’études démographique (Paris, France). The data are also available at and downloadable from the Council of Europe web site. Many researchers greatly appreciate the timely and easily accessible fertility data produced as a result of the collaboration between these organisations, which is being coordinated by the Intersecretariat working group on population statistics, formed on initiative of the ECE Statistical Division.

28. Fertility has descended to sub-replacement levels throughout the industrialised world (the only possible exception is Albania where in 1999 – the latest available year – fertility was at replacement level). As low fertility showed the tendency to persist in many countries, the consequences for the coming decades is population stagnation or decline and accelerating population ageing, particularly in countries in the ECE region.

29. The low fertility is being accompanied by a variety of new union or partnership arrangements, such as residential cohabitation and non-residential partnerships. In many countries babies are increasingly being born to couples in those new unions as well as to women who do not have male partners at all. Interestingly enough, in a number of countries where fertility outside marriage is common (the cases in point is Sweden), fertility levels are high. And the opposite is true in countries (e.g. Italy) where out-of-wedlock fertility is very rare.

30. Various aspects of low and extra-marital fertility in the UNECE countries need to be better documented and better understood. Vital statistics are increasingly incapable of helping in this respect. Population registers, where accurate and complete, are a more useful source. Yet both of them are limited in their explanations of underpinnings of the new fertility patterns, including the impact of public and private policies in support of the family and parenting. The challenge for statisticians will be to generate data that would help analysts, scholars and policy-makers to better understand determinants of the contemporary fertility behaviour.

31. The ECE, through the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) is one of the few international organisations actually working in this field.

32. Work in the field of fertility is related of course to work that is undertaken in other fields of statistics, such as statistics of households and families. In this connection, the attention of the Bureau is drawn to a recommendation that Norway made at a recent Eurostat meeting that called for Eurostat and the ECE to work together in the future in an attempt to throw insight on the many new emerging types of families, households and living arrangements that are growing in importance in many countries in the region. That recommendation was subsequently submitted to and approved by the April 2002 Eurostat meeting of Directors of Social Statistics (it should also be mentioned, however, that thus far follow-up work on the recommendation has not been initiated).

## **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

33. The ECE coordinated during the 1990s the implementation of the regional Fertility and Family Survey (FFS) project, carried out as a research project in 23 UNECE countries and New Zealand, with the involvement of statistical offices in a small number of countries. Continued progress was made in the dissemination of the FFS Standard Recode Files (SRFs) in response to requests from researchers carrying out fertility and family analysis projects; the total number of projects to date for which the data have been released is about 120. The policy of the PAU is to continue to respond to data requests and, whenever possible, to respond to queries being received from data users.

34. The evaluation of the FFS project, in particular the quality and comparability of the database it resulted in, has been completed. The evaluation report, *An evaluation of the Fertility and Family Surveys project*, has been published in 2002 and widely disseminated. More importantly, selected solicited and contributed papers prepared for the FFS Flagship Conference (Brussels, May 2000) have

been edited and published in 2002 in two respective volumes under a joint title, *Dynamics of fertility and partnership in Europe. Insights and lessons from comparative research*. Both volumes have drawn a variety of lessons from the FFS which are now being used in the continuing work on the ECE's Generations and Gender Programme.

35. In September 2001 a First Meeting of the GGP newly formed Informal Working Group met at the Hungarian Central Statistical Office in Budapest (Hungary). Representatives from some 30 UNECE countries and Japan participated. The key objective, research aims and key data sources of the programme, including the proposed Generations and Gender Survey (GGS), have been presented, discussed and endorsed by the Intersecretariat Working Group (IWG). At the meeting a number of countries expressed interest in taking part in the programme. Initial proposals regarding the GGS and the accompanying contextual database were made and adopted. Countries interested in taking part in the programme as participants were encouraged to form GGP National Committees, initiate preparatory work and secure financing.

36. The so-called GGS Questionnaire Development Group (QDG) has completed a draft questionnaire after having pre-tested an earlier version of the questionnaire in the UK and the Russian Federation. The Contextual Database Group (CDG) has developed initial protocols, which were recently commented upon by the GGP Consortium Board (CB); these will be used in the future work of the CDG. Moreover, the CB has taken decisions to form three additional working groups: Analysis Group, Study Design and Sampling Group, and the Use of Administrative Records Groups. Also the CB decided to have a Second Meeting of the GGP IWG convened in February 2003 in Prague (Czech Republic). The key agenda items of the meeting will be the presentation and discussion of the GGS draft questionnaire, progress of work of the CDG, and plans for future work of the three new groups. Country representatives will report on progress regarding past preparatory work and future activities for launching the GGS and contributing to the work of the CDG. Also, coordination, fundraising and related issues will be discussed. The ECE will initiate in the first half of 2003 discussions with the United Nations Population Fund for its continuing support for the GGP.

37. The European Observatory on Family Matters continued its activities, actively contributing to the work of the DG Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission. The results of the Observatory are increasingly being used to prepare annual issues of the report *The social situation in the European Union*. The report is being published by the European Commission.

### **III. Outputs for the programme element**

38. The outputs, which are envisaged as part of outcomes of the GGP, are cross-country comparable, harmonised GGS datasets along with the harmonised national and sub-national aggregate-level contextual data for the countries participating in the GGP.

### **IV. Suggestions and recommendations to the Bureau and/or the Conference**

39. The GGP has encouraged the formation of GGP National Committee which would include relevant ministries, national statistical offices and demographic research institutes. According to information received by ECE, such committees have recently been formed in some countries, including Belgium and Slovakia. Additionally, a number of national statistical offices have expressed clear interest in taking part in the programme.

40. In view of this, it is recommended to the Bureau and/or the Conference to support the initiative of the ECE and the GGP Consortium Board to have as many statistical offices taking part in the programme in countries where there is strong interest to implement the GGP. Moreover, it is suggested to the Bureau and/or the Conference to consider the possibility of inclusion of this activity in the programme of official statistics. Its inclusion in programmes of official statistics would contribute to preparing the statistical foundation of policy analysis in this area on a safe and regular basis.

#### **PE 4.1 iv) Families and households**

**Rapporteur: Eurostat**

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

41. None

##### **II. Progress being made collectively by organisations towards the stated Objectives and Expected Outputs**

42. There has not been much progress in the field of family and household statistics. Harmonised sampling surveys are the only practical source for internationally comparable family and household statistics between population censuses. In this respect a lot of expectations has been put on the Community Labour Force Survey. The latest revision of the survey has improved the questionnaire so that when fully applied by the member countries, a notable improvement in the possibilities to produce good quality statistics on families and households can be expected. In addition, the meeting of the Directors of Social Statistics in April 2002 decided to establish a Task Force on household and family statistics, which will study the data received from 2001 censuses with information from other sources and make recommendations concerning the next census round and eventual production of this statistics between censuses.

#### **PE 4.2a: POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES**

**Rapporteur: ECE**

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

43. Joint work conducted by Eurostat and the ECE in this field is generally organized in a ten-year cycle, along the following lines:

- Phase 1, for years ending in the digits 4, 5, 6 and 7: An approximate three-year period where the bulk of the work is carried out by the two secretariats, and consists of analysing countries' compliance with the set of recommendations for the last round of censuses, and the preparation of a new set of recommendations for the next round of censuses. Generally, this is a period of intense activity where three meetings devoted to the drawing up of the new set of recommendations have to

be held during this period (one on population censuses, one on housing censuses, and a final joint one on both types of censuses). This phase culminates in the Conference adopting in years ending in 7 (e.g., 2007) the new set of recommendations for the next (e.g. 2010) round of censuses;

- Phase 2, for years ending in 8, 9, 0 and 1: This is generally a period when the ECE secretariat is relatively inactive in terms of organising meetings in this field under the Conference's work programme, because during this period national census experts are generally fully engaged in planning and conducting their national censuses;
- Phase 3, for years ending in 2 and 3: During this period, ECE collects 75-80 copies of the census questionnaires used by countries in the last round of censuses, and uses them to prepare sets of questionnaires covering all countries in the region. These sets of questionnaires are distributed to the national and international statistical offices in the region, who use them as reference material in planning their next round of censuses. ECE and Eurostat also usually organise one joint meeting during this two-year period to enable census experts in the countries to exchange experience on problems encountered and innovations introduced in their most recent censuses, and on preliminary plans for their next census. This is the only meeting of this type that the ECE organises during the ten-year cycle, and it is organised jointly with Eurostat (this is the stage we are currently at in the cycle, for the compendia of census questionnaires are expected to be sent to countries later this year, and the joint work session will take place in FYR of Macedonia in May of this year).

44. The 2001 round of censuses is now largely over, for almost all countries have conducted their census successfully and the data are now becoming available, at least for most countries in the region that conducted their census in 2001 and 2002. However, there were several countries in the region, particularly in the CIS region and parts of the former Yugoslavia, that had to postpone or cancel plans to conduct their census because of the unavailability of the required funding. Several countries in the CIS region and in the Balkans also requested and received some form of technical assistance from other countries and/or international organisations to assist them in successfully conducting their last census.

45. As indicated by the Rapporteur in the report for the Bureau in 2001, the situation concerning the next round of censuses cannot be seen with certainty at present. However, in general, it is likely that for the 2010 round of censuses (i) a fairly large number of countries in the region will still need to rely on a more or less traditional type of census for census-type data; (ii) that some countries in the region that up until now have been optimistic about their ability to replace their traditional approach to censuses with a register-based census in 2010 may find that this hope is not realistic for the 2010 census; and that many of the countries that have been relying on a more or less traditional type of census will come under increasing pressure from Government and the public to cut down on the size and expense of the next census, by eliminating some of the topics from the questionnaire and by relying instead on surveys and administrative records and registers for statistical data on those topics.

## **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

46. The IP includes five different objectives for this work area. They are listed below, together with a brief indication of their continuing relevance and of the extent of progress that international organizations are collectively making towards them.

*Preparation of sets of regional international recommendations for new rounds of censuses, tailored to the circumstances and needs of countries in the UN/ECE region (work on the preparation of a new set of ECE-Eurostat joint recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses is not expected to commence until around 2004):*

47. This is viewed as being both relevant and important, particularly for ECE and Eurostat (who collaborate in drawing up sets of recommendations that are tailored primarily to the circumstances and needs of statistically more advanced countries both in the ECE region and beyond it), and for the UNSD (who draws up a set of recommendations that are tailored more to circumstances and needs of less statistically advanced countries). Although work towards this objective has been essentially dormant for the past 5 or 6 years, work on the preparation of the new set of recommendations is scheduled to begin in earnest again in about one year's time.

*Exchanges of experiences among national and international statistical services on critical issues emerging in the 2000 round of censuses:*

48. This is viewed as being both relevant and important, particularly for ECE, Eurostat and UNSD. Information that the three organisations collect on this will be used by them in their work on the preparation of a new set of recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses.

*The provision of advisory services and technical assistance to national statistical offices in the ECE region, and particularly newly independent states, on the utilisation of internationally recommended topics, definitions, classifications and tabulations in the 2000 round of censuses and on census methods and procedures, data bases, and outputs for the 2000 round of population and housing censuses. For ECE and Eurostat:*

49. This is viewed as being both relevant and important, particularly for ECE, Eurostat and UNSD, and also by other organisations like ILO and CIS/STAT.

*The preparation and publication of guidelines and methodological materials on censuses:*

50. This is viewed as being both relevant and important for ECE, Eurostat and UNSD, as well as for other organisations like ILO and CIS/STAT.

*Exchange of information among countries on best census methods and practices, and on the use of non-traditional methods and on changing or sensitive topics (e.g. ethnicity, families and the measurement of unpaid work in the household):*

51. This is viewed as being both relevant and important, particularly for countries and for the experts in censuses working in their NSOs. These exchanges of experience typically take place at meetings on censuses and census methods that Eurostat and ECE organise from time to time in their work programmes.

### **Possible developments and challenges in this work area in the short-term future**

52. One major challenge that work on the preparation of the new set of recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses is likely to face is the recent trends towards new and changing forms of family and household compositions, and how best to measure and deal with them conceptually and statistically

in the next round of censuses. This question of recent trends towards new types of families and households and how best to measure them statistically was raised by the Norwegian delegation as an issue of concern at the meeting of Directors of Social Statistics that Eurostat organized in April 2002. In raising it, (s)he proposed that an ad hoc working group of interested countries be established jointly by ECE and Eurostat to look into the issue. Among the tasks that it would take on would be to examine in detail the parts of the ECE-Eurostat census recommendations for the 2000 round of censuses relating to families and households, and to propose improved text on them for inclusion in the new set of ECE-Eurostat recommendations that will have to be developed for the 2010 round of censuses.

53. The proposal was endorsed by the April 2002 meeting for Directors of Social Statistics, and will be taken up further by both Eurostat's February 2003 Working Party on Demographic Statistics and Censuses and the April 2003 ECE-Eurostat joint work session on population and housing censuses. Once this has been done, a more concrete work programme to be conducted by the proposed ECE-Eurostat Joint Task Force will be drawn up. Current plans call for this work to be conducted during the period from 2003-2006, and it will therefore be an additional planned expected output for both this programme element and programme element 4.1 (families and households).

54. Another challenge may be how to amend the next set of recommendations so that they respond better to the circumstances and needs of those countries that no longer rely on the more traditional type of approaches for collecting data in the census for some types of census topics, but rely instead on surveys, registers and administrative sources for collecting census-type information on those topics.

#### **PE 4.2b: STATISTICS ON POPULATION GROUPS OF SPECIAL INTEREST (WITH A FOCUS ON OLDER PERSONS)**

**Rapporteur: ECE**

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

55. Two high level international forums that were held in 2002 (the Second World Assembly on Ageing (8-12 April 2002 in Madrid) and the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (11-13 September 2002 in Berlin)) have brought ageing to the forefront of the policy agenda, which is likely to increase the demand for statistical data on older persons. Both forums emphasized the increasing diversity of the older population and the need to adopt policies and programmes specifically aimed at the most vulnerable segment of that population. This also requires targeted data collection to cover these subgroups of the older population.

56. Notwithstanding the large amount of statistical work performed by the international organisations on this population group, the coordination between the organizations involved in it continues to be looser in comparison with most of the work done under the other programme elements. This creates the potential for duplication, or for leaving gaps in the statistical coverage, and hampers the adoption of standard or harmonized classification, nomenclatures, or approaches for data collection that is targeted at older persons. Hence, in the rapporteur's opinion, a better coordination of the statistical work on this group should be a priority.

#### **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

57. During the 1990s the ECE, through its Population Activities Unit (PAU), coordinated a project that resulted in a collection of census-based microdata samples that focused on older persons (by over-sampling with age). This data collection, which included samples from the 1990 round of censuses in 15 countries, is currently among the largest cross-nationally comparable data collections available, and provides unique information on various groups of older persons which are not covered by other data sources. For example, innovative research on the living arrangements of divorced older persons based on this data collection, yielded results that are of potential use in formulating policies for care-provision to older persons, and in planning the social services infrastructure. Data from this collection also helped to shed light on the housing conditions of older persons in participating countries, which has been judged to offer valuable insights into the differences of living conditions across the UNECE region. The PAU plans to add datasets based on the 2000-round of censuses where older persons are over-sampled. The samples will again be recoded and standardized/harmonized, so as to make them comparable across countries and census rounds. This work will be undertaken within the framework of the larger IPUMS International and ICM Europe projects, on which PAU is collaborating with the Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, USA) and a consortium of European academic institutions.

58. OECD's activities related to older persons are reported under Programme Element 4.11(b).

### **III. Outputs for the programme element**

59. The outputs that are envisaged as part of the work that ECE will undertake in collaboration with the Minnesota Population Center within the framework of the IPUMS Europe project are cross-country, comparable, harmonised microdata samples for the participating countries.

60. In addition, the ECE and the Aging Branch of the International Programs Center of the US Census Bureau could jointly prepare and collaborate in publishing a series of briefs on the status of older persons in selected east European countries, using data from the above samples.

## **PE 4.3 HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND HOUSING STATISTICS**

**Rapporteur: Eurostat**

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

61. None.

### **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

62. There has been continued co-operation between UN/ECE and Eurostat with regard to the Recommendations and future data collection for the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

### **III. Outputs for the programme element**

63. Introduction of EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), a statistical instrument to provide a complete range of information concerning the living conditions of European citizens and to measure social exclusion.

#### **IV. Suggestions and recommendations to the Bureau and/or the Conference**

64. The problem statement and strategic medium term goals are more geared to the work undertaken by the UN/ECE. Eurostat, which focuses its efforts on the social aspects of housing, therefore proposes that the UN/ECE becomes the focal point.

#### **PE 4.4: LABOUR STATISTICS**

##### **Rapporteur: ILO**

#### **I. Important issues to be brought to the attention of the Bureau/Conference**

65. An important development in recent years, particularly the past two years, concerns the recognition of the need for information to measure the quality of work, and to monitoring progress towards decent work. As noted by the Director-General of the ILO<sup>1</sup>, "Decent work is a broad concept, with many dimensions. Some of the dimensions are much more readily measured than others, and that is reflected in the availability of statistics on different topics. It is, on the whole, easier to measure employment than it is to measure freedom of association. But while inevitably one ends up measuring the measurable, the very nature of decent work as an integrated framework calls for an approach which attempts to address the difficult issues. If we cannot measure progress towards decent work, it is difficult to get beyond rhetoric and into the hard policy choices." Decent work is described as "opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity"<sup>2</sup>. It has become the organizing framework for ILO activities, including statistical activities, and the development of indicators of decent work. In parallel, at the Lisbon Special European Council, in March 2000, the European Union set itself "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"<sup>3</sup>. The Lisbon European Council acknowledged the need to regularly discuss and assess progress made in achieving this goal on the basis of commonly agreed structural indicators, which include several in connection with employment and the quality of work.

66. As a result, the need to measure and analyse labour issues in a more integrated manner has come to the fore, along with the need to develop labour statistics programmes appropriate to all dimensions of labour.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ILO: *Reducing the decent work deficit - a global challenge*, Report of the Director-General, International Labour Conference, 89th Session, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> ILO: *Decent Work*, Report of the Director General, International Labour Conference, 87th Session, 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 5 of the Council conclusions.

<sup>4</sup> It should be noted that, for the ILO, labour statistics cover a wider field than that included in the "labour statistics" element of the ECE Integrated Presentation: consumer prices and consumer price indices, household income and expenditure and occupational safety and health, are included along with economically active population, employment, unemployment, underemployment, wages, hours of work, labour cost, strikes and lockouts, labour relations, trade union membership, collective bargaining coverage, and other areas of social dialogue, social security and other areas of social protection.

67. The need to reinforce communication and coordination between the international and regional agencies in the ECE area in the field of labour statistics continues, particularly with regard to the collection of data from national statistical agencies and the development of international guidelines.

## **II. Extent to which progress is made towards member States' objectives and outputs**

68. As stated in earlier reports, the specified goal for labour statistics<sup>5</sup> is so general that all labour statistics activities may be claimed to have made some progress towards its achievement, but the extent of the progress is difficult to determine. Much of what has been noted in the past regarding the strategic medium-term objectives remains valid.

69. There has been progress in connection with the "co-ordinated work plan for data collection in the field of labour statistics collected by Eurostat, the ILO and OECD". ILO and Eurostat initiated collaborative studies in 2002 with a view to establishing joint data-collection activities for statistics on employment and unemployment, and on occupational injuries.

70. "Co-operation and co-ordination among the international organizations concerned in the development and improvement of international statistical instruments and in technical co-operation and training" has advanced in certain areas. For example, OECD, ILO, IMF and CIS STAT collaborated in the preparation of the Handbook "Measuring the informal economy", published in 2002.

## **III. Outputs for programme elements**

71. Preparations are under way for the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, which will take place in Geneva, from 24 November to 3 December 2003. New draft resolutions on consumer price indices and household income expenditure statistics have been prepared following the Meeting of Experts in Labour Statistics (October 2001), and other topics to be discussed include: statistics and indicators of decent work; measurement of working time; measurement of informal employment; gender mainstreaming in labour statistics; occupational safety and health statistics; statistics on disabled workers; social dialogue: statistics of trade union membership and collective bargaining agreements; and the need for revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88).

## **IV. Suggestions and recommendations to the Bureau/Conference on (i) and (ii)**

72. There is a need for a clearer definition of "labour statistics" in the goal, which is currently open to considerable interpretation. This rapporteur would recommend a broader concept of labour statistics than that used in the integrated presentation. If strictly applied, the narrow concept of labour used could never result in the statistics that are adequate for "describing labour market conditions and identifying underlying causal conditions etc.". "Labour statistics" in the ILO sense would be more appropriate. At the least, a basic set of labour topics, such as that included in the ILO Labour Statistics Convention, No. 160, 1985, could be referred to. This would provide a better basis for assessing progress.

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<sup>5</sup> "That labour statistics be adequate for describing labour market conditions and identifying the underlying causal conditions in order to enable governments to have the information with which to intervene to improve conditions and to harmonize economic and social policies and programmes and conform to international standards and norms."

## **V. Suggestions for amendments to texts on goals, issues and problems, objectives and outcomes**

73. The integrated presentation does not lend itself to the consideration of labour statistics in an integrated manner, as is the practice in the ILO. For instance, statistics on occupational safety and health are an integral component of labour statistics, but it is difficult with the current presentation to view the progress made (or otherwise) in this field along with developments in other conditions of work.

74. The statistical work programmes of international organizations, other than the regional ones, are determined by authorities other than the CES and its Bureau. The priorities and concerns of those organizations, and of their member States may differ somewhat from those of the CES. As noted by a previous rapporteur, the objectives and outputs specified should reflect or be reflected in the work programmes of the respective agencies, for which some mechanism is needed to ensure congruence between stated objectives and activities actually carried out.

75. "Issues and problems": these should be expanded to incorporate informal employment and social dialogue. The latter area in particular is not well represented among the national statistical programmes in the region (or any other), with a few exceptions, but information is essential for understanding developments towards decent work.

76. The list of objectives should include corresponding elements.

### **PE 4.5: EDUCATION AND TRAINING STATISTICS**

#### **Rapporteur: OECD**

77. During the past few years there have been major developments in the field of education statistics as the demand for internationally comparable data has grown. This report examines in turn the institutional context, recent progress, the proposals that have been put forward and the problem areas that still exist.

78. The organisations involved—Eurostat, the OECD and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)—are developing their activity and also working more closely together. Inter-organisation exchanges have increased and intensified considerably. One of the basic tools of education statistics is the collection of unified UOE (UNESCO/OECD/Eurostat) data on enrolment, attainments, teaching personnel and education finance.

79. One question is that of developments in the groups of countries taking part in the OECD's and Eurostat's work. Around a large common core of Western European countries it is necessary to associate the non-European OECD countries—most of which have very considerable expertise in education statistics—and the many European countries on the way to joining the EU. In addition, UNESCO's work involves countries where many questions—compulsory schooling and student mobility, to mention but these two—arise in a very different context.

80. Another element of context that affects the production of education statistics is the diversity of the institutions involved in this activity. Responsibility for education may rest with nation, canton, province, region or federated state, depending on the categories and levels of education considered. The way that

education statistics are organised is itself partly a reflection of these situations. The bodies involved may be national statistical institutes, statistics departments of ministries or other agencies and institutions. All this complicates the development of statistics and indicators established on a regular and comparable basis.

81. Finally—compared with most areas of economic and social statistics—the conceptual and methodological nomenclatures and frameworks are still fairly recent, or even non-existent on certain points. ISCED-97 is just completing its phase of implementation for a description of current educational programmes. Some of its dimensions, notably programme orientation and fields of education, have not been fully explored and validated. Reference to ISCED and its use to describe the level of education attained by adults have yet to be systematised. Use of ISCED, not only for levels but also for fields of education, is still being questioned in the case of higher levels of education for adults and education provided outside the school system. Also, there is no common methodology, say in the form of satellite accounts, which would make it possible to describe financial stocks and flows between education providers, not only in the case of formal education but, even more significantly, in that of education and training as a whole.

82. In this context, significant progress has been made during the recent period, primarily as regards formal schooling and its outcomes. However, questions are also being posed in connection with lifelong learning, for adults down to the youngest children.

83. In recent years, the consolidation of basic statistics and indicators has continued and strengthened, notably through the collection of UOE common data. This is now providing a substantial body of definitions and methods for all countries. The UOE database will be maintained and continuously monitored and augmented. The financial data, despite a very distinct improvement in comparability, still need to be stabilised (for example, as regards households' expenditure on education and the boundary between research expenditure and education expenditure). Coverage outside the central programmes of school and university education will also receive the attention of the UOE organisations. Finally, updating and monitoring procedures are being clarified to ease the burden on countries. An updated protocol of co-operation validated by the three organisations is under study.

84. The World Education Indicators (WEI) programme, conducted jointly by UNESCO(UIS) and the OECD with the support of the World Bank, is a remarkable extension of the definitions and methods developed and used in a more restricted framework.

85. A new operation is specifically concerned with upper secondary education (International Survey of Upper Secondary Schools, ISSUS). Its purpose is to add to the wide range of information available on individual schools and education systems as a whole. The survey findings will be published in 2003. More generally, information on teaching staff has received particular attention and will be further expanded and circulated more widely.

86. Probably the most important and spectacular development of the recent period has been PISA (the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment). The circulation in late 2001 of the initial report on the first results of the programme aroused very great interest and numerous discussions. Although much statistical information was hitherto available concerning the activity and costs of education systems, it is now possible with PISA to have a high-quality assessment of the educational attainments of 15-year-olds in a very large number of countries. Publication of the thematic reports on the findings of the first PISA survey and the surveys scheduled for 2003 and beyond, which will develop the different areas

of student assessment, will be of essential value.

87. The transition from school to work and the first employment of young people continues to be a subject of great interest, but the sources to be mobilised are still heterogeneous. The school-leavers surveys, the labour force supplementary surveys – like the one conducted by Eurostat in 2000 – and the national follow-up surveys yield results that are not readily comparable. One answer would be to introduce a longitudinal option for PISA, whereby a cohort initially assessed by PISA would be monitored over the years of transition. Preparatory work is being done, but as yet not many countries have decided to go along with the idea.

88. A demand has emerged for data on early childhood education and care, an area that extends beyond education structures and even pre-school services. Access to the different care and pre-school facilities, the human resources involved, demand and needs, and the financing required are not at all well known on an internationally comparable basis. The OECD and Eurostat have jointly begun work on establishing definitions and collecting pilot data.

89. Adult education in the context of lifelong learning has been the subject of major investigations, although needs are still very great as regards demand for statistics and indicators.

90. A key input, preceded by renewed analyses of varying range, has been the report of the Eurostat Task Force on Measuring Lifelong Learning. Eurostat's preparation of an ad hoc module for the EU 2003 Labour Force Survey, added to a remodelling of the variables in the current standard module for education, is a major step forward in the production of comparable indicators of adult participation in learning. The work on data comparability done by the OECD under its Indicators for Educational Systems (INES) project has contributed to this outcome. Tools for better identifying the learning activities of adults outside the formal education system are being developed, paving the way for data harmonisation and then a classification of learning activities. CEDEFOP is a major operator in this area. The project, currently at the preview stage, for a European survey on adult learning offers a welcome framework for unification of the work being done by the European and other OECD countries.

91. As regards education and training of employees, the CVTS survey is a reference source that is set to continue. Significant comparisons could be made with the findings of similar surveys conducted throughout the world.

92. Assessment of adult competencies, the outcome of education in the broad sense but also of many other social and professional experiences, has been the subject of specific surveys focusing on literacy and life skills. Given the input from the first such surveys (IALS and ALL), from the conceptual work done on the definition and selection of competencies (DeSeCo) and also from PISA, it is now possible to develop the option of a broad-ranging international assessment exercise, although this is still at the stage of a preliminary study.

93. On the other hand, current knowledge of the public and private costs of education and learning, the publics targeted and the returns from investment suffers from the absence of an established conceptual framework and methodology. For example, unlike the case in other areas, there is no indicator of the GDP share allocated by each country to education and training in the broadest sense, involving public and private agents, enterprises, households and government.

94. Thus, in a difficult but eventful context, education statistics and indicators are progressing

significantly. Basic data and classifications are being consolidated. Data on levels of educational establishment and teaching staff are being considerably strengthened. Where adults are concerned, although participation in learning is beginning to be better assessed, there is still very little knowledge of its outcomes in terms of skills and credentialing and its costs.

#### **PE 4.6: CULTURE STATISTICS**

**Rapporteur: Eurostat jointly with UNESCO's Institute for Statistics (UIS)**

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

95. At European Union level, the Cultural Statistics Working group and its 3 task forces on 3 areas of work (participation, employment and expenditure) continued their work, building on the results of the Eurostat Leadership Group (LEG) on cultural statistics. The LEG was launched in 1997 and delivered a report on Culture statistics upon completion of its work in 2000. Main outcomes of the LEG were: i) A common core of cultural domains, unanimously considered as such, was identified and adopted; ii) National and international classifications were analysed in detail and specific proposals were developed with respect to the use of NACE and ISCO; iii) The identification and selection of key variables together with the development of a set of indicators relating to employment, financing and participation constitutes a solid basis for the operational development of an information system is now available.

96. The LEG final report provides the methodological foundations and indicates the necessary tools needed for a coherent system of EU cultural statistics but has been extensively disseminated also outside Europe. The working group met for the first time in March 2000 and then again in September 2001 and in September 2002. Its' next meeting is planned for September 2003. Its role is to agree on the broad guidelines of t work in the area for the coming years and to further refine the output of the LEG. For the next 2 years a major task is also to establish a regular (annual) reporting system in the 3 areas of work starting with first publications in the beginning of 2004.

97. A major development in the area of cultural statistics in Europe in 2001/2002 was the experimental use of the European Union Opinion survey tool, Eurobarometer, for obtaining information on participation in cultural activities in EU countries rapidly and at low cost. The questionnaire used was the one developed by the relevant Task Force, while the results were validated and re-weighted with the cooperation of country representatives. A major task for Eurostat in the next year is to evaluate this experiment in 2003. The Commission is also launching a special Eurobarometer survey for candidate countries in 2003. The results of the Eurobarometer were presented in different seminars and conferences (among them also in the October 2002 conference in Quebec) and have succeeded in provoking broad debate at the national and international level. The use of such an instrument in the future is still an open issue.

98. Eurostat is also proposing the integration of a module on cultural participation in the EU-wide Adult Education Survey that it is currently developing. A Task Force which will develop the concrete proposal for the AES will work between December 2002 and December 2003 while the survey is tentatively planned for 2006. The UIS has been invited to participate in the TF AES.

99. One of the major issues that still seem to remain unclear is the delimitation of the cultural activities relative to learning activities or to leisure activities. The work of Eurostat will continue to be based on the pragmatic approach adopted by the LEG also for the next years; however the definition of culture re-surfaces, when discussing the results of a survey on participation or the possible inclusion of culture in a survey on lifelong learning, like the AES.

## **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

100. At the end of 1999, a joint ECE/UIS-UNESCO/Eurostat meeting took place to discuss the improvement of international co-operation in this area. It was agreed to organise in 2001/2002 a joint work session on the harmonisation of culture statistics. It is expected that the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) will bring a substantive contribution to the conference as well as a new impetus to the topic. There is a strong need for international co-operation with a view to redefining and improving an international framework for culture statistics. The current review of comparable international cultural statistics being undertaken by UNESCO-UIS as well as the suggested establishment of a regular programme of data collection in this area are important steps.

101. In 2002, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and l'Observatoire de la culture et des communications du Quebec (OCCQ) co-hosted a culture symposium held in Montreal entitled "Statistics in the wake of challenges posed by cultural diversity in a globalization context". (October 21-23). Over eighty researchers and statisticians from academia, national statistical offices and other international organizations participated in the three-day conference, giving their views on current research areas of importance as well as suggesting possible future data collections in this area that might inform cultural policy makers.

102. The symposium was launched as part of a renewal process of UNESCO's culture statistics programme. The current programme collects data in the areas of book production, libraries, museums, the press and films & cinema. The process towards renewal consists of both a global inventory of the available data and statistical indicators in culture, as well as a review of the present programme via a worldwide consultation, which included the above symposium. This outcome of the process, which is still ongoing, will cumulate in a new draft framework, which will be vetted by UNESCO's Member States and will be instrumental in the launching of a new culture statistics programme in the upcoming year. It is envisaged that the new programme will include several new policy-relevant topic areas, as well as new regional or thematic initiatives. In order to make best use of existing information, Eurostat also launched a study with the aim of exploring the potential of cultural data available in large scale harmonised Eurostat surveys such as Labour Force Survey, Households Budget Survey and Time Use Survey. The study has been completed and its results will be used for the production of the first publications in the area in 2004.

103. In 2003 the European Commission DG for Education and Culture is planning to organise a seminar on "cultural employment in Europe".

104. It thus appears that international bodies are working together in a more co-ordinated way. However, this is just a starting point for closer collaboration and the definition of shared tasks. Complementary is the best way to avoid possible duplication.

## **III. Outputs for the programme element**

105. All the work of Eurostat, the working group on Culture statistics and its Task Forces on participation, employment and expenditure, including methodological reports but also statistics and indicators, are disseminated through the Education, Training and Culture Statistics public site<sup>6</sup>.

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

106. Culture covers nowadays a wide range of economic activities, which affect directly the pattern of daily life. It also contributes to the shaping of the matrix of the knowledge-based societies. Additionally, cultural behaviour is evolving between standardised mass consumption induced by the global economy and a solid trend to maintain local/regional/national identities. There is a need for statistical instruments to measure and to assess progress at international level as well as to monitor national policies. Although it can be argued that countries already produce statistical information related to cultural activities, such data doesn't allow any reliable international comparison and benchmarking because of the use of different definitions, methodologies and non harmonised classifications.

107. The main requirement to make available comparable cultural statistics is to work with an international common methodological framework. This is an ambitious goal to reach. On one hand, there is national diversity to be fully respected and, on the other hand, the difficulty in obtaining agreement and consensus leading to a minimum common denominator. Therefore, an internationally agreed common language on culture statistics - going beyond the current UNESCO framework - is the milestone to be put for the coming years. Only joint efforts of international organisations will make possible acceptable proposals on this matter. That is why an internationally guided approach aiming at closer synergy, using similar definitions and classifications and testing common tools is of the utmost importance.

108. In line with such orientation, countries are strongly encouraged to start using international classifications already available (NACE, ISCO) in the production of their national statistics on culture. This will be the starting point for the design and implementation of the common framework referred above.

109. Such an approach implies political commitment both from countries and international bodies as well as the allocation of the appropriate resources. Reliable statistics to monitor cultural trends will only be available if the corresponding investment has been made in due time. This aspect is not always taken into consideration enough by decision-makers. The Eurobarometer on cultural participation in the EU has considerably contributed to awareness raising on what is possible with comparative statistics in the area. However a sustained and consistent investment in human resources in this area is crucial if one wishes to move towards an a priori harmonised methodology for collecting cultural data. At EU level, the experience so far showed the complexity as well as the limits of an ex-post harmonisation exercise drawing basically on existing sources. The challenge for coming years remains the design and implementation of an ex-ante harmonised methodology for cultural statistics.

110. Finally, it has to be pointed out that fostering international co-operation also calls for some kind of joint co-ordination involving the major actors engaged in the elaboration, testing and implementation of common instruments. The exchange of experience and best practice seems to be more effective when

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<sup>6</sup> <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/edtcslibrary?l=/public/culture>

made on a regular basis. An international major conference devoted to culture statistics, e.g. every three years, under the aegis of UNESCO-UIS with the aim of evaluating progress made and suggesting methodological harmonised approaches, could be the ideal occasion to maintain the momentum of culture statistics and to pave the way to a common language at international level.

**V. Suggestions for amendments to the text in the IP**

111. Given the recent developments in the area (including the creation of the UIS, the EU Eurobarometer survey, the planned Adult Education Survey etc) a joint ECE/UIS-UNESCO/Eurostat meeting would be useful to establish a joint work plan for the coming years.

**PE 4.7a: STATISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, OF THE WELFARE OF THE POPULATION, AND OF POVERTY AND INCOME INEQUALITY**

**Rapporteur: Eurostat**

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

112. In the period under review Eurostat has made increased efforts in co-operation and co-ordination with other organisations/city groups, especially with the Canberra Group. The recommendations of the Canberra group have been taken up by Eurostat and treated concretely in the work for reporting on statistics on social exclusion and poverty at EU level which focus on income concepts and definitions, measurement of income poverty and social exclusion and rules for quality reporting. Co-operation of Eurostat with the OECD, LIS and the UN on income, poverty and social exclusion statistics is established and OECD and LIS participated in the 2001 Eurostat working group.

113. The Rio-group (a city group) on poverty statistics under the chairmanship of ECLAC held its latest meeting in Rio in November 2002. A number of national and international statistical agencies were present at the meeting including the World Bank and Eurostat.

114. Future activities are related to further harmonisation of income concepts and variables, development of a methodology for collecting statistics on the homeless population and methodological work on equivalence scales, expenditure-based poverty, non-monetary deprivation, composite indicators, child poverty, the working poor based on the ECHP. Statistics on expenditure from Household budget surveys in the EU are improving in comparability. See also point 4.11b.

**II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

115. See point 4.11a on the activities of the Canberra group.

116. Eurostat had a working group meeting on statistics on 'income, poverty and social exclusion' in April 2002. Observers from ILO, OECD and LIS participated in the meeting. A second publication on 'income poverty and social exclusion in the EU Member States' was discussed during the meeting. This publication will be issued at the beginning of 2003. It contains an analysis of longitudinal data from the European Community Household Panel as regards income poverty and social exclusion.

117. OECD performed an analysis of income distribution and poverty in the OECD area (21 Member countries) on the basis of a harmonised statistics derived from national micro-economic data.

**III. Outputs for the programme element**

118. - The second EU report on poverty and social exclusion will be produced early 2003.
- SILC (Statistics on income and living conditions) which should replace the ECHP after 2002 will be implemented in 2003-2004-2005 depending on the country.
  - Technical handbook on methods for income, poverty and social exclusion for the EU will be published at the beginning of 2003.

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

119. For Eurostat, given the Maastricht criteria and the emphasis on employment and social conditions at the 1997 Amsterdam summit and the 2000 Lisbon summit, major efforts should be continued on harmonising basic variables in the social surveys.

#### **V. Suggestions for amendments to the text in the IP**

120. For the time being, major improvements have been achieved in relation to the income definition and for monetary income poverty. There is a need to work on non-monetary indicators of social exclusion (including longitudinal indicators).

### **PE 4.7b: SOCIAL PROTECTION STATISTICS (SOCIAL SECURITY STATISTICS)**

**Rapporteur: Eurostat**

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

##### *Social protection statistics*

121. The new methodology for social PROTECTION statistics (ESSPROS Manual 1996) has been implemented with regular data collection, analysis and publication.

##### *Labour Market Policy statistics*

122. Eurostat has made available a new database on Labour Market Policies (LMP) and the first results are expected by December 2000. The first full data collection was launched in April 2000. Data refer to year 1998 for all MS and year 1999 for a smaller number of countries. Data should serve both to monitor Member States' efforts on employment and Labour Market Policies and to check outcome against efforts.

#### **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

##### *Social protection statistics*

123. Co-operation between OECD and Eurostat: analysis of differences between SOCX and ESSPROS. There has been an exchange of data SOCX-ESSPROS at a very detailed level in order to avoid double work for the countries.

##### *Labour Market Policy statistics*

124. The development of the Eurostat LMP-methodology has been carried out in close co-operation with the responsible person for the OECD LMP database, established in 1987. Currently, OECD has started a consultation process to adopt Eurostat methodology. A complete set of data collection instruments was developed, which included a methodology, a questionnaire, the associated software and a glossary in 3 languages. In 1998, the Commission started to collect first-hand, reliable and comparable data on beneficiaries and public expenditure on Labour Market Policies, particularly active measures.

125. Work in progress until 2003 aims at the consolidation of the existing database, and includes some new methodological developments, in order to ensure the quality of the data in terms of coverage and comparability.

### **III. Outputs for the programme element**

126. Publication of ESSPROS<sup>7</sup> 2000 results (2002)

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

#### *Social protection statistics*

127. Further work in analysing differences and inconsistencies between the two databases (SOCX and ESSPROS) should be carried out in order to gradually harmonise the questionnaire and, in a longer term, the methodology.

#### *Labour Market Policy statistics*

128. The experience of the LMP-data collection highlights the complexities involved in the provision of statistical data for most countries and indicates important differences among countries in the use of their administrative sources. Whereas some countries have excellent data availability, in some other countries, this is poor. There is a need to encourage an improvement of co-ordination in most countries.

129. OECD and Eurostat should reduce as much as possible the workload of data collection for the participating countries.

130. In the field of Social Protection, it is particularly important to involve the Ministries of Labour, Social Security, etc., in the production of statistical data. Therefore, a close co-operation between the National Statistical Institutes and the different Ministries which collect administrative data should be encouraged in order to ensure good quality of data.

## **PE 4.8 : CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS**

**Rapporteur: UNICRI**

**NOTE: At the time this document was completed, no contribution from UNICRI had been submitted to the ECE Secretariat.**

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<sup>7</sup> European System of Social Protection Statistics

## **PE 4.9: HEALTH STATISTICS**

**Rapporteur: OECD**

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

131. Developing a comprehensive and integrated system of reporting on health and health care, which allows 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, remains the major goal under this programme element.

132. A sub-goal that remains high on the agenda is the further development of standardised instruments in surveys to measure health and disability in order to supplement other health data from administrative sources. This includes the promotion of the use of standard instruments in national and international surveys.

133. Integrating the many diverse statistics into a coherent system of health statistics should assist member countries in developing national health information strategies.

134. Agreed upon common methodology in public health issues such as morbidity, disability, injuries and performance of public health systems needs further development.

135. Good progress has been made in recent years towards a common framework on health care statistics, in particular with the wide acceptance of the OECD manual "A System of Health Accounts" and its "International Classification for Health Accounts" (ICHA). Progress has also been made with survey instruments.

136. The absence of a comprehensive and up-to-date international classification on procedures in health care poses a major challenge for future work on health care statistics.

### **II. Progress made collectively by organizations towards stated Objectives and Expected Outputs**

137. Health Statistics: further work on data on health care resource statistics and utilisation statistics in non-monetary terms as well as coverage of the population by insurance schemes; and access to services; work on private health insurance data; ongoing work to reconcile expenditure data at the boundary between health and long-term care for the elderly, disability benefits and elderly care services.

138. Producers' guide on health accounting for middle and low-income countries in co-operation between WHO Geneva, OECD, World Bank and USAID.

139. OECD Waiting times project: collection of waiting times data for a set of elective surgery procedures.

140. Health status indicators: on-going co-operation with Eurostat, WHO Geneva, European Region, in order to harmonise measures of health status and disability

141. OECD Health Care Quality Indicators Project: new co-operation with Commonwealth Fund (US) and the Nordic Council of Ministers, with participation of WHO, EC and World Bank, to develop internationally comparable measures for the technical quality of medical care

### **III. Outputs for the programme elements for the next two years**

- Improved estimates of health expenditure in the OECD Health Data 2003 (and 2004) as a result of ongoing implementations of the OECD manual A System of Health Accounts in member countries.
- Development of indicators for the technical quality of medical care and recommendations for a core set of quality of care indicators.
- Development of a database on comparable hospital data (EU)
- Comparative analysis of results from implementations of the OECD manual “A System of Health Accounts” (SHA) including work on harmonising expenditure data on long-term care and other aged care services in the SHA with the data collection on social expenditure.
- Output from several Eurostat projects in support of SHA implementation in member countries: Guidelines for SHA implementation and training; definition of SHA minimum data set and dissemination strategies of results.
- SILC (Survey on Income and Living Conditions) module on health (EU 2003).
- Manual on Cause of Death certification and coding (EU)
- Improved comparability of existing data collections on health resource and utilisation data, surgical procedures, and pharmaceutical consumption and sales
- Methodology for collection and analysis of data on efficiency and effectiveness in healthcare provision, including reporting on unit costs of a basket of health care service.

### **IV. Suggestions and recommendations to the Bureau and/or Conference related to (i) and (ii) above**

142. 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.

## **PE 4.10: GENDER STATISTICS**

**Rapporteur: UNSD**

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

143. At its forty-seventh session in March 2003, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will focus on two thematic issues:

1. participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women; and
2. women's human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform of Action and the outcome document of the Special Session for the General Assembly entitled "Women: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

144. For 2004, the Commission will focus on the following two thematic issues:

1. the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality; and
2. women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

### **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

*Improving the measurement of paid and unpaid work:*

145. UNSD has collaborated with UNDP and ILO on a major programme of work on gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work. An important output of this collaboration is a publication expected to be published in late 2003, *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time-Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*. The Guide is a methodological publication on the collection of data on time use aimed towards the harmonization of methods and at providing guidance to developing countries interested in undertaking time-use surveys. It includes a trial international classification of activities for time-use statistics that provides a comprehensive set of categories of activities associated with household production of goods for own final use and informal sector activities. These activities are an important component of the work of women and, to some degree, of the work of men in developing countries, but are not defined in most classification of activities for data collection on time use.

146. ILO plans to continue its activities in the field of informal sector statistics, in particular the informal sector data collection policies of member States, etc..

*Identifying and quantifying through-life sex differences in living conditions and status:*

147. One of the main topics considered in the ECE Work Session on Gender Statistics in June 2002 was balancing work and family responsibilities in different life-cycle positions.

148. The Generations and Gender project studies changes in the behaviour of women and men of

different generations and is looking to continue this work with a new round of cross-nationally comparable surveys and the use of micro-data samples from the 2000 round of censuses.

*Completion of the regional gender statistics website with indicators and gender-related information:*

149. The UNECE Gender Statistics website for Europe and North America, developed in collaboration with National Statistical Offices in the ECE region, has been successfully implemented. The website aims to bring together gender statistics and policies. Thus, in addition to disseminating statistics it elaborates on some of the main gender issues relevant to the ECE region and provides examples of policies and other initiatives within that context. A Task Force Meeting on this Regional Website took place in September 2002 to seek improvements to the website's contents and set priorities for its future development.

150. UNSD maintains a website on international statistics on women and men, which contains an annually updated version of the tables from its publication *The World's Women 2000*.

### **III. Outputs for the programme element**

151. • The work to be carried out by the Generations and Gender project of ECE-PAU detailed in the Integrated Presentation (4.1 and 4.2b)
- The improved and updated Gender Statistics Website of ECE
  - Methodological outputs as well as statistical results of the first sweep of the International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS) conducted by HEUNI with UNICRI and Statistics Canada (see 4.8)
  - Any concrete guidance and related outputs of the work towards gender mainstreaming in relevant areas of statistics by regional and international organizations

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

152. Organizations may want to work towards developing and/or harmonizing statistical methods (concepts, definitions, measurement methods) and improving statistical data related to the thematic issues being taken up by the CSW in 2003 and 2004.

## **PE 4.11A: SOCIAL INDICATORS AND FRAMEWORKS**

**Rapporteur: Eurostat**

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

153. The fourth Canberra group meeting on household income statistics was held in Luxembourg, May 2000. Draft chapters of a future handbook on household income statistics were discussed. A large

number of international organisations including ILO, OECD and Eurostat participated in the meeting together with national statistical institutes.

154. The Sienna Group on Social Statistics held its eighth meeting in London in November 2000 (hosted by ONS-London). The theme of the meeting was social capital. A large number of international organisations including UNSD, UN/ECE, OECD and Eurostat participated in the meeting together with national statistical institutes.

## **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

155. The final report and recommendations of the Canberra Group was published in 2001. As a follow-up to this work, Eurostat has developed a more practical manual for the EU countries which is planned to be issued at the beginning of 2003.

## **III. Outputs for the programme element**

156. • EU Commission publication "The social situation in the European Union"
- Statistical pocketbook "Living conditions in Europe (2002 edition)"
  - EU manual on income statistics in EU countries (beginning of 2003)

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

157. To continue to use appropriate fora to develop a common approach to social indicator development.

## **V. Suggestions for amendments to the text in the IP**

158. Further co-ordination of the work on social indicators is needed.

## **PE 4.11B: MULTI-PURPOSE SOCIAL SURVEYS**

**Rapporteur: Eurostat**

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

159. Eurostat is the only organisation doing this kind of Europe-wide multipurpose surveys. The European Scientific Foundation is preparing a kind of general social survey but this will not be launched the next one or two years. This report refers mainly to Eurostat's work.

160. In 2001 the data collection of the eight wave of the actual European Community Panel (ECHP), which was defined to last eight years, was carried out.

161. Efforts have been made in recent years on harmonising the European Statistical System including the Household Budget Surveys as far as they are used as primary sources for the National Accounts, consumer protection and the Consumer Price Indices and as regards their use in social statistics.

162. An EU methodology for a satellite account on household production, in agreement with national accounts concepts, will be developed. It will incorporate Time Use data.

163. Eurostat puts much effort in the 'Action program on the harmonisation of a set of core variables on persons and households' as discussed at the Mondorf meeting, March 1998, to further harmonise the existing sources. The Siena as well as the Canberra group are involved in this harmonisation work with respect to the multi-purpose social surveys.

## **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

164. In the period under review the Community Household Panel (ECHP) has developed as expected. The ECHP is in its eighth round with the participation of 14 member states and collection of register information for Sweden. Much attention is being directed to the longitudinal data, and data from the first six waves are available. In 1999 Eurostat initiated preparatory work on the future instrument on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) replacing the ECHP after 2002, which will give priority to cross-sectional information and to the production of timely data. EU-SILC was tested in 2002 in a pilot experiment and will be launched in 2003-2004 or 2005 depending on the country.

165. Progress towards an economic and monetary union in Europe as designed by the Maastricht Treaty, calls for more in-depth knowledge and greater comparability of data on social and economic conditions in the EU. For the Household Budget Surveys (HBS), the first steps to have more comparative data have been taken via the introduction of the COICOP-HBS (Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose - Household Budget Surveys). The COICOP-HBS was first revised in 1998 and marginal changes were discussed in 2002. Eurostat is about to finalise the HBS 1999 data collection. Almost all Member States have adopted COICOP-HBS for the Eurostat data collection of HBS 1999. Eurostat is developing the methodology of HBS, as far as possible to be harmonised with the concepts in ESA95. The methodology will be published at the beginning of 2003.

166. For the Time Use Survey (TUS) project, the work by Eurostat on the update of the guidelines will continue. This survey produces suitable data for the following-up of policies on equal opportunities, youth and children, and working hours. Time use surveys are expected to be conducted in about two thirds of Member States. Available results from eight Member States and for some Candidate Countries will be published and work on a European Time Use database will be started. The development of Time Use Statistics is partly financed by DG EMPL.

## **III. Outputs for the programme element**

167. • For the Household Budget Surveys (HBS) the implementation of the revised methodology for launching the next round of surveys is planned. Final results from the 1999 wave of surveys for all Member States, and the dissemination of these data (CD-ROM, NewCronos), are expected by the beginning of 2003.

- The EU methodology for a satellite account on household production in agreement with national accounts concepts will be finished and tested using Time Use data from the countries available.
- For the ECHP (European Community Household Panel) six waves (1994-1999) are available at the end of 2002, seven waves (1994-2000) will be finalised in June 2003 and eight waves (1994-2001) at the end of 2003, improving the timeliness of the project.
- SILC (Statistics on income and living conditions)<sup>8</sup>, which will replace the ECHP after 2002, was tested in 2002 and will be implemented on the basis of gentlemen's agreement in seven countries and under the Framework Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council in 2004 or in 2005.

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

168. The objectives do not have to be changed.

169. It is important to continue the work towards definitions and measurement rules of harmonised basic variables on persons and households to be included in all social surveys. (Harmonised variables on persons and households in the domains of households, location, income, employment, education, housing, social grouping).

170. As to the future, it is important not to lose the momentum of persuading Member States to continue further improvement and harmonisation of their Household Budget Surveys. Specifically, in the context of social statistics, it should be noted that apart from consumption and expenditure, the HBSs are also a source of information on qualitative indicators on the households' levels of living.

#### **V. Suggestions for amendments to the text in the IP**

171. Improving timeliness and comparability of data from multi-purpose social surveys is of prime importance.

### **4.11C: REGISTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS FOR SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS**

**Rapporteur: Eurostat**

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

172. The objective of harmonising a set of core variables to create a backbone for integration of the European harmonised sources and 'best' national sources has, unfortunately suffered a "slow down" in Eurostat because of changes in personnel and lack of resources. The methodological topics of using

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<sup>8</sup> EU-SILC - a statistical instrument to provide a complete range of information concerning the living conditions of European citizens and to measure social exclusion.

administrative records and registers in the field of social statistics, however, still retain their increasing importance. Increasing use of administrative sources at national level has been observed e.g. in the recent population and housing censuses. One important indication also is replacement of a central statistical survey instrument the ECHP with the EU-SILC system, which recognises flexible use of national data sources (e.g. use of administrative data). Therefore, the issue of resources (human and financial) is of crucial importance for securing the future potential gains achievable through this programme element.

## **II. Progress being made collectively by organizations towards Member States' Objectives and Outputs**

173. Even if the systematic work carried out in 1996 – 2000 on harmonisation and core variables has suffered a slowdown in Eurostat, partial progress has been made in some areas. For instance development work has been made in the field of metadata and in documentation of national data sources (including use of administrative data). Eurostat has established a CODED database, which contains descriptions of definitions and classifications used in statistics compiled by Eurostat which is available on Eurostat web site. Documentation of national data sources have been made in demographic statistics (covering 36 European countries) and in population and housing censuses (covering 32 European countries).

174. Joint UNECE-Eurostat meeting on the use of registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics was held in Geneva in 9 – 11 December 2002. The meeting discussed following topics:

- *Quality considerations in the use of administrative data and registers for statistical purposes*
- *New developments in methodology for linking of registers and administrative records (including methods of editing)*
- *Use of business register in social statistics*
- *Innovative usage and planned future use of information technology in social and demographic statistics*
- *Progress reports by Eurostat on harmonisation and integration, and specific research programmes under the “Fifth Framework”*

175. The meeting revealed that considerable progress had been made in the field of using administrative data during the recent years. Especially great potential was seen in using administrative data in compiling small area statistics through utilizing GIS methodology and tools. For the future work the meeting set up a small working group to prepare a proposal for future work for the bureau meeting of the CES in January.

## **III. Outputs for the programme element**

- 176.
- CODED data base on definitions and classifications available on Eurostat website
  - Documentation of national data sources of annual demographic statistics covering 36 European countries (available as a draft)
  - Documentation of national data sources of population and housing censuses around 2001 covering 32 European countries (available as a draft)

- Joint UNECE-Eurostat meeting on using registers and administrative data for social and demographic statistics (documentation available at the website of the UNECE Statistics Division).

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