



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/1999/30
19 August 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-seventh plenary session
(Neuchâtel, 14-16 June 1999)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 1999/2000 AND 2000/2001:
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Post-plenary session version)

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Purpose of this document and its addenda

1. The main purposes of the plenary sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians are for the Conference to coordinate the statistically related work that various international and supranational organizations carry out in the ECE region, and for the Conference to decide on its future work programme. The CES plenary session has become the forum in which the work programmes of all other international and supranational agencies active in the ECE and OECD areas (including the European Union) are considered and reviewed in the context of the CES programme. Although the Conference has no jurisdiction over the work programmes of other agencies because they have their own decision-making bodies, the Conference has an authority based on its comprehensive and very senior membership and its close scrutiny of international statistical work.

2. Increasingly, too, as this document shows, expert meetings are organised jointly by two or more agencies such as the ECE with Eurostat or OECD.

3. The most important document for the plenary session is always therefore this Integrated Presentation Programme of Work of the 25 or so international agencies active in the ECE and OECD areas. This single comprehensive document is intended to bring together all the information necessary to enable the plenary session to make well-informed decisions about future work in its own programme and to comment and give advice on statistical work planned to be undertaken by other institutions. It is important to note too that the work is considered in the light of objectives defined by national statistical offices rather than by international secretariats. More details are given under the heading "Background information" below.

4. This version of the Integrated Presentation has been prepared after the June 1999 plenary session of the Conference, and it reflects the various decisions that the Conference took at the plenary session with respect to its programme of work.

Mandate of the Conference

5. The Integrated Presentation and the programme of work of the Conference provides the structure within which the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians provides guidance and direction in pursuing its objectives as confirmed by the Conference at its 1993 plenary session, as follows:

- to improve national statistics and their international comparability having regard to the recommendations of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and other appropriate bodies, as necessary;
- to promote close coordination of the statistical activities in Europe of international organizations so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions and to reduce to a minimum the burdens on national statistical offices; and
- to respond to any emerging need for international statistical cooperation arising out of transition, integration and other processes of cooperation both within the ECE region and between the ECE region and other regions.

Background information

6. The Integrated Presentation contained in this document and in its six addenda, each dealing with a different work area, provides an overview of the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years by all of the major international organizations that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated presentation provides summary information on the planned future statistically-related work

programme of the UN/ECE, Eurostat, OECD and approximately two dozen other international organizations working in this region.

7. This version of the Integrated Presentation was initially prepared in draft form for review by the Conference of European Statisticians at its 1999 plenary session. The draft was intended to assist the Conference in carrying out its primary role of coordinating international statistical work that will affect ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation is also used as a valuable tool for coordination at the national level, for countries are increasingly using it to assist them in deciding on their participation in different meetings convened by the various international organizations.

8. In many of the programme elements contained in this version of the Integrated Presentation there are references to various issues in individual fields of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference considered warranted being brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session. These issues are listed in the Integrated Presentation in each programme element under the heading Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following. Each programme element in the Integrated Presentation also includes a separate heading "Decisions taken by the Conference at the plenary session" under which decisions taken by the Conference at the plenary session with respect to each field of statistics covered by the Integrated Presentation is presented.

9. This is the seventh Integrated Presentation that has been prepared for review by the Conference at its annual plenary sessions. (The six earlier presentations were prepared for the Conference's 1993-1998 plenary sessions). The major innovations introduced by the Bureau since June 1998 which have been incorporated into the presentation contained in the addenda to this note are listed below:

- a) **The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of programme activities 1, 2 and 4 (see Table 1) since the 1998 plenary session.** (The Bureau conducts similar types of in-depth reviews of three programme activities each year, so as to ensure that the entire work programme can be reviewed in depth every two years).
- b) Because of the large size of the Integrated Presentation, the Conference agreed at its 1997 plenary session that rather than reviewing each of the 44 or so programme elements in turn at the plenary session, it would be preferable for the Bureau to select a small number of programme elements that would be reviewed in detail, and to review the remaining programme elements in a more cursory manner and generally on the basis of the outcome of the review that the Bureau conducted on the Integrated Presentation at its February meeting. In view of this, **the Bureau selected the following three programme**

elements that were reviewed in greater depth at the 1999 plenary session, in its review of the Integrated Presentation:

- Health statistics (PE 4.6). Statistics Canada contributed a paper (CES/1999/11) that served as the basis of the Conference s in-depth review of this programme element.
 - Labour statistics (PE 4.10). The ILO contributed the paper (CES/1999/12) that served as the basis of the Conference s in-depth review of this programme element.
 - The hidden economy (part of PE 3.1). ISTAT contributed the paper (CES/1999/13) that served as the basis of the Conference s in-depth review of this programme element.
- c) The discussion by the Conference of the 40 or so other programme elements in the Integrated Presentation was facilitated by brief presentations which members of the CES Bureau made on each of the six programme activity areas. These introductory comments by the Bureau members were intended to identify for the Conference strategic issues in the programme activity area, and promote more active involvement of countries in the discussion that took place at the plenary session.

Structure of the Integrated Presentation

10. The Integrated Presentation is divided into six major work areas ("programme activities") which comprise the programme of work of the Conference, and they are in turn sub-divided into a total of 44 programme elements (see Table 1).

11. Programme activity 1 covers issues concerned with the general management of the programme of work of the Conference, issues of statistical policy that are of direct concern to heads of NSOs, and issues such as international coordination, technical assistance in statistics and relations with countries outside the ECE region.

12. Programme activity 2 deals with substantive cross-cutting issues (including the managerial aspects of such issues) of concern to NSOs, which do not relate to a specific subject-matter field of statistics (e.g. issues of information technology with relation to statistical work).

13. The core of the programme lies in the substantive programme activities 3, 4 and 5 which address economic statistics, social statistics, and environment statistics respectively. Each of these programme activities may address conceptual issues, standards, and questions of design, collection, production, dissemination and analysis of statistical data arising in their domains.

14. Programme activity 6 covers the coordination of international data collection, the work of the secretariats in disseminating statistical data, and other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat.

15. The division of these six programme activities into 44 programme elements aims to be comprehensive while keeping the number of programme elements to a minimum consistent with the aims of the Conference. Each programme element is characterized by a statement of broad objectives and scope in a homogeneous area of statistical activity. The complete list of programme elements in the Conference's programme of work is provided in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in the Integrated Presentation in which information for the programme element can be found. The list of abbreviations used in the work programmes is given in Annex I.

16. While the structure and delineation of programme elements are expected to change slowly, the level of activity within programme elements will vary more rapidly between elements and over time. At any one time, some programme elements will be dormant, while others may be very active. For each planning period, the Conference will be required to review proposed goals and activities for particular programme elements and to decide on priorities.

17. The descriptions of each of the programme elements aim to provide a framework for all international statistical work relevant to national statistical offices in ECE, EU and OECD countries. The following standard headings are used within each programme element.

OBJECTIVES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS: Broad aims of national statistical offices for international work in that field over the next several years.

EXPECTED COLLECTIVE OUTPUT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Specific outputs expected by countries in the next two years.

ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE WAS DRAWN TO THE FOLLOWING: List of issues in each field of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference considers should be brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session.

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE AT THE 1999 PLENARY SESSION: List of decisions on its programme of work that the Bureau recommends the Conference to take at its 1999 plenary session.

MEETINGS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Sponsoring agency, title, date.

RAPPORTEUR: International organization that the Conference has recommended be assigned responsibility for preparing short issue-

and strategic-oriented reports for the Bureau and for assessing on behalf of the Conference progress towards the objectives and outputs specified for a programme element.

ACTIVITIES AND MEANS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Description of the major activities of agencies in that field from June 1999 to June 2001. Information is also given in this section on ECE resource implications for the work to be carried out by the ECE secretariat. The resource implications are classified as follows: minimal (less than 3 work months); moderate (3-6 work months); and substantial (over 6 work months).

Functions of Rapporteurs

18. The Conference concluded at its 1995 plenary session that in programme elements where several international organizations are actively working, it would be useful for the Conference to ask one agency to serve as the "rapporteur" for work in that field. Rapporteurs have now been appointed for most of the programme elements. Rapporteurs report to the Bureau, who in turn take the reports into account in proposing changes to the integrated presentation.

19. The Bureau conducts an in-depth review of three programme activities each year, so that the entire work programme can be reviewed every two years. It began this two year review cycle during the 1996/97 year, and in 1999/2000 the Bureau will conduct in-depth reviews of programme activities 3, 5 and 6 (see Table 1). These in-depth reviews are conducted on the basis of the following material: (i) the amended version of the integrated presentation that is prepared immediately after the Conference's plenary session, and which reflects the outcome of the discussion that took place at the plenary session (Addenda 3, 5 and 6 of the updated versions of CES/1999/30 to be produced after the 1999 plenary session); and (ii) short reports that the Rapporteurs prepare for the Bureau in the fields of statistics covered by these work areas.

20. The specific functions which the Bureau asks the Rapporteurs to perform on behalf of the Conference are summarized below:

to report to the Bureau, in short reports that are essentially issue- and strategic-oriented in character, on the extent to which progress is being made collectively by the agencies in meeting the 'objectives' and 'outputs'. (The reports are to be submitted to the Bureau through the Secretary of the Conference, no later than the beginning of September each year for programme activities to be reviewed that year; the Bureau will report to the Conference the following June);

to keep abreast of the relevant activities that are being undertaken by other relevant agencies, in order to fulfil function (a) above;

to advise the Bureau, through their candid reports, on how the objectives and outputs might best be achieved;
to suggest to the Bureau, when necessary, how the objectives and/or outputs should be amended so as to ensure that they reflect the intended meanings of these terms (see para. 18 above) and to make clearer which organization is responsible for each output indicated; and
when deemed appropriate, to identify and include in their reports a small number of key issues concerning ongoing or planned future work in the project which they consider sufficiently important to bring to the attention of the Bureau and of the Conference at its annual plenary session.

Planned future development of the integrated presentation

21. The process of improving the integrated presentation is an on-going one. It will continue with the in-depth reviews of individual programme activities that the Bureau will conduct each year.

Other relevant information

22. The list of abbreviations that are used by Eurostat and the OECD in describing their work programmes is given in Annex I.

23. Background information on ECE secretariat resources that will be available to help support the work programme of the Conference in 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 is given in Annex II of this note. The Conference is invited to take this information into account when it reviews its draft work programme at the 1999 plenary session.

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Table 1. List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference (together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found)

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<u>Programme Activity 1:</u> Organization and Operation of statistical services (See document CES/1999/30/Add.1)	1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work 1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices 1.3 Countries in transition in the ECE region 1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)
<u>Programme Activity 2:</u> Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (See document CES/1999/30/Add.2)	2.1 Management of information technology infrastructure 2.2 Statistical data collection and processing 2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information 2.4 Statistical classifications 2.5 Statistical research and development 2.6 Geographical and regional data 2.7 Human resource development
<u>Programme Activity 3:</u> Economic statistics (See document CES/1999/30/Add.3)	3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts 3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments 3.3 International trade in goods 3.4 Transport 3.5 Distributive trades 3.6 International trade in services 3.7 Tourism 3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services 3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities 3.10 Agricultural statistics 3.11 Industrial statistics 3.12 Energy statistics 3.13 Science and technology statistics 3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics 3.XX Other work in the field of economic statistics

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<p><u>Programme Activity 4</u>: Social and demographic statistics (See document CES/1999/30/Add.4)</p>	<p>4.1 Social indicators and frameworks 4.2 Gender statistics 4.3 Multi-purpose social surveys 4.4 Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics 4.5 Population and housing censuses 4.6 Health statistics 4.7 Crime and criminal justice statistics 4.8 Education and training statistics 4.9 Culture statistics 4.10 Labour statistics 4.11 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration, fertility and families and households) 4.12 Human settlements and housing statistics 4.13 Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality 4.14 Statistics on population groups of special interest</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 5</u>: Environment statistics (See document CES/1999/30/Add.5)</p>	<p>5.1 Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications 5.2 Environmental accounting 5.3 Environmental databases and reporting</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 6</u>: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (See document CES/1999/30/Add.6)</p>	<p>6.1 Coordination of international data collection 6.2 Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat</p>

**Annex I. List of more frequently used abbreviations employed
in the work programmes of Eurostat and the OECD**

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy (Eurostat)
PAC	[Politique agricole commune]
CCEET	Centre for Co-operation with the European Economies in Transition [Centre pour la Coopération avec les Economies en Transition]
CDIS	Management Committee on Statistical Information (Eurostat) [Comité Directeur de l'Information Statistique]
CD-ROM	Compact disks with read-only memory
CEEC	Central and Eastern European Countries
PECO	[Pays d'Europe centrale et orientale]
CESD	European Training Centre for Economists-Statisticians from Developing Countries (Eurostat) [Centre de formation des Economistes-Statisticiens des pays en voie de Développement]
CIT	Countries in transition
CMFB	Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (Eurostat) [Comité des statistiques Monétaires, Financières et de Balance des paiements]
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government (Eurostat)
CFAB	[Classification des fonctions des administrations publiques]
CPA	Classification of Products according to Activity (Eurostat) [Classification des Produits liés aux Activités]
DGINS	Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat) [Conférence des Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux de Statistique]
DOSES	Specific programme for the Research and Development of Statistical Expert Systems (Eurostat) [Programme spécifique de recherche-développement des systèmes experts en statistique]
DSIS	Distributed Statistics Information System (Eurostat) [Système d'Information Statistique Réparti]

EAA CEA	Economic Accounts for Agriculture (Eurostat) [Comptes économiques de l'agriculture]
ECCI	European Employment Cost Index (Eurostat)
ECHP	European Coordinated Household Panels (Eurostat)
ECMT CEMT	The European Conference of Ministers of Transport [Conférence Européenne des Ministres des Transports]
EEA EEE	European Economic Area (Eurostat) [Espace économique européen]
EEA AEE	European Environment Agency (Eurostat) [Agence européenne de l'environnement]
EECI	European Employment Costs Index (Eurostat) [Indice européen du coût de la main-d'oeuvre]
EHLASS	European Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System (Eurostat) [Système européen de contrôle des accidents au foyer et lors des activités de loisir]
EMI IME	European Monetary Institute (Eurostat) [Institut monétaire européen]
EMU UEM	Economic and Monetary Union (Eurostat) [Union économique et monétaire]
ESA SEC	European System of integrated national Accounts (Eurostat) [Système européen de comptes nationaux intégrés]
ESSPROS SESPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (Eurostat) [Système européen de statistiques intégrées de la Protection Sociale]
FISIMs	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (in the European System of Accounts, ESA 95)
GISCO	Geographic Information System for the Commission
NACE	General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (Eurostat) [Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes]
NIS	New Independent States (former Republics of the USSR) Nouveaux Etats Indépendants

NSI	National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat)
INS	[Instituts nationaux de statistique]
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (Eurostat) [Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques]
OWN/d	OECD World data Network
PHARE	Action plan for coordinated aid for restructuring economies in Poland and Hungary (Eurostat) [Pologne-Hongrie Assistance à la Restructuration des Economies]
PIT	Partners in Transition (Hungary, Poland, Czech and Slovak Republics)
PPP	Purchasing Power Parities
SCCTAS	Steering Committee to Coordinate Technical Assistance in Statistics to countries of the former Soviet Union
SERIEE	Collection of economic information on the environment (Eurostat) [Collecte d'informations économiques sur l'environnement]
SERT	Business statistics and telematics networks (Eurostat) [Statistiques des Entreprises et Réseaux Télématiques]
SIRENE	System of Distributed Information on Energy (Eurostat)
SME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises (Eurostat)
PME	[Petites et moyennes entreprises]
SOPEMI	Continuous Reporting System on Migration [Système d'observation permanente des migrations]
SPC	Statistical Programme Committee (Eurostat)
CPS	[Comité du Programme Statistique]
SPEL	Sectoral production and income model for Community Agriculture (Eurostat) [Modèle de la production et des revenus du secteur agricole communautaire]
TACIS	Technical Assistance CIS (Eurostat)
TES	Training of European Statisticians (Eurostat) [Formation des statisticiens européens]
TRAINS	Transport Information System (Eurostat) [Gestion statistique des transports terrestres]
UOE	UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat (joint questionnaire on education statistics)

Annex II

ECE secretariat resources expected to be available for the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians in 1999/2000 and 2000/2001

1. The programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 is presented in addenda 1-7 of this note, in conjunction with the planned statistical work programmes of other international and supranational organizations whose work relates to ECE, EU and OECD countries.
2. This annex contains information on the amount of ECE secretariat resources that are expected to be available for the Conference's work programme for the two year period commencing in July 1999, for the Conference to take into account when deciding on its own work programme.
3. In considering its draft programme of work for the coming two year period, the Conference is also invited to take the following information about secretariat resources into account. It responds to the provisions of the Economic Commission for Europe's decisions E (48) on the provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority and other sectors of the Economic Commission for Europe and I (48) on reporting from the Subsidiary Bodies to the Commission:

The draft budget for the 2000-2001 biennium makes provision for the UN/ECE Statistical Division to be comprised of 37 regular budget posts¹, of which 19² are to be devoted to work of the Conference. The salary

¹ Thirty-six of the 37 regular budget posts are in the "core" (Section 18) budget of the ECE. The additional post is the Statistical Division's Regional Adviser post, which is financed from Section 21 ("Regular programme of technical cooperation") of the budget.

² Last year's Integrated Presentation reported 21 posts for the Conference. Since then, of those 21 posts, one junior professional post and two General Service posts have been transferred from the support work for the Conference to support work carried out in the Statistical Division on economic data collection required in producing the Economic Survey for Europe three times a year. In addition, as a result of the Reform of the ECE which the Economic Commission for Europe adopted at its April 1997 session, one junior professional post is to be transferred from the ECE's Population Activities Unit to the Statistical Division in January 2000 to support the work of the Conference.

and related costs associated with these regular budget posts are expected to comprise more than 98% of the budgetary allocation, and the remaining part is composed of small amounts available for official travel, consultants, equipment and external printing of publications.

As noted above, of the staff costs, 19 posts are available for the work of the Conference of European Statisticians. The remaining 18 posts are intended for work that the Statistical Division performs for other Divisions of the ECE. This refers to the work the Statistical Division does for the Economic Analysis Division (15 posts), and to the ECE Graphical Design Unit which provides graphics design work for all parts of the ECE (3 posts). This resource base is supplemented by 5% of the UNOG (United Nations Office at Geneva) costs apportioned to ECE for conference services, which is absorbed by the Conference of European Statisticians.

The work of the Statistical Division is also being supported during the 2000-2001 biennium by some extra-budgetary funds. The extra-budgetary funding involved pertains to the following areas: (i) the UNFPA-funded project on population and housing censuses, which is aimed at assisting countries in transition and particularly newly independent states in planning and organizing their 2000 round population and housing census; (ii) the UNDP-financed project on social reporting and human development, which is aimed at assisting countries in transition in producing a wide range of basic social statistics for inclusion in national and international yearbooks of social statistics; and (iii) a possible additional UNDP-financed project aimed at developing and strengthening the national statistical capability of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Statistical Division has an additional two extra-budgetary posts to facilitate its managing work in these projects.

Of the 19 regular budget secretariat posts available to service the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians, they are planned to be allocated to the following work areas during the coming year:

- 16% will be devoted to programme activity 1 (Organization and operation of statistical services);
- 21% will be devoted to programme activity 2 (Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues);
- 33% will be devoted to programme activity 3 (Economic statistics);
- 13% will be devoted to programme activity 4 (Social and demographic statistics);
- 5% will be devoted to programme activity 5 (Environment statistics); and

12% will be devoted to programme activity 6 (Dissemination and support for secretariat activities).

Of the 37 posts available to the Division in the 2000-2001 biennium, six were vacant at the end of March 1999. Four of them are professional posts and two are general services posts. Of these, three are intended to support the work of the Conference, and three are intended to support the work the Statistical Division performs for other divisions in the ECE. The three vacant posts that are intended to support the work of the Conference are comprised of two professional post in the field of economic statistics (one of which is the post of the Regional Adviser in Statistics), and the other is a general service post in the field of environment statistics. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau during the Bureau's February 1999 meeting that because of budgetary difficulties the Statistical Division's Regional Adviser post would probably have to remain vacant throughout 1999.

The number of half-day meeting sessions with interpretation used to support the work of the Conference of European Statisticians in the past one-year period (i.e. from 1 April 1998 through 31 March 1999), in accordance with Commission Decision O(45), was 35 (this amounts to 7% of the total number of half-day meeting sessions with interpretation that ECE had during this period).

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