



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/2000/25
10 May 2000

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-eighth plenary session
(Paris, 13-15 June 2000)

**REPORT OF THE APRIL 2000 WORK SESSION ON
METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES INVOLVING THE INTEGRATION
OF STATISTICS AND GEOGRAPHY**

Note prepared by the Secretariat

1. The meeting was held from 10-12 April 2000 in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. It was hosted by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. It was attended by participants from Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom, and United States. The European Commission was represented by Eurostat.
2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Carlo MALAGUERRA, Director of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, who welcomed the participants and wished them success in their work and an enjoyable stay in Neuchâtel.
3. The provisional agenda was adopted.
4. Mr. Dick Meuldijk (the Netherlands) was elected Chair and Mr. Rainer Humbel (Switzerland) was elected Vice-Chair.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

5. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting:
 - (i) Policy and organizational aspects in GIS and statistics;
 - (ii) Spatial database management and (geo-)data warehousing;
 - (iii) Internet and Intranet solutions;
 - (iv) Spatial analysis in a statistical context and disclosure control procedures;
 - (v) Guidelines on Cartography for Statistical Purposes.
6. The following participants acted as Session Organizers: Mrs. Margaret WAGGET (United Kingdom) for topic (i); Mrs. Randy FUSARO (U.S. Bureau of the Census) for topic (ii); Mr. Danny WALL (Canada) for topic (iii); Mr. Gilles DECAND (EUROSTAT) for topic (iv); and Mr. Alistair CALDER (United Kingdom) for topic (v).
7. The topics were discussed on the basis of papers and demonstrations prepared by Canada, Estonia, Eurostat, Finland, France, Kazakhstan, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.
8. The invited papers were prepared by the following countries:
 - Topic (i): Eurostat, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States;
 - Topic (ii): United States;
 - Topic (iii): Canada and Finland;
 - Topic (iv): France and United Kingdom
 - Topic (v): Finland and United Kingdom.
9. The Work Session discussed and approved the Guidelines on Cartography for Statistical Purposes prepared by the United Kingdom and Finland. It recommended that the Conference approve them so that they can be made available on the ECE's Website. It was agreed that the United Kingdom and Finland should further administer and maintain the Guidelines. The Work Session encouraged the countries to use the Guidelines and to inform the secretariat, United Kingdom and Finland on the feedback. It was also recommended that the Guidelines be revised in two years' time.

FUTURE WORK

10. The Work Session recommended organising the next meeting in September 2001. Estonia offered to host that meeting.
11. The Work Session recommended organising a half-day training session on GIS implementation for interested countries back-to-back with the Work Session.
12. The following substantive topics were proposed for discussion at the 2001 meeting:

- (i) New opportunities created by cooperation and partnership;
- (ii) New technological solutions, including those based on on-line data access;
- (iii) Spatial analysis;
- (iv) Standards and metadata.

OTHER BUSINESS

13. The participants expressed appreciation for the hospitality and excellent organisation that the Swiss Federal Statistical Office had provided for the meeting, and expressed their warm thanks to the organisers.

14. The participants adopted the report of the meeting at its closing session.

15. The more detailed summary of the discussion that took place at the meeting on the five substantive agenda items will be prepared before the end of April 2000, and distributed (in English only) to meeting participants and other interested parties, upon request.