

**1997 Workshop
Using ECE/PAU's Collection of Census Microdata
Samples**

Geneva, Switzerland
October 3-4, 1997

The Population Activities Unit (PAU) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in collaboration with the Laboratoire de Demographie Economique et Sociale of the University of Geneva, is convening a two-day workshop on using PAU's collection of census microdata samples for research on issues related to population ageing, including the social and economic status of older people. It will offer young and mid-career researchers an exposure to this collection of datasets, which is one of the largest of its kind.

Workshop Description:

The PAU has assembled a set of cross-nationally comparable microdata samples, based on the 1990 round of censuses for thirteen countries in Europe and North America (Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, and USA). At least one additional sample (for the United Kingdom) is expected in the near future. The samples are designed to support a wide range of social and demographic research, although population ageing is the sphere where they are most likely to be of particular importance. They have several important advantages compared to other data sources: (1) because of the large sampling proportions, they cover various small groups of older people, information on whom is not commonly available; (2) these samples include as much geographic detail as possible under each country's confidentiality requirements; (3) they include extensive information on housing conditions; and (4) they provide information for a number of countries that have so far been understudied due to lack of data.

The first day of the workshop will include a session where basic information about the samples and how to work with them will be presented in two lectures of 90 minutes each. It will be followed by a session with guest speakers, who will present their ideas about research topics and the ways to approach them with data like the ECE/PAU's collection. The second day will be devoted to hands-on experience with the datasets. During both days the project's staff will be available to answer questions. Provisions will be made for the participants to obtain released datasets, in accordance with the specific data-release conditions. Participants will also be provided with complete data documentation and other relevant materials.

Application Process:

Enrollment in the workshop will be limited to 15 participants, who will be selected from the pool of applicants based on their research interests and qualifications. There will be no registration fee for the workshop. The organizers, however, are not in a position to offer financial support towards travel or per diem expenses. Those wishing

to attend should send by 31 July 1997 a cover letter describing their research interests and a curriculum vita to the following address:

1997 Census Samples Workshop
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