

Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on methodological issues involving the integration of Statistics and Geography  
(Tallinn 25-28 September 2001).

### **Topic (iii): SPATIAL ANALYSIS**

#### **Notes for the Discussion**

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The opportunities and issues arising from the increased use of spatial analysis in National Statistical Agencies will be covered under two sessions at the Work Session - as Study Topic (iii) on Wednesday morning and in a separate workshop to be run on Friday morning.

The exact coverage of these sessions will obviously depend upon proceedings - but the notes below are intended to provide some idea of the likely scope and the topics that might arise. Comments or suggestions of how we might approach these sessions are, of course, very welcome - either in advance or at the Work Session. In particular this is an emerging area where sharing experience and ideas would seem to be valuable. Any contributions to the session in terms of case studies or comments on the issues identified below will be particularly welcome.

#### **Study Topic (iii) Spatial Analysis**

Initial discussion here will focus on issues or ideas raised by the papers:

- The potential of grids as an integrating framework and as the basis for analysis. Issues of grid size.
- GIS as a tool for pulling together quantitative and qualitative data.
- Spatial analysis to produce new information from old - potential for disaggregation using co-variates.
- GIS for defining areas and zones - issues ?

However there may be time here to discuss some of the wider issues:

- Using sophisticated analysis as the basis for targeting policy. Can we move beyond 'analysis'?
- How do we make sure that we don't get carried away with the new tools ? How do we know that what we are doing is valid ?