

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For discussion

Second Meeting of the 2007/2008 Bureau
Helsinki (Finland), 18-19 October 2007

Item 2a of the Provisional
Agenda

**IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF INCOME, LIVING CONDITIONS AND POVERTY
STATISTICS**

Note prepared by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics – IBGE

1. The note prepared by OECD highlights crucial areas to be discussed regarding data comparability on living conditions and poverty statistics. The points raised in the note are of particular interest to Brazil.

2. The Brazilian government policies concerning poverty reduction have increased the demand for more accurate data and measures to implement programs and to monitor their effects. IBGE, as a government agency in charge of producing official statistics, has dedicated additional attention to improve data collection instruments and methodologies to measure poverty and inequality. This effort is translated through various initiatives, as described below.

3. Compendium of Best Practices in Poverty Measurement

The Compendium is the result of a long-term effort of the Expert Group on Poverty Statistics (Rio Group), chaired by the Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics (IBGE) with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America, ECLAC, acting as Secretary. The Compendium covers seven approaches based on collected experiences: absolute poverty line, access to basic services and basic capital possession, relative poverty, subjective poverty, and social exclusion, social deprivation, empowerment, and other social and political dimensions associated with poverty. For information on the Compendium and the Rio Group Meetings, see <http://www.ibge.gov.br/poverty>.

4. Official Poverty Line

The Brazilian Government created an Inter-ministerial Group (Casa Civil, MDS, IBGE and IPEA) to define a methodology to measure the official poverty in Brazil. Among the diversity of existing methodologies, the Group proposed an absolute poverty line, considering the resources represented by households per capita income. The advantage of this method is the vast available documentation of good practices. This method is adequate to improve the calculation of nutritional requirements and to differentiate them from other basic needs. It also allows to update the data more frequently and to consider a wider geographic coverage that captures rural-urban and regional heterogeneities. The report will soon be available to the public.

5. Poverty Map

In order to measure welfare, poverty and inequality at the local level, IBGE is finalising a Poverty Map project based on the World Bank methodology (Elbers, Lanjouw and Lanjouw). This methodology combines detailed information about living standards in household surveys (Expenditure Survey, in the case of Brazil) and the large coverage of the census.

6. European Commission – Mercosul Project

The general aim of the project is to contribute to the Mercosul integration and strengthening of national and regional institutions through the development, harmonization and integration of social and economic statistic production. One component of the project is to propose statistics and indicators compatible with themes such as employment, income distribution and poverty. The project is at its initial stage and should be completed within 48 months.

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