

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMISSION OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

EUROSTAT

**Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on
Statistical Data Confidentiality**
(Thessaloniki, Greece, 8-10 March 1999)

Working Paper No. 1
English only

INFORMATION NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS

**The Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality will be held in the
International Congress Center of Helexpo, Thessaloniki, from 8 to 10 March 1999,
starting on 8 March at 9:00 a.m. in Room C**

I. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Short overview of the research in data confidentiality
4. **New applications of disclosure control methods**
Invited papers by L. Franconi (ISTAT, Italy), E. Schulte Nordholt (Statistics Netherlands) A. Garon (UPC, Spain) and E. Ripoll (IDESCAT, Spain), supporting papers from Canada, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States
5. **Software and computing developments**
Invited papers by L. Willenborg, A. Hundepool (Statistics Netherlands), Gordon Sande (Sande & Associates, United States) and Eurostat, supporting papers from Canada, Germany (2), Italy, the Netherlands (2), Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United States, and a demonstration by Greece
6. **Administration and policy of statistical data confidentiality**
Invited papers by J. Nobel (Statistics Netherlands), J. Holvast (Holvast and Partner, the Netherlands), UN/ECE and Eurostat, supporting papers from Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Israel, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United States and World Bank
7. Future work
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the conclusions reached at the Work Session.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

9. The Conference of European Statisticians, at its 1998 plenary session, included this Work Session in its meeting programme (see CES/1998/34/Add.2, programme element 2.1). The Programme of Work of the meeting reflects Eurostat's ongoing work in the field of statistical confidentiality. The

Work Session will be held in English only. The meeting is organized jointly by the UN/ECE Secretariat, Eurostat and the National Statistical Service of Greece.

10. All documentation for the meeting will be made available at the following Internet address:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/1999.03.confidentiality.htm>

Hard copies of documents will be sent out to participants only if requested (please indicate your request on the Registration Form, or send an e-mail to *diane.serikoff@unece.org*). The UN/ECE Secretariat will inform participants by e-mail when documents become available on the Internet.

11. The agenda items will be considered based on two main categories of papers, **invited papers** and **contributed (or supporting) papers**. The organizers of the meeting have contacted a small number of countries asking them to prepare invited papers for specific items. The invited papers will provide the main basis for discussion. However, issues raised in the other papers that countries contribute to the meeting (supporting papers) will also be discussed under that item.

12. Consideration of individual agenda items will be led by Session Discussants. The sessions will start with the presentation of the invited papers, followed by a brief question period. Contributed papers will then be introduced, and commented on by the Discussants. The authors will have an opportunity to comment on their papers and to answer the questions. The Session Discussants and authors of both invited and supporting papers are encouraged to keep in close contact in order to better prepare the discussion and to take into account the requirements of authors. The Session Discussants and their relevant contact information are provided below.

III. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

13. The meeting will focus on the substantial topics listed in the Programme of Work of the Conference of European Statisticians under the Programme activity 2: *Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues*, Programme element 2.3: *Dissemination and interchange of statistical information* (see CES/1998/34/Add.2).

Agenda item 3: New applications of disclosure control methods

Discussant: Lawrence Cox (United States Environmental Protection Agency)

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 e-mail: cox.larry@epamail.epa.gov

14. The discussion under this agenda item will deal with the established and emerging disclosure control techniques. The discussion could focus on the application of these techniques as a way of improving the degree of protection afforded to data and/or as a way of allowing new forms of output to be produced. Users of statistics are demanding more flexible types of outputs, with a growing interest in the use of microdata samples. Developments in the application of disclosure control methods must occur in parallel with developments in the types of statistical output offered. The presentations could consider, e.g. methods for the protection of microdata and tables, models to measure the level of safety of a data set, measures to quantify the effect of data modification techniques on the statistical quality of data, optimization of the protection of the microdata and tables.

Agenda item 4: Software and computing developments

Discussant: Josep Domingo-Ferrer (Universitat Rovira I Virgili)

Addr.: Autovia de Salou s/n, Tarragona, E-43006 Spain
 Tel.: + 34 77 559 657
 Fax: + 34 77 559 710
 E-mail: jdomingo@etse.urv.es

15. This section will include reports on the use of computing software and hardware to maintain statistical confidentiality by preventing disclosure of identifiable information, and to prevent unauthorized access to computer systems holding such data. Comparisons between different software systems would be of value here, indicating the relative strengths and weaknesses of the available software for different tasks.

16. The Work Session may wish to consider possibilities of how to prevent unauthorised online access to statistical products, which can lead to the release of confidential information or the corruption of data files. Disclosure control software packages such as ARGUS or CONFID allow a rapid assessment of the disclosure risks of releasing a particular dataset, and simplify disclosure control procedures. Increasingly too, other types of less specialised tabulation software incorporate facilities which allow users to pre-programme rules such as minimum cell size.

Agenda item 5: Administration and policy of statistical data confidentiality

Discussant: Gordon Sande (Sande & Associates, inc)

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 Tel.: +1 201 864 4564
 e-mail: g.sande@worldnet.att.net

17. The session will examine aspects of both national and international policy on SDC. Statistical data protection is tackled in different ways by different countries. Successful and original experiences at the national level, and administrative and legal problems faced when organising the exchange of confidential statistical data at the international level will be considered during the discussion.

18. This section could be of particular interest to eastern European countries which are becoming more and more involved in the work of supra-national organisations (e.g., those seeking membership of the European Union). Discussion on common problems, encouraging the wider adoption of best practices would be appreciated.

IV. DEMONSTRATIONS

19. Since only a very limited amount of time can be set aside during the meeting for demonstrations, they will have to be made on the margins of the meeting (e.g. during the lunch break and after the afternoon session ends). To facilitate planning, the participants wishing to give a demonstration should inform the UN/ECE Secretariat well in advance of the meeting and also indicate the requested facilities and equipment for the demonstrations.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

General information

20. Thessaloniki is the second largest city in Greece with a population of 1,000,000 inhabitants and is one of the oldest cities in Europe. It stretches over twelve kilometers in a bowl formed by low hills facing a bay that opens onto the Gulf Thermaikos. It was founded about 315 b.c. on the site of prehistoric settlements dating back to 2,300 b.c., by Cassander, King of Macedonia, and was named after his wife, Thessaliniki, sister of Alexander the Great. Since then, Thessaloniki has become the chief city of Macedonia and is its most important commercial port. Thessaloniki is situated not only strategically in the heart of the Balkans, but it is also an economic, touristic and cultural centre for the whole area.

21. The Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality will be held at the International Congress Center of Helexpo, Thessaloniki, from 8 to 10 March 1999, starting on 8 March at 9:00 a.m. in Room C.

Weather conditions

22. The weather in March is cool with an average daily temperature of 16-18°C.

Currency

23. The Greek currency unit is the drachma. There are coins of 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 drachmas and bank notes exist for 100, 200, 500, 1.000, 5.000, and 10.000 drachmas.

Accommodation

24. Hotel arrangements have been made for the participants at the Olympia and Palace Hotels (see table below). Breakfast is included in the room rates indicated. Both hotels are located in the centre of the town and are near the Congress Centre. A bus will be available to transport participants to the Congress Centre in the morning and will return them to the hotels in the afternoon. Participants are requested to indicate their choice of hotel on the attached registration form and send it to the host authorities by 15 December 1998.

Hotel	Single room with breakfast	Double room with breakfast
Olympia Hotel 65, Olimpou Street 54625 Thessaloniki Tel: (+30-31) 23 54 21 Fax: (+30-31) 27 61 33	22,000 drs.	30,000 drs.
Palace Hotel 12, Tsimiski Street 54624 Thessaloniki Tel: (+30-31) 27 05 0 Fax: (+30-31) 25 65 89	17,000 drs.	20,000 drs.

Travel

24. By car, a network of international motorways brings you to Thessaloniki:

- The E90 from western Europe and E75 from western and northern Europe
- The E79 from central and eastern Europe via Sofia and Istanbul.

By airplane, an extensive air transport network connects Thessaloniki's "Macedonia" airport with the rest of the world. There are direct flights from the largest European cities to Thessaloniki. A taxi service is available from the Air Terminal to the hotel at a cost of about 1,500 drs.

Social events

25. A light lunch will be offered by the National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG) during the work sessions. The NSSG will also host a dinner for all participants of the Work Session at a restaurant in the old town of Thessaloniki. Participants will also have the opportunity to take a guided city tour.

Additional information

26. Any questions concerning organizational arrangements for the Work Session should be addressed to:

Mrs. Maria Tzirtzilaki
Tel: (+30-1) 328-9312
Fax: (+30-1) 321-3404

The organizers wish you a very pleasant stay in Thessaloniki.

Joint UN/ECE Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality
(Thessaloniki, Greece, 8-10 March 1999)

REGISTRATION FORM

This form should be completed in duplicate by each participant
and returned **by 15 December 1998**

1 copy to:

Mrs. Jana Meliskova
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Statistical Division
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Switzerland

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1 copy to:

Mrs. Maria Tzirtzilaki
National Statistical Service of Greece
14-16 Lycourgou Street
10166 ATHENS
Greece

Tel: (+30-1) 328-9312
Fax: (+30-1) 321-3404

1. Surname (Family name)	2. First name
3. Representing (country or organization)	4. Title
5. Mailing address	
6. Tel. No.	7. Fax No.
8. E-mail address:	
9. Requested way of receiving documentation: <div style="text-align: center;"> Paper form <input type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> </div>	
10. Please indicate choice of hotel: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> Olympia Hotel <input type="checkbox"/> single room <input type="checkbox"/> double room <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Palace Hotel <input type="checkbox"/> single room <input type="checkbox"/> double room <input type="checkbox"/> </div> </div>	
10. Date and time of arrival in Thessaloniki	11. Date and time of departure from Thessaloniki
12. Special dietary or other requirements:	

Date _____ Signature _____