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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Joint ECE-WHO Meeting on Health Statistics  
(Rome, Italy, 14-16 October 1998)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

At the invitation of ISTAT, and in accordance with the decision of the Conference of European Statisticians taken at the 45th plenary in 1997, a joint meeting on Health Statistics will be held at ISTAT in "Aula Magna", Rome, Italy, starting on 14th October at 9 a.m. and finishing on 16 October before 5 p.m.

1. In accordance with the decisions taken by the last meeting on health statistics and by the Bureau and the plenary session of the Conference, the study programme and organization of the Seminar will be as outlined below. Meeting hours will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with two hours for lunch.

**OBJECTIVES OF MEETING**

2. It is expected that the meeting will provide a forum where health statisticians and experts together with policy makers in the field of health information can exchange experiences and plans of action for the development of consistent and coherent health information systems at the national and international levels. The specific objectives of the meeting, as derived from the work programme outlined below, are to promote the integration of health statistics and to improve their quality and accessibility ; to encourage the use of Information Technology so as to give easy and wide access to health information and to enable the development of efficient health information systems; to assist the development of measures of population health status and health outcomes and promote their applications;

and to review the experiences of countries in the application of the ICD-10 and other standard health classification systems.

#### **ORGANIZATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

3. The Provisional agenda is subdivided into four substantive topics, each of which will have a session dedicated to it. For each session an organizer has been appointed to be responsible for coordinating and inviting discussion papers and for recruiting discussants and rapporteurs.

4. Invited papers will be briefly presented by their authors while supporting papers will be introduced by discussion leaders. Authors of supporting papers will therefore not be requested to introduce their papers, except in special cases agreed in advance with Session organizers. The discussion will not exceed the time allocated for each session, but unanswered questions or issues may be raised in session 5.

5. The Chairperson of the meeting will lead the discussion in the fifth session which will take the form of an open discussion of the topics debated during the previous sessions. The conclusions reached in each session will be presented by the discussants from the four sessions and participants will have a chance to revert to issues which they feel need further debate.

6. During the first two days, meeting participants will have the opportunity to hand in written proposals for topics of future work to be considered at possible future meetings covered under the programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians. These will be discussed under item 6.1 on the last day and consensus will be sought from the meeting for a short list of proposed topics to be forwarded to the Conference.

7. All invited papers, received in time by the ECE secretariat, are available in the three working languages. For the supporting papers, only a summary is available in the three languages, the papers themselves have not been translated and are therefore available only in the language(s) in which they were received.

8. The meeting documents will progressively be made available on the Internet on the following address: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/1998.10.health.htm>

9. In addition, registered participants will be mailed one set of documents in advance of the meeting.

10. A brief report of the decisions taken at the meeting will be produced for the final day and translated into the three ECE working languages. A summary of the discussion that took place in each session will be produced after the meeting and distributed to participants in English only.

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIME SCHEDULE**

**14 October - Morning Session**

9:00 Registration

9:30 Opening of meeting and designation of officers

**Session 1: Problems associated with the lack of coordination in national and international health statistics**

Organizer: WHO-Regional Office for Europe

Discussant: Arun Nanda (WHO-Regional Office for Europe)

Rapporteur: J. R. Halsall (NHS, UK)

Invited papers:

1. Information for health for Europe. An overview, CES/AC.36/1998/4

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2. Strengthening national health information systems. The concept of national integrated statistical health database, CES/AC.36/1998/5

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WHO Regional Office for Europe

3. "Health for all" indicators for WHO European Region and the HFA database, CES/AC.36/1998/6

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WHO Regional Office for Europe

4. Collaboration and coordination in health information and health statistics in the WHO European Region, CES/AC.36/1998/7

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WHO Regional Office for Europe

**14:30 - Afternoon session**

**Session 2: The role of IT in collecting health information and providing ready access to statistics and indicators on health status**

Organizer: Poul Hansen (Ministry of Health, Denmark)  
Discussant: Martin Lund (Ministry of Health, Denmark)  
Rapporteur: Martin Lund (Ministry of Health, Denmark)

Invited papers:

1. Health statistics in Finland - Dissemination with information Technology, CES/AC.36/1998/15  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/15  
Mikko Nenonen and Olli Nylander, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Finland
  2. The role of IT in providing ready access to statistics on health care in Denmark, CES/AC.36/1998/12  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/12  
Pernille Christensen and Henrik Dahl, Ministry of Health, Denmark
  3. The German health information system, CES/AC.36/1998/14  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/14  
Gunther Brückner, Federal Statistical Office of Germany
  4. Public health information networks in the EU, CES/AC.36/1998/16  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/16  
Bernard Le Goff, (DG-5, European Commission)
- Demonstration of the pilot EUPHIN-EAST network and the Health for All database.

**15 October**

**9:00 - Morning session**

<b>Session 3: Development and use of health output indicators</b>
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Organizer: Erik Nord,  
National Institute of Public Health, Norway  
Discussant: WHO-headquarters  
Rapporteur: Ann Lisbeth Brathaug(Statistics Norway)

Invited papers:

1. DALYS in Europe, CES/AC.36/1998/9  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/9  
Marie-Louise Essink-Bot, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands
2. The use of health indexes in calculating health gains (QALYs) and health adjusted life expectancy (HALE)  
CES/AC.36/1998/8  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/8  
Harri Sintonen, University of Kuopio, Kuopio, Finland
3. The validity of summary health indexes (HALE, QALYs and DALYs)  
CES/AC.36/1998/10  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/10  
Erik Nord, National Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway

**14:30 - Afternoon session**

<b>Session 4: Progress towards implementation of ICD-10 and other internationally comparable health classification systems</b>
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Organizer: Ms. Karen Dunnell,  
Office of National Statistics, UK  
Discussant: (to be arranged)  
Rapporteur: Richard Willmer(ONS, UK)

Invited papers:

1. Long-term strategy for ICD-10, deliberations from meetings of WHO and Heads of Collaborating Centres, CES/AC.36/1998/17  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/17

Ann Harding, National Health Service Centre for Coding and Classification,  
England

2. The ICDH-2 - using the classification for statistics and research,  
CES/AC.36/1998/11  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/11  
Howard Meltzer, Office for National Statistics, UK

3. International harmonisation - issues to be addressed for mortality and  
morbidity statistics, CES/AC.36/1998/13  
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/13  
Dag Swenson, Bjorn Smedby, Kerstin Carsjo and Lars-Age Johansson, Swedish  
National Board of Health, Sweden

**16 October**

**9:00 - Morning session**

Session 5: <b>General discussion of conclusions from Sessions 1-4</b>
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Discussants: from Sessions 1-4

**14:30 - Afternoon session**

Session 6: <b>Closing session</b>
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- 6.1 Future work of CES
- 6.2 Other matters
- 6.3 Adoption of report and meeting recommendations
- 6.4 Closing of meeting

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