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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
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SEMINAIRE

СЕМИНАР

SEMINAR

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
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SEMINAR ON STATISTICAL NOMENCLATURES

INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1

(Geneva, Switzerland, 28-29 April 1997)

Place and date

1. The Seminar is organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) with the support of the Statistical Office of the Commission of the European Communities (Eurostat). It will take place at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, starting at 10:00 on **28 April 1997** and finishing at 18:00 on **29 April 1997**.

Scope of the Seminar

2. The Seminar will focus on practical problems of implementing new international nomenclatures such as ISIC rev.3, NACE rev.1 and PRODCOM and how they might be solved. The Seminar will also discuss how to improve harmonization of national nomenclatures with international standards as well as how to encourage the use of major international classification systems and, above all, agree on actions and what is necessary to implement them.

3. The present Seminar is a follow-up to the ECE/Eurostat Seminars on PRODCOM and on ISIC rev.3/NACE rev.1 which were held in Geneva on 3 November 1994 and on 19-20 October 1995, respectively (the Reports of the Seminars are contained in documents ENG.AUT/SEM.12/3 and ENG.AUT/SEM.13/4, respectively).

4. The present Seminar is closely coordinated with Eurostat's forthcoming *Seminar on Classifications for TACIS Countries* to be held in Minsk between 17-21 February 1997 and INSEE's (Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques, France) planned Seminar on classifications systems in Bulgaria in the autumn of 1997.

GE.96-32202

Organization of the Seminar

5. The Seminar will start with a short plenary session during which a keynote address will be delivered. The Seminar will then continue in four parallel working groups dealing with the following main topics (examples of issues which could be addressed under each theme are provided).

Working Group I. Registers and Units

Co-chairmen:

Mr. Peter Larsen

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Mr. John Perry

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Rapporteur:

To be nominated.

ECE secretariat:

Mr. Jan Karlsson

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Examples of issues to be discussed

- practical problems of setting up registers and registering units;
- definitions of units and associated problems;
- many service-sector firms not registered;
- confidentiality;
- non-response;
- effect on registers of new classification rules and how they are handled;
- use of product data in classification by activities;
- what can be changed once the system has been implemented; and
- register coverage.

Working Group II. Methodological Development

Co-chairmen:

Mr. Joachim Weisbrod

Federal Statistical Office of Germany, D-65189 Wiesbaden,
Germany

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Mr. Roland Rousseau
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Economiques (INSEE),
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Rapporteur: To be nominated.

ECE secretariat: Mrs. Lidia Bratanova
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Examples of issues to be discussed

- expand guidance for difficult concepts/ terms/ areas;
- determining main activity;
- choosing between value added, employment, turnover and the like;
- can this variable differ in different areas of a country?
Reasons?
- stability rule;
- holding companies;
- voluntary organizations;
- more work on differentiating public/private sectors and more
guidance on multi-activity public institutions;
- relative neglect of services;
- empty/unused NACE classes;
- strengths / weaknesses of case law approach - possibilities for
more general rules; and
- world systems increasingly interdependent; how to systematically
link them and timetable for that.

Working Group III. International Framework of Cooperation and Assistance

Co-chairmen: A representative from Eurostat; and

A second co-chairman to be nominated

Rapporteur: To be nominated

ECE secretariat: Mr. Miodrag Pesut
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Examples of issues to be discussed

- more formal systems needed to ensure regular contact and exchange of information;
- the value of a new Voorburg-type Group - voluntary classification experts (to increase classification harmonization; cooperation);
- how to assist countries with limited resources for classifications work (training; expert groups);
- access to manuals, documents, information (systematic, timely, right language); -progress with 'hot line'/ help desk;
- dictionary of terminology; and
- links between international organizations and different international classification systems.

Working Group IV. Impact of New Classification Systems

Co-chairmen:

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ECE secretariat:

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Examples of issues to be discussed

- conversion keys/ correspondence tables
- effect on national accounts/ discontinuities (movement between economic areas as a result of new classification systems);
- effect on businesses answering queries;
- how do survey sections cope with changes in classifications?
- technology (automatic coding) and how classification data are stored;
- is there a legal basis?
- impact on statistical and administrative systems;

- transition period;
- are NACE/ISIC aggregates useful for broad analysis of economy?
- availability of data (e.g. value added); and
- are (all) new rules being followed?

6. Participants in the Seminar are not expected to make presentations about the general situation in the area of classifications in their countries - such background documentation is already available - but rather identify problems they have had in implementing new classifications and how they solved these problems (or if the problems are still unsolved, formulate concrete questions to be addressed to the working groups). All participants are asked to review their implementation experiences before attending the Seminar to facilitate their taking an active part in the Seminar discussions. Participants are also expected to transmit short notes on their experiences mentioned above and/or concrete questions to the ECE secretariat no later than **1 February 1997** for dispatch to the Co-Chairmen of the working groups.

7. The officers in each working group are responsible for the necessary preparations for the organization of work in the respective groups, in cooperation with the secretariat and the Chairman of the Seminar.

8. It is expected that there will be between 6 and 10 participants in each working group. If necessary, the number of working groups can be increased. Participants will participate in the working groups that are of greatest interest to them. Participants will also be free to move between working groups during the seminar.

Registration

9. Participants are requested to complete the attached registration form (Annex I) and send it as soon as possible, but no later than **1 March 1997**, to the ECE secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.

Travel, accommodation and other information

10. Participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. There is no fee for participating in the Seminar. Participants from central and eastern European countries, under certain circumstances, may be able to receive financial support to attend the Seminar from the European Commission's PHARE programme. Financial support will be limited to one person per country contributing actively to the Seminar. The countries concerned may obtain additional details from Eurostat (Tel. +352-430132806/Fax +352-430132139) if required.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Monday, 28 April 1997

Plenary session

10:00 - 10:20 Opening of the Seminar

 Election of Chairman of the Seminar

 Introduction by the Chairman of the Seminar

10:20 - 11:00 Keynote address

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11.30 - 18:00 Parallel sessions in four working groups

Tuesday, 29 April 1997

10:00 - 15:00 Continued discussions in four parallel working groups

15:00 - 17:30 Plenary session. Summing-up by each working group's
 chairman and rapporteur of their group's conclusions and
 recommendations. General discussion

17:30 - 18:00 Summing up by the Chairman. Closing of the Seminar

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Annex

REGISTRATION FORM

SEMINAR ON STATISTICAL NOMENCLATURES

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe with the support of
the Statistical Office of the Commission of the European Communities

Each participant should send a completed copy of this form as soon as
possible but no later than **1 March 1997** to the following address:

Statistical Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, Room C.444
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel. +41- 22 917 3285 Fax. +41- 22 917 0040

1. Family name (Mr., Ms.):

First name:

2. Professional address:

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Telephone: Fax:

3. Indicate which languages you understand/speak:

English French Russian

4. Indicate in which two working groups you wish to participate:

WG I . . . WG II . . . WG III . . . WG IV

