

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/SEM.37/1
19 November 1997

Original: ENGLISH

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Joint UNECE/Eurostat seminar on business registers
(Geneva, 19-20 February 1998)

INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1

Place and date

1. The seminar is organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) and 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 9:30 on **19 February 1998** and finishing at 18:00 on **20 February 1998**.

Scope of the Seminar

2. The Seminar will focus on the current status of development of business registers in EU member countries and on development of business registers in transition countries. It will furthermore assess the results of technical assistance programmes in the area of business registers, and based on the experience gained so far, discuss future needs of transition countries in this field. The Seminar will also review methodological topics and problems in the development of business registers as suggested by member countries. Finally, the participants will discuss the role of business registers in the production of macro-economic information and their relevance for national accounts in transition countries.

3. As recommended by the Seminar on Statistical Nomenclatures held in April 1997, the participants are expected to consider the need for organizing a training course or a seminar on the use of a business register as a coordinated survey tool and/or application of statistical units in the context of business registers. If member countries consider such a seminar to be necessary and useful, it could be organized by the UN/ECE and/or by Eurostat's Training of European Statisticians Programme.

4. The Seminar is coordinated with the work of the Eurostat's "Business Registers Committee" and will represent the opportunity for non-EU member

countries to obtain the latest information on the status of development of business register in the EU member countries and other UN/ECE member countries.

Organization of the Seminar

5. The seminar will be organized in the form of a working session dealing with each of the draft agenda items, as well as with particular methodological or other relevant questions brought by member countries to the attention of the secretariat.

Examples of the issues already communicated to the secretariat include:

- Problems connected with local units in the register;
- Registration of local units;
- Quality of data/information in business registers;
- Use of business registers for preparation of surveys;
- Relation between the main register and sub-registers; etc.

6. Participants in the Seminar are not expected to make presentations about the general situation in the area of business registers in their countries - such background information is already available - but rather identify concrete problems they have had in developing business registers and how they solved these problems (or if the problems are still unsolved, formulate concrete questions to be addressed to the Seminar). All participants are expected to take an active part in the Seminar discussions.

7. Interpretation will be provided between English, French and Russian. The Seminar documents will not be translated and will be reproduced in the original language in which they were submitted. Countries contributing documents are expected to submit to the secretariat a short (one-half to one page long) summary which will be translated in all three languages of the ECE if it is submitted before 5 December 1997.

Registration

8. Participants are requested to complete the attached registration form (Annex) and send it as soon as possible, but no later than 31 December 1997, to the UN/ECE secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.

Travel, accomodation and other information

9. Participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. Participants from central and eastern European countries may, under certain circumstances, be able to receive financial support to attend the Seminar from European Commission's PHARE programme. The countries concerned may obtain additional details from Eurostat's Technical cooperation with PHARE and TACIS countries (tel. +352-4301-33543/Fax +352-4301-32139) if required.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 19 February 1998

- 9:30 - 9:50 Opening of the Seminar
- Election of Chairman of the Seminar
- Introduction by the Chairman of the Seminar
- 9:50 - 10:30 Draft agenda item 3 (Points for information by ECE and Eurostat)
- 10:30 - 10:50 Coffee break
- 10:50 - 12:30 Draft agenda item 4 (Current situation of business registers in member countries)
- 12:30 - 14:30 Lunch break
- 14:30 - 16:00 Draft agenda item 5 (Development of business registers in transition countries)
- 16:00 - 16:20 Coffee break
- 16:20 - 17:30 Draft agenda item 6 (Coverage and quality of business registers)

Friday, 20 February

- 9:30 - 11:30 Draft agenda item 7 (Methodological topics and problems)
- 11:30 - 11:50 Coffee break
- 11:50 - 13:00 Draft agenda item 8 (Business registers and national accounts)
- 13:00 - 15:00 Lunch break
- 15:00 - 16:30 Draft agenda item 9 and 10 (Seminar/training course on use of business registers as coordinated survey tool or statistical units for business registers and Future work)
- 16:30 - 17:30 Other business and adoption of the report. Closing of the Seminar

Annex

REGISTRATION FORM

JOINT UN/ECE EUROSTAT SEMINAR ON BUSINESS REGISTERS

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe with 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 not later than 31 December 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 or Fax. +41-22-917-0040
+41-22-917-4136

e-mail: jan.carlsson@unece.org or
miodrag.pesut@unece.org

1. Family name (Mr., Ms.):.....
First name:
2. Professional address:.....
.....
.....
Telephone: Fax:.....
e-mail:.....