

Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on methodological issues involving the integration of Statistics and Geography
(Tallinn 25-28 September 2001).

Background note for the Workshop on Spatial Analysis

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The workshop will pick up on some of the themes outlined in the discussion on spatial analysis at the Work Session but will also discuss the topic more widely.

An introduction to the subject will provide background and discuss some of the reasons why spatial analysis is an increasingly important area for statistical agencies.

Discussion will be followed by a brief introduction to the key techniques that might be of value and discussion of case studies. Discussion and investigation of some of the issues will be carried out in smaller groups.

The exact coverage of the workshop will emerge during the session but likely areas for discussion are as follows:

- What tools are available to us now in standard GIS packages ?
- What sources of information are available?
- How can we manage implementation of these complex tools within our organisations?
- Where are we at with providing spatial analysis tools on the internet?
- Simply - What is the future for spatial analysis in statistics?

It is hoped that the workshop will be as interactive as possible and, to this end, **it is proposed to ask attendees who can do so to talk briefly about their own use of techniques and provide examples.**

With this in mind attendees are particularly asked to think about the following questions in advance of the session:

- What techniques that might be termed as 'spatial analysis'* are used in you own organisation ?
- What examples can you provide where spatial analysis has proved useful or added value ?
- What have the issues been ? What concerns do you have about spatial analysis ?

* Note : For the purpose of these sessions 'Spatial Analysis' might be considered in its widest sense - to cover a wide range of tools from analysis based on simple spatial operations such as data overlay and buffering to sophisticated interpolation and modelling techniques.

Any delegates who feel they are able to talk for a few minutes about any work or examples they are aware of are asked to contact me in advance of the workshop.