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**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2002/2003 AND 2003/2004:
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Post-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2
TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

Introduction

1. The material presented in this document is part of the “Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work” which provides a summary overview of the statistically-related work that international organisations plan to carry out in the next two years that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. Information on the Integrated Presentation is presented by work area in six different addenda. The Integrated Presentation in its entirety consists of the following documents:

The Integrated Presentation: Introduction and overview (CES/2002/32)

Programme Activity 1: Organisation and operation of statistical services (CES/2002/32/Add.1)

Programme Activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (CES/2002/32/Add.2)

Programme Activity 3: Economic statistics (CES/2002/32/Add.3)

Programme Activity 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/2002/32/Add.4)

Programme Activity 5: Environment statistics (CES/2002/32/Add.5)

Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2002/32/Add.6)

2. This version of the Integrated Presentation was prepared as the post-plenary session version of the Integrated Presentation and it contains the decisions that the Conference took in each work area during the plenary session. The Conference uses it as an aid in carrying out its primary role of coordinating the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years which is of relevance to ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation is also used as a valuable tool for coordination at the national level, for countries are increasingly using it to assist them

in deciding on their participation in different meetings convened by the various international organisations.

3. The information presented in this addendum refers to work area or “Programme Activity” 2 of the Integrated Presentation which is entitled “Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues”, and that is sub-divided into eight “programme elements (PE)” or fields of work.

PE 2. 1

PE	Heading	Text
2.1	Title	Management of information technology infrastructure
2.1	Goal	That the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) be harnessed to the greatest extent possible in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data.
2.1	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The potential of the emerging ICT has not yet been realised and it is perceived that considerable such potential exists. ◆ Countries within the ECE area vary considerably in their ICT capabilities. ◆ Priority should be given to re-engineering processes in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics holistically as a consequence of the rapid proliferation of Internet services in statistical practice.
2.1	Strategic medium-term objectives	<p>For the ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A re-designed architecture for collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data under the rapid development in ICT with emphasis on the integration of data sources and data dissemination on both national and international levels. ◆ Improved dissemination of official statistics via Internet. ◆ Increased level of implementation of common EDI messages standards in transition countries. ◆ Complete preparation of methodological material on "Business' Perception of Confidentiality". <p>For Eurostat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Agreement on common architecture for statistical information services (collection, production & internal reference, external reference, dissemination). ◆ Adoption and integration of open-EDI technologies such as common exchange standards for documents, statistical reports, statistical data, classifications and meta-data. ◆ Agreement on common EDI messages and APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) to couple distributed statistical information services (e.g. locating, extracting and downloading relevant statistical data for a specific domain). <p>For the OECD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further standardise and integrate statistical work in the Organisation with the aim of creating a corporate data warehouse. ◆ Further co-ordinate statistical data collection and dissemination with other international organisations and relevant countries. <p>For World Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To develop a web-based statistical data collection and dissemination system for its own staff and for users in other countries and institutions by 2005. Its aims will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As a first step, socio-economic, external debt and trade indicators and other related Bank/IDA (Interchange of Data between Administrators) data will be included in this warehouse; ▪ The capability of supporting user specified queries over the Internet; ▪ Differentiated access based on privileges; ▪ The development of software that could be disseminated to countries to increase their statistical capacity.

PE	Heading	Text
2.1	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<p>ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Complete development of website on best applications of statistical information and communication technologies. <p>Eurostat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction of new ICT architecture. ◆ Construction of a single interface for Eurostat reference bases. ◆ Installation of new version of Eurostat internet site. ◆ Creation of new Data Preparation System. <p>OECD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Complete a dynamic corporate data catalogue and a data dictionary. ◆ Complete a metadata driven universal interface to the main statistical databases of the organisation. ◆ Increase the number of organisations and proportion of data using XML/Gesmes for collection and dissemination of data. <p>IMF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase the number of member country correspondents using the GESMES/CB standard UN/EDIFACT message for electronic interchange of monetary, balance of payments and other statistics from countries in the ECE region. ◆ Implementation of a secure web-based data collection system (2002). ◆ New database systems will support access to meta-data (2004). <p>CIS-STAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase the proportion of data transmitted by CIS member country correspondents using common standards for the electronic interchange of statistics.
2.1	Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The need to integrate better geographical information systems (GIS) in statistical production. ◆ The impact of e-government initiatives on statistics. ◆ The joint software being shared and developed by Nordic countries. ◆ The increased tendency in sharing IT infrastructure.
2.1	Decisions taken by the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see “Activities of CES” below). ◆ The Conference decided that the two series of meetings – Meetings on Management of Statistical Information Technology (biannual - odd years) and Seminars on Integrated Statistical Information Systems (biannual - even years) – would be merged into one, and agreed that a steering group would work using means of electronic communications to define a framework for the new series of ECE/Eurostat Meetings on Statistical Information Technology. ◆ The Conference also agreed that a website on the Best “IT” Practices in Statistical Offices be created and hosted by OECD, and encouraged the national statistical offices and international organisations to contribute to the development of the website.
2.1	Rapporteur	ECE

PE	Heading	Text
2.1	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE/Eurostat Meeting on Statistical Information Technology (timing and agenda of the meeting to be decided – see section “Decisions taken by the Conference”) ◆ ECE-EUROSTAT: Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality (9-11 April 2003). Items on the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Assessment of statistical disclosure limitation methods and software (in conjunction with parallel sub-sessions on different approaches to measurement of disclosure risk and software tools for disclosure of microdata)</i> ▪ <i>Impact of confidentiality on new data release techniques (in conjunction with parallel sub-sessions on confidentiality for small area statistics and software tools for disclosure of tabular data)</i> ▪ <i>Guidelines for studies on respondent perception of confidentiality</i> ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: IT Steering Committee, 21-22 October 2002 (+ once a year in October)
2.1	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Joint ECE/Eurostat Meeting on Statistical Information Technology (timing and agenda of the meeting to be decided – see section “Decisions taken by the Conference”) ◆ Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality, April 2003, to consider: (i) Assessment of statistical disclosure limitation methods and software (in conjunction with parallel sub-sessions on different approaches to measurement of disclosure risk and software tools for disclosure of microdata); (ii) Impact of confidentiality on new data release techniques (in conjunction with parallel sub-sessions on confidentiality for small area statistics and software tools for disclosure of tabular data; (iii) Guidelines for studies on respondent perception of confidentiality. ◆ Development of website on best applications of statistical information and communication technologies (2002-2003). ◆ Preparation of methodological material on "Business' Perception of Confidentiality" (2002-2003). <p>Secretariat resources: Substantial.</p>
2.1	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further standardise and integrate statistical work in the Organisation with the view of creating a corporate data warehouse by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating a corporate data catalogue and a further developing a glossary of statistical terms outlining corporate statistical concepts; ▪ Developing a central metadata repository; ▪ Developing a metadata driven universal interface to the main statistical databases of the organisation; ▪ Further co-ordinating statistical dissemination; ▪ Co-ordinating data collection activities across the Organisation and with other international organisations both in terms of content, timing and use of common technology (XML / Gesmes).

PE	Heading	Text
2.1	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u> Providing Eurostat with a data-processing infrastructure that will guarantee uninterrupted operation and data security in accordance with Commission standards by constantly improving the quality and efficiency of our systems and services, particularly through structured co-operation with the Member States aimed at sharing experience and creating economies of scale.</p> <p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintaining the existing level of service with regard to the provision of infrastructure, the support and the continuation of current applications. ◆ Continuing infrastructure rationalisation and improved organisation of server capacity. ◆ Continuing construction of common modules for the production environment. ◆ Continuing deployment of the software component of the new architecture and a statistical processing workflow model. <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p><u>Priorities for 2002</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction of the new Eurostat architecture based on four environments, namely Collection – Production and internal reference – External reference – Distribution, and two types of servers, a general data and an application servers will be continued. ◆ Rationalisation of the Eurostat information systems will continue against the background of the new architecture and the organisation of user groups through the definition of the "data life cycle" process. ◆ Subjecting user services to quality assurance from the standpoint of efficiency and subsidiarity. ◆ Increasing co-operation with the Member States. <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementation of a quality-assurance plan for server and network management, management of client relations, training. ◆ Installation of Windows 2000. ◆ Construction of a single interface for the Eurostat reference bases. ◆ Installation of IRMS (Integrated Resources Management System). ◆ Installation of a new version of Eurostat Internet site. ◆ Creation of a new Data Preparation System
2.1	Activities of ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of a full set of documentation and relevant administrative statistics kept for control purposes on all of the databases maintained by the ILO Bureau of statistics. The documentation includes each database contents, timing of updates, backups, verification programmes, standard questionnaire movements, procedures, etc. ◆ With the guiding objective to reach the "Zero-Paper Capacity", without endangering the ILO's responsibility to produce printed publications for Member States with low electronic capacities, the Bureau of Statistics has progressively worked towards the replacement of paper computer outputs and printed documentation into HTML pages that are automatically generated and transferred on the ILO's Intranet site. This process will eventually lead to stable production of all major publications also in electronic form.

PE	Heading	Text
2.1	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The IMF continues to develop data sharing partnerships with other international and regional organizations to reduce the reporting burden on member countries. The IMF now collects monetary data directly from the ECB on behalf of all ECB members, and is pursuing similar arrangements in other topical areas with the OECD and EUROSTAT. ◆ Data collection activities continue to be further streamlined, using existing defacto standards such as the EDIFACT-based GESMES/CB message format and Excel, and use of the Internet as a communications mechanism. A new secure web-based system will go into production in early 2002 for collecting data electronically from member countries. Future planned developments include the use of XML for data and metadata exchange. ◆ By end-2004, most of the IMF Statistics Department's databases will be using a new object-oriented database management, with modern publications technologies. The new system will support linkages to externally held ("catalogued") metadata, such as the country metadata posted on the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board, http://dsbb.imf.org as well as standard methodologies (e.g., <u>Balance of Payments Manual</u>, fifth edition (BPM5) and <u>1993 SNA</u>). The re-use of existing information, such as country metadata, is a key element of the new system. ◆ Dissemination of published data over the Internet continues to expand. In the coming year, an interactive, web-based system for searching and retrieving data from the IFS database will be released, followed in the coming years by similar products for other published data sets, such as the balance of payments statistics, direction of trade statistics, and government finance statistics. ◆ Work is ongoing to upgrade the portal website for the collection, sharing, and dissemination of statistical metadata in support of the Fund's data standards' initiatives, the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) and the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) through the use of a Content Management System, a Content Aggregation System, a Relational Database Management System for metadata, SQL, and XML.
2.1	Activities of the World Bank:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Development Data Group of the World Bank has embarked on a 3-year project to develop a web-based statistical data collection and dissemination system for its own staff and for users in other countries and institutions. The data delivery will be over the internet using secure protocols. The objective is to build an infrastructure that brings many of the statistical databases in the Bank under a data warehouse. Further, through arrangements with other participating organizations/member countries, data from their respective sources could also be made available to a user's query over the internet, provided the user were to have the necessary privileges to access that data. As a first step, socio-economic, external debt and trade indicators and other related Bank/IDA data will be included in this warehouse. ◆ The proposed system will integrate and streamline time-series data management operations at the Bank, and will establish a comprehensive platform to support the statistical data collection and dissemination functions of the Bank. Also, the software thus developed will be provided to countries to further the goal of statistical capacity building in these countries. The software developed in this project could be installed in these countries for their own data retrieval, data maintenance and updating functions, provided they adhere to certain data and software standards. ◆ The project is planned for completion in 3 years. It will be delivered in stages so that as the system components get developed, these would support the new Bank-wide data initiatives such as the Global Development Gateway and the Global Development Network.

PE	Heading	Text
2.1	Activities of CIS-STAT	<u>Ongoing work:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Ongoing activities are aimed at improving standards for the electronic interchange of statistical data of CIS member countries and coordinating work on establishing and keeping national business registers in CIS member States.◆ Work will continue on improving information technology within the framework of CIS-STAT and gradual replacement of obsolete workstations with more advanced systems; acquisition and installation of software (operating systems); improvement of software tools for CIS-STAT data collection and storage; and further training of staff for work in a distributed data processing environment.

PE 2. 2

2.2	Title	Statistical data collection and processing
2.2	Goal	That the benefits of ICT be harnessed to the greatest extent possible in the collection and processing of statistical data.
2.2	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further technical integration of respondents and statistical systems including the use of electronic data interchange standards. ◆ The use and sharing of efficient methodology and software in common collection and processing operations carried out by statistical agencies (e.g. sampling, data entry, editing, coding, estimation), best practices in data editing methods and techniques especially those allowing cost savings are to be identified and made available.
2.2	Strategic medium-term objectives	<p>For the ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Progressive re-engineering in data collection for statistical surveys caused by the expansion of web services. ◆ Increased use of electronic data reporting methods and techniques in data collection from enterprises, administration and other sources. ◆ Better use of EDI standards for statistical data collection. ◆ Recommendations on the best practices on the evaluation of the efficiency of the data editing process. <p>For EUROSTAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adoption of XML version of RDRMES as UN standard. ◆ Agreement on the use of EDI messages to specify the statistical requirements to the economic operators and their declarers. ◆ Production of documentation on EDI projects for decision-makers, key partners in data collection, key technological players such as software houses, EDI providers, and standardization bodies, etc. <p>For the OECD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The OECD will continue its efforts to contribute to reducing the burden on national statistical agencies by further co-ordinating data collection activities across the Organisation and with other international organisations both in terms of content, timing and use of common technology (XML / Gesmes). <p>For the World Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Reorganisation of official statistical data collection and processing in the Russian Federation
2.2	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Publication of “Statistical Confidentiality in the EU” (depending on outcome of Calls for Tender). ◆ Creation of a secure environment where researchers can access micro EU data for Scientific purposes (Safe Centre). ◆ Proposals for IT security standards for the ESS. ◆ Windows version of IDEP/CN8.
2.2	Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Methods to access microdata for research purposes. ◆ The creation of an EU statistical confidentiality environment as a key element for strategies and policies on the national level. ◆ Methods to access a restricted set of information and restricted access to the information in an effort to fight terrorism.

2.2	Decisions taken by the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see “Activities of CES” below). ◆ The Conference decided to include in the Conference’s 2003/2004 publication programme the methodological material “Statistical Data Editing, Vol. 3” based on the outcomes of meetings on Statistical Data Editing with special regard to evaluation methods and quality indicators for statistical data editing. ◆ To encourage further extension of the existing Web knowledge base (K-base) for data editing (http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base) to include evaluations and experiences of various data editing processes. ◆ The Conference asked the international organisations to investigate the possibility of developing a common system (portal) for monitoring their data collection activities and to ensure the development of data sharing models. ◆ The Conference recommended investigating the possibility of defining a standard codification scheme for economic time-series (for national accounts and balance of payments) with an initial focus on short-term indicators. ◆ The Conference also recommended the international organisations to put in place secure and operational methods and tools for the transmission of sensitive information, and to work with national statistical offices for facilitating the reuse of their standard products. ◆ The Conference asked the international organisations to present a progress report on the issue at the next year’s plenary session of the Conference.
2.2	Rapporteur	ECE
2.2	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT: Committee on statistical confidentiality, 4 October 2002 (+ once a year) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: EDICOM IDEP/EDIFACT, 15-16 October 2002 (+ twice a year in February and October) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Metadata Workshop, 21-22 November 2002 (+ once a year in November) ◆ ECE/EUROSTAT Work Session Electronic Data Reporting, 2004, to consider: (i) National integration (e-government initiatives); (ii) National research (quality issue, organization, administrative sources); (iii) Respondents’ behaviour (security, e-commerce, built-in edits, benchmarking of data); (iv) Communication and support (helpdesk, training); (v) Implementation (in parallel with the programme of work of the work session). ◆ Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (timing to be decided by the CES Bureau on the basis of proposal put forward by the ECE).
2.2	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To prepare a methodological material "Good Practices on the Evaluation of Efficiency of Data Editing" (2002/2003). ◆ To prepare the methodological publication “Statistical Data Editing, Vol. 3” based on the outcomes of meetings on Statistical Data Editing with special regard to evaluation methods and quality indicators for statistical data editing. ◆ Work Session Electronic Data Reporting, 2004, to consider: (i) National integration (e-government initiatives); (ii) National research (quality issue, organization, administrative sources); (iii) Respondents’ behaviour (security, e-commerce, built-in edits, benchmarking of data); (iv) Communication and support (helpdesk, training); (v) Implementation (in parallel with the programme of work of the work session). ◆ Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (timing to be decided by the CES Bureau on the basis of proposal put forward by the ECE).
2.2	Activities of OECD	Co-ordinate data collection activities across the Organisation and with other international organisations both in terms of content, timing and use of common technology (XML / Gesmes).
2.2	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A reorganisation of Eurostat's information systems will allow the "Internal reference"

		<p>and the "External reference" to be separated: this will result in more efficient data management, particularly as regards processing confidential data. The Commission Regulation on access to confidential data for scientific purposes adopted in December 2001 by the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality will be implemented.</p> <p><i>Information technologies - Systems for data collection and transmission of primary data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Facilitate national data collection by the promotion of best practices, the exchange of know-how and tools. <p><i>Reference databases:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The internal and external reference environments are made up of a set of resources (data-bases, meta-data bases, software and interfaces) covering Eurostat data, standards and methodologies designed to co-ordinate all Eurostat statistics, facilitate producer activities and provide an efficient, high-quality distribution service. <p><i>Data security and statistical confidentiality:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To manage and co-ordinate confidentiality issues within the ESS through the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality. Work programme recognises Committee on Statistical Confidentiality (CSC) as primary forum for management and co-ordination of confidentiality issues within ESS. ◆ To set up a secure environment called Safe Centre where researchers can access confidential data for scientific purposes. ◆ To manage and co-ordinate statistical confidentiality issues within Eurostat, day to day co-ordination of statistical confidentiality issues being addressed through re-activated Internal Task Force on Statistical Confidentiality. <p><u>Ongoing work</u></p> <p><i>Information technologies - Systems for data collection and transmission of primary data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Support Intrastat primary data collection by maintenance of IDEP/CN8, support to the competent national administrations, and preparation and delivery of the Windows versions of IDEP/CN8 will continue, but a "phase out plan" will be prepared for after the delivery of the Windows version in 2003. ◆ Contribute to the implementation of the EDICOM-ICT Work Program as approved by the Intrastat Committee in 2001. <p><i>Reference databases:</i></p> <p>In 2002, it should be possible to pursue and expand the objectives proposed in previous years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improving services offered by the reference environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ user-friendliness of the tools developed ▪ integration of graphic representation and analysis tools ▪ optimised information-retrieval procedure ▪ evaluation of the quality of the metadata describing the proposed data. ◆ Application of workflow techniques in conjunction with the producers to improve client information and extend the application of the harmonised metadata to the different phases of the data and metadata life cycle. ◆ Initial application of a new optimised architecture – Collection, Production, Internal and external reference, Dissemination – allowing greater coverage of customer requirements. ◆ Optimisation of data dictionary functions for the management of all special nomenclatures in the reference environment. ◆ Promotion and co-ordination of metadata operations in the ESS and Eurostat, including text server and information server (continuation). ◆ Participation (in conjunction with UN/ECE) in the organisation and follow-up of METIS. <p><i>Data security and statistical confidentiality:</i></p> <p>Data Security and Data Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continued updating of data-security procedures in conjunction with the CIS and the IT unit. User assistance with a view to promoting a responsible attitude to security.
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		<p>Management of Confidentiality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ To implement the Commission Regulation on Access to Confidential Data for Scientific Purposes. Implementing Commission regulation 831/2002 will be handled through a remit from the CD to the Internal Task Force on Statistical Confidentiality. Initially it is expected that priority will be given to developing, and making available, anonymised micro-datasets. At present these are available only for ECHP (European Community Household Panel Study). Contracts for researchers are being revised in the light of the new Regulation. <p><u>Priority objective of the work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p>Priorities for 2002:</p> <p><i>Information technologies - Systems for data collection and transmission of primary data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ XML version of RDRMES (EDI standard message for raw data collection) adopted as official UN standard <p><i>Reference databases:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Ensuring the application of internal and external reference systems in the new Eurostat architecture.◆ Standardising and co-ordinating the priority production of metadata in the light of distribution requirements.◆ Improving the service available to Eurostat and ECB users through structured co-operation and a transparent plan of action. <p><i>Data security and statistical confidentiality:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ To establish bilateral agreements with MS authorities.◆ Prepare a publication on "Statistical Confidentiality in the EU".◆ Promote best practices in candidate and third countries.◆ Promote international co-operation. <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years:</u></p> <p><i>Reference databases:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Co-operation in the field of statistical metadata between the ESS and the other international organisations.◆ Optimisation of the statistical information retrieval activities based on standardised metadata. <p><i>Data security and statistical confidentiality:</i></p> <p><u>Data Security and Data Protection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Development of a workflow sequence with the "administrative affairs" unit concerning the "data-user accounts life cycle".◆ Application of the recommendations of the working party on external access to the Eurostat network.◆ Analysis of the impact of the outsourcing project on security policies and procedures.◆ Conclusion of a security SLA with the Computer Centre with a view to the transfer of servers to their premises.◆ Carrying out of implementation audits.◆ Arranging drafting by consultants of a manual of procedures in force in the IT department and the mapping of Eurostat information (to evaluate risks and action to be taken as well as consequences for REFIN).◆ The technical group "IT security in the ESS" will propose standards.◆ Implementation of security measures in REFIN and REFEX. <p>Management of Confidentiality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ To prepare the first bi-lateral agreements between Eurostat and the Member States specifying the data sets for which and the rules under which such access may be granted.◆ To facilitate the use of confidential data for external researchers in a secure environment called Safe Centre where they can work under license on data that are
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		<p>defined confidential for release.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To start working on a Handbook on Statistical Confidentiality <p>Legal aspects of confidentiality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Advice on the implementation of rules governing the access of the public to Commission documents.
2.2	Activities of ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A pilot test was conducted for data collection through electronic questionnaires for the "ILO-Comparable Estimates of Employment and Unemployment" programme, whose results are published annually in the ILO Bulletin of Labour statistics. These electronic questionnaires consisted of HTML forms allowing for the updating of the database for current year and retrospective years, through Internet. ◆ Based on the experience gained in the ILO-Comparable test, a second test is being conducted for the data collection process of the ILO's "October Inquiry", involving a much more important volume of data.
2.2	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Active participant in the GESMES/CB working group and adoption of GESMES/CB as one of the two preferred message formats for data collection. ◆ Modernize the Fund's portal website in support of the SDDS/GDDS, which will provide enhanced collection, management, sharing, and dissemination of statistical information by leveraging Relational Database and Content Management Systems in conjunction with a Content Aggregation System and XML for rendering metadata. These technologies will offer new automation capabilities, e.g., in the monitoring of SDDS observance. These improvements will be made in conjunction with ongoing international initiatives such as SDMX aimed at creating an open exchange system for statistical information on the Internet.
2.2	Activities of the World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In the Russian Federation, the following activities will be financed with the WB loan under the Development of the State Statistical System (STASYS) Project (Reorganization of Data Collection and processing subcomponent): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ development of a systematic plan, with timetable, to complete the process of replacing regular censuses with sample surveys in real sector statistics; ▪ development of administrative and statistical business registers (registers of enterprises and organizations); ▪ preparation of draft project of economic censuses in the Russian Federation; ▪ organization of all-Russia agricultural census in vie of FAO UN program, improvement of statistical observation of small enterprises; ▪ development of public relations strategy for Goskomstat of Russia to be applied in the course of wide-scale statistical surveys (economic, agricultural censuses, surveys of small businesses, household surveys etc.) and its pilot testing; ▪ development of a system to support household sample surveys. <p>These activities will be supported by procurement of the relevant IT equipment for processing the survey data, including procurement of minicomputers to provide overall transition to electronic methods of data collection on prices.</p> ◆ The World Bank gathers macroeconomic data and projections at least once a year from its country teams in a process known as the Unified Survey. These data and projections are used for planning and evaluating Bank operations. They underlie work on creditworthiness and risk assessment and they are an important part of the Bank's external publications such as the World Development Indicators, the country and regional At-a-Glance tables, and Global Development Finance. These data are collected in a standardized way using the World Bank's country database system known as the Live Database (LDB). The LDB is an Excel based database which standardizes the management of macroeconomic information by organizing information into separate sheets by topic and utilizing indicator codes, common layouts, and a variety of formatting, calculation, and reporting tools. ◆ The World Bank's Debt Reporting System (DRS) requires every member country which has received either an IBRD loan or an IDA credit to provide information on its external debt. The borrowing countries are required to report their long-term

		<p>external debt on the following forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Form 1- Description of Individual External Public Debt and Private Debt Publicly Guaranteed which consists of information on each loan characteristics, such as commitment date, amount of loan commitment, loan purpose, interest rate, and terms and conditions of payments; ▪ Form 1A- Schedule of Drawings and Principal and Interest Payments for Individual External Public Debt and Private Debt Publicly Guaranteed, purpose of which is to enable the Bank to make projections of future payments of principal and interest for those loans that have irregular patterns of repayments; ▪ Form 2- Individual External Public Debts and Private Debts Publicly Guaranteed: Current Status and Transactions During Period. This form contains loan-by-loan information on debt stocks and debt flows during the reporting period; ▪ Form 3- To contain specific amendments to Forms 1 and 2; ▪ Form 4-External Private Non-Guaranteed Debt to include aggregate stocks and flows data on long-term external private non-guaranteed debt. <p>◆ The World Bank has also ongoing plans for worldwide web-based external debt data collection (Web-DRS).</p>
2.2	Activities of CIS-STAT	<p><u>Ongoing work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Collection and exchange of statistical data between CIS national statistical services and CIS-STAT at monthly, quarterly and yearly intervals using standardized tables (questionnaires) in Excel format (204 tables). Information is exchanged via the Internet with all the CIS statistical services. ◆ During the period 2002-2004, work will continue on standardizing the electronic interchange of statistical information with national statistical services and international organizations and on improving the reference database with a view to broadening the range of services available to the various users (more comprehensive data coverage and inclusion of harmonized classifications and a variety of catalogues and handbooks). An analysis of new technology will be made with a view to improving data protection and confidentiality.

PE 2.3

2.3	Title	Dissemination and interchange of statistical information
2.3	Goal	That the benefits of ICT be harnessed to the greatest extent possible in the dissemination and interchange of statistical information
2.3	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementation of meta-information systems at national level and harmonization of metadata systems of international organizations. ◆ Further spreading of use of Internet for dissemination of statistical data. ◆ Implementation of common EDI standards for statistical data dissemination. ◆ Dissemination of market-sensitive economic data to mass media.
2.3	Strategic medium-term objectives	<p>For the ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Progress in the re-engineering of data dissemination caused by expansion of Internet services. ◆ Progress in the integration of metadata related to the dissemination of statistics by international organisations. ◆ Preparation of a handbook on best practices in disseminating statistical data to the information media and on statistical offices' media relations. ◆ Improved use of common standards for EDI in transition countries. <p>For EUROSTAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Agreement on concentrated efforts, investments and resources on DSIS 6 priorities (metadata, reference environment, raw data collection, design and integration of EDI technologies, multimedia and information highways, integration with networking technologies). ◆ Agreement on use of standardized EDI messages as a corner to exchange data and metadata between reference environments. ◆ Implementation of reference and dissemination environments (new architecture) conforming to common recommendations, requirements and memorandum of understanding (including access rights, copyrights, accounting practices). ◆ Feasibility studies on how statistical information services can benefit from EDI and multimedia technologies. ◆ Improvement in the quality of publications and reductions in the number of titles. <p>For the OECD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further increase the dissemination of free data on the Internet and improve the coherence of on-line dissemination by integrating datasets and improving the descriptive metadata content. <p>For the IMF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Completion of SDMX project for exchange of information on the Internet. <p>For the UNSD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of the Millennium Indicators Database for monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.
2.3	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A reflection on charging policy will be conducted with EU Member States. ◆ Data Shop and Data Shop Relays action plan will be implemented (EU). ◆ A new version of the Euro-Indicator website will be launched and evaluated (EU).
2.3	Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The rapid growth of the availability of data on the Internet highlights the wide range of data dissemination policy issues that need addressing across the whole ECE area, such as the secondary distribution of statistics, copyright and licensing, advertising and marketing, user needs analysis, and user education. The experience and expertise of the EU in this area is invaluable. ◆ The progress on the SDMX project chaired by IMF, in which EU, OECD; UNSD and other international organisations participate.

2.3	Decisions taken by the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see “Activities of CES” below).
2.3	Rapporteur	ECE
2.3	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Statistics, Telematic Networks & EDI (STNE), 7-9 October 2002, (+ twice a year in March and October) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Dissemination of statistical Information, 24-25 October 2002 (+ twice a year in April and October) ◆ ECE: Work session on statistical output for dissemination to the mass media, 4-6 November 2002. Items on the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Handbook on best practice for statistical offices dealing with the media</i> ▪ <i>Governments’ overall media policies and their influence on the dissemination of statistical information</i> ▪ <i>Use of new audio-visual, electronic and print technologies</i> ▪ <i>Innovative models of partnership with the private sector</i> ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Data Shop Network Meeting, 18-20 November 2002 (+ once a year in November) ◆ Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Metadata (2003/2004) to consider the following: (i) Metadata uses over the survey life-cycle; (ii) Uses of XML schema and web services in metadata systems; (iii) Extensions and refinements of metadata models; (iv) Using metadata for searching and finding statistical data in websites and portals.
2.3	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preparation of the methodological material “Handbook on best practices for dealing with the media”(2001/2002). ◆ Work Session on Statistical Output for Dissemination to Information Media (4-6 November 2002) to consider the draft of the "Handbook on best practices for dealing with the information media". ◆ Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Metadata (2003/2004) to consider the following: (i) Metadata uses over the survey life-cycle; (ii) Uses of XML schema and web services in metadata systems; (iii) Extensions and refinements of metadata models; (iv) Using metadata for searching and finding statistical data in websites and portals. ◆ Participation in the Group EEG6 of the European Board for EDI Standardization. (2002/2003).
2.3	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Streamlining publication processes. ◆ Expanding the metadata content and functionality of statistical electronic products. ◆ Further increase the dissemination of OECD free data on the Internet and improve the coherence of on-line dissemination by integrating datasets and improving the descriptive metadata content.
2.3	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u> <i>Information technologies - Telematic networks ESS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provision of modern IT services guaranteeing the rapid exchange of information and effective co-operation within the European Statistical System between Eurostat and its clients and between the national administrations and their data suppliers. <p><i>Dissemination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Euro-Ind</u>: The Euro-Indicator site supplies the public with time series, available at a high level of frequency and giving an overall picture of the business cycle in Europe. The underlying database consists of about 350 indicators; most are fully harmonised, some others are national not fully harmonised or even country specific indicators. It covers areas of interest for short-term analysis, aims at consistency, contains long time series and comprehensive metadata. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u> <i>Information technologies - Telematic networks ESS</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promotion and assistance to national administrations and Eurostat users in the implementation of monitored data exchange; follow-up and support of the corresponding systems (STATEL, STADIUM, EDIFLOW). ◆ Promotion and assistance to national administrations and Eurostat users in the implementation of standardised messages (GESMES, GESMES/CB, CLASET). ◆ Further development of the Groupwork tool CIRCA and administration of its Eurostat's site. ◆ Evolutive Maintenance of the research site VIROS. <p><i>Information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>External communication</u>: Potential projects: improvement of press releases, publication of additional Euro-indicators covered by press releases, release of specific information for journalists, extension of timetable for the publication of Euro-indicators and ad hoc press releases, distribution of Euro-indicator tables, closer links with radio and TV stations, development of relations with the media in candidate countries pending enlargement and in European and certain non-European non-member countries. Meetings with journalist groups, writer training and relations with journalists. Exchange of best practices and co-operation with INS colleagues. Consolidation of activity and performance indicators. ◆ <u>Summary publications</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Production</i>: simplification of the production process by the use of new tools (derived tables in NewCronos). Improvement of the content of our publications: better selection of indicators; more prominence to analysis. More dissemination on Internet. CD-ROM with improved functionalities. ▪ <i>Marketing</i>: follow-up of the evolution of user needs by questionnaires and adaptation of our products accordingly, with probably a bigger place for Internet solutions. ▪ <i>Co-publishing</i>: implementation of a new licence contract from 2002 on. <p><i>Dissemination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Publications programme</u>: The main aims will be to improve the quality of Eurostat publications in terms of both content and presentation depending on the corresponding electronic or paper formats, and to reduce the number of titles. The unit responsible will assist other units in choosing topics to be covered with a view to ensuring greater satisfaction for different user groups. Cost-effectiveness analysis in respect of each publication will also constitute a performance indicator. ◆ <u>Dissemination policy</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marketing and Promotional activities: Actions will be concentrated on continued regular and cost-effective information to our users (Statistical References and the web site). Promotion of databases on internet will be improved. The internet site will also be used to assess user satisfaction and qualify user profiles. The Data Shop and Sales agent networks will benefit from the marketing support. One key objective is to make leaflets and sales arguments available just before a product is launched. ▪ Free dissemination and pricing policy: Free dissemination and pricing policy are very sensitive issues with direct impacts on audience and resources. In general, basic information is free for all on the web. Standard products and services on demand are charged. A reflection on this topic will be conducted with NSIs during 2002. ◆ <u>Dissemination networks</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Internet, the Data Shop network, the Eur-OP's sales agents network and the licensees represent the four main Eurostat distribution networks. ▪ Internet: The aim will be to improve the quality of user services as regards both access time and editorial quality, ensure greater compatibility with other distribution networks and establish regular user surveys to assess satisfaction
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		<p>with Eurostat products and services. One challenge will be the development of database information online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Data Shop Network: Following the definition of the future role of the Data Shops and Data Shop Relays in 2002, the action plan will be implemented in 2003. In this connection, the Data Shop Relay concept will have to be discussed, approved and, where appropriate, put into effect. The quality charter must be fully implemented with the assistance of the contractor. The contract for the Brussels and Luxembourg Data Shops and their back-up facilities must be renewed under a new call for tenders . A training programme will be drawn up and new "practical" courses will be tested. As regards marketing, the objectives will be to improve user awareness (satisfaction surveys etc.) in general and in the case of each Data Shop. This will make possible to develop new demand-orientated products and services and identify the best ways of promoting the individual Data Shops.○ Eur-OP' sales agents network: evaluation of the effectiveness of the marketing and back-up provided will also be a major task, in close cooperation with OPOCE's sales service.○ Licences and co-publishing: Improvement of transparency for co-publishing and licensing: implementation of the new licence contracts in 2002. Assessment in 2003. <p>◆ Euro-Ind: The Euro-Indicator site has been opened to the public in Summer 2001. The Euro-Ind database replaces the Euro-Sics database. The global coverage of the database and the list of indicators have been defined with privileged users. Action during year 2002 will be concentrated on the measurement of the quality of the database and of the satisfaction of the users. A new version of the site will be implemented in 2002.</p> <p>◆ Structural indicators: The Structural Indicators site supplies to a broad range of users a set of key indicators covering the general economic background, employment, innovation and research, economic reform, social cohesion and the environment. These indicators are being used in the European Commissions' annual Synthesis Report which assesses progress made towards the strategic goal agreed at Lisbon Special European Council to transform the European Union into "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion".</p> <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p><i>Information technologies - Telematic networks ESS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Detailed implementation plans for STADIUM and GESMES & GESMES/CB.◆ Pilot projects extending STADIUM to internal workflow of data.◆ Dataflow inventory EDIFLOW accessible to national administrations via Internet.◆ Development of an internal action program for e-Conferencing.◆ Creation of XML versions of standardised messages. <p><i>Dissemination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Euro-Ind: The main objective will be to improve the quality of the site and of the database: increasing the timeliness of the main indicators by including flash estimations, increasing the length of time series by computing backcasts etc. The database will be extended to EFTA countries, accession countries and to the main non-European economic partners. <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p><i>Information technologies - Telematic networks ESS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Preparing the development of a shared knowledge base (SMICK project).◆ Identification of user requirements and feasibility studies relating to elements of a collaborative action facilitating environment (CAFÉ).
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2.3	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<p><u>New IT activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Technical development of Internet databases for national accounts, energy, demographic and industrial commodities statistics to provide general public access to these databases in electronic format, regularly updated. <p><u>Cross-cutting statistics activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development the Millennium Indicators Database on Internet for monitoring implementation of the Millennium Declaration. This database is to be the basis of the Secretary-General's annual report to the General Assembly on achievement of the Millennium Declaration goals and targets. Internet dissemination provides a single standard source for public, agency and national government access. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continue to develop the metadata of the UNSTATS United Nations Common Database on Internet. This source provides a single, authoritative source of concepts and definitions of international statistical series, for public, agency and national government access.
2.3	Activities of ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The ILO Bureau of Statistics' data dissemination Web-site (http://laborsta.ilo.org) will continue to be maintained and updated. This site gives users the access to a broad range of data contained in the ILO relevant statistical databases and makes it possible to view and download information free of charge. ◆ The updating of meta-information traditionally published in the Sources & Methods series will gradually be made available on the ILO LABORSTA Web-site in reduced form. The information disseminated in this way will be selective, and the printed publication will continue to be issued. ◆ The 2001-2002 Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) database and publication will be available on CD-ROM and the Internet via subscription. The updates for Year 2000 data have been put on the ILO's internet website. ◆ New CPI time-series, traditionally published in the ILO Yearbook as well as the data from the ILO database of October Inquiry results from 1983 onwards, have been added to the site - representing a major challenge to encompass a database with very complex and different structure from the others. ◆ Several new or updated editions of volumes of the Sources & Methods series have been added to the website in 2001 and this work will continue in 2002-2004.
2.3	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<p>(See also PE 2.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increased use of CD-ROM and the Internet for electronic dissemination of the IMF's statistical publications, including a complete searchable database web product for International Financial Statistics, the IMF's principal statistical publication. ◆ The IMF is taking a lead role for the SDMX project in the development of an open exchange system, based on XML, for the dissemination and exchange of statistical information on the Internet. Such a system would form an integral part of the Fund's portal website in support of the SDDS/GDDS.

2.3	Activities of the World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ In the Russian Federation, reorganization and modernization of data dissemination and interchange of statistical information will be financed with the WB loan under the Development of the State Statistical System (STASYS) Project, with the implementation of the following activities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ generation of data bases and technology development to provide internet access to them;▪ web sites design for Goskomstat of Russia;▪ assessment of users demand in statistical data.◆ The Global Development Network (GDN) Initiative is to support and link research and policy institutes involved in the field of development. Its goal is to help research and policy institutions by fostering vibrant global, regional and electronic networking activities designed to ensure the sharing among the development community of the latest research, data, best practices and new ideas. http://www.gdnet.org/◆ The Gateway initiative is envisioned as a portal website on development issues, from which users will be able to access information, resources, and tools, and into which they will be able to contribute their own knowledge and experience. http://www.worldbank.org/gateway/
2.3	Activities of CIS-STAT	Work will continue on broadening the electronic dissemination of statistical information, including on CD-ROMs, and access to CIS-STAT databases, as well as on monthly updating of the CIS-STAT home page (http://www.Cisstat.com) and the circulation of CIS-STAT press releases to government bodies of CIS countries, international organizations and major news agencies.

PE 2. 4

2.4	Title	Statistical classifications
2.4	Goal	The world-wide implementation of single statistical classification standards in each area of statistics.
2.4	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Significant discrepancies still exist in the classifications used by NSOs within the ECE region, particularly between ISIC/NACE and NAICS. ◆ Differences exist between official statistical classifications and those used by private corporations. ◆ Limited ILO resources to support national adaptations to ISCO-88. ◆ A socio-economic classification has yet to be created, though progress is being made funded by Eurostat with the ILO participation. ◆ The fast-changing nature of some sectors of the economy compared with the infrequency of the revision of classifications.
2.4	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To establish an inventory of implementation plans in different countries and current deviations from international classifications. ◆ To bring out greater convergence between NAICS (the North American Industrial Classification System) and NACE (Nomenclature Statistique des Activités Economique dans la Communauté Européenne). ◆ To monitor the program on CPC/CPA revisions. ◆ UNSD revision of ISIC in 2007.
2.4	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of interim classifications for IT sector of the economy pending full-scale revision of NACE.
2.4	Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The effort made by Statistics Canada, the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática of Mexico, the United States Bureau of the Census and Eurostat on the convergence of industrial classifications NAICS/NACE. ◆ The revision of ISIC.
2.4	Decisions taken by the Conference	None
2.4	Rapporteur	Eurostat
2.4	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT: Committee: SPC NACE/CPA – Nomenclatures, 25 - 27 September 2002 (+ twice a year in February and September) ◆ EUROSTAT: Committee: Customs Code Committee - Nomenclature, 07 - 08 November 2002 (+ three times a year in February, May and November) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Nomenclatures, once a year in April ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Directors of Social Statistics, once a year in April
2.4	Activities of CES	None
2.4	Activities of OECD	The OECD is actively participating in the meetings of the Technical Sub-Group which has been set up to update ISIC and the CPC.
2.4	Activities of Eurostat	<p>Overall goal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The work on classifications has a two-fold aim: to implement the revised NACE nomenclatures and E-SEC in the relevant surveys from 2002 onwards, and to further international co-operation to achieve harmonisation in this area. <p>Ongoing methodological work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Classifications NACE, CPA & c.</u> The focus of this theme during the last years has been the development of NACE 2002 and CPA 2002. In 2002 Eurostat will work together with the Member States on the implementation programme. The slow pace for revision of the family of linked activity classifications (next

		<p>revision is in 2007) has made it imperative to develop interim classifications for fast changing sectors. The work already begun on information and communication technologies will be broadened to include other sectors as the need arises. The guiding principle will be to have results fast in order to respond to client's emerging needs. In this context early cooperation and involvement of NSOs and users is essential.</p> <p>The PRODCOM list will be managed internally.</p> <p>Development of a client/server approach will be continued with the aim of increasing the services supplied to other Eurostat units as well as maximising short-term achievements.</p> <p>Eurostat will continue the work in 2002 together with the US Census Bureau, Statistics Canada and Statistics Mexico in order to achieve greater convergence between NAICS (the North American Industrial Classification System) and NACE. Eurostat will start working on the next major revision of the classifications in 2007. This will involve all stakeholders in Europe as well as working in close co-operation with UN.</p> <p>◆ <u>Classifications for trade in goods statistics</u> The year 2002 will see the pursuit of the following objectives proposed in preceding years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ optimising the availability of the Combined Nomenclature and related products by improving the distribution procedure and the management computerisation and development of the EDI; ▪ adapting the Combined Nomenclature to the Harmonised System which will apply from 1 January 2002; ▪ increasing contacts with candidate countries in order to anticipate their product nomenclature requirements; ▪ continuing the studies launched with a view to improving the support machinery for CN goods classification. <p><u>Other Activities of the European Commission</u></p> <p>◆ <u>Classifications for trade in goods statistics</u> Work on the Combined Nomenclature is to be carried out on the basis of close approximation to the customs nomenclature administered by DG TAXUD.</p> <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p>◆ In the Edicom framework, priority should be given to the modelling of a common tool designed to facilitate automatic classification in the CN.</p> <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p>◆ Integration of new linguistic versions of the CN in various databases should be completed: this is closely linked to the timetable established for enlargement of the EU with new members.</p>
2.4	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To publish and translate ISIC Rev.3.1 in all UN languages (pending decision of the 2002 session of the Statistical Commission). ◆ To publish and translate the Central Product Classification (CPC), Version 1.1 in all UN languages (pending decision of the 2002 session of the Statistical Commission). ◆ To continue the publication of a Classifications Newsletter. ◆ To continue maintaining the UN Classifications Website and Registry. ◆ To revise ISIC and CPC for 2007 (first drafts to be prepared in 2004). ◆ To publish training materials for the implementation and use of ISIC and CPC. ◆ To translate the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services in all UN languages. ◆ To update produced and non-produced assets in a separate asset classification. ◆ To reconcile together with ECE, Eurostat and FAO the commodity nomenclatures for the collection of industrial production statistics.

2.4	Activities of ILO	A study on whether and in which direction ISCO-88 should be revised will be prepared for discussion at the 17 th ICLS in 2003. Based on the 1997 review of national experiences with the use of classifications of status in employment work, National Statistical Offices will be invited to carry out small-scale in-depth studies according to a design provided by ILO. The ILO databases and the corresponding questionnaires are being redesigned to accommodate national statistics provided according to the revised classifications of industry, occupation, status in employment and education.
2.4	Activities of CIS-STAT	Elaboration of model classification harmonised with their international counterparts and of recommendations for their use. Holding of consultations in the course of the universal introduction in the Commonwealth countries of classifications of types of activity on the basis of the third revised version of ISCED and the first revised version of NACE, of a statistical classifier for products on the basis of CPA and the PRODCOM list of the International Classification of Individual Expenditure by Purpose. Elaboration of conversion keys between the groups of the new harmonised classifications and those of their old counterparts. Maintenance of the base of problems arising in the introduction of the new classifications and notification of changes in that base to the Commonwealth's national statistical services. The base contains CIS-STAT recommendations for the resolution of the problems; those recommendations are examined at the annual meetings of the working party on statistical tools and standards and that body takes the final decision for applications by all the national statistical services in the Commonwealth. Those decisions provide the basis for the elaboration of CIS-STAT model classifications.

PE 2.5

2.5	Title	Statistical research and development
2.5	Goal	A continuing programme of productive and relevant research and development, whose results are disseminated widely
2.5	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establishing research and development priorities. ◆ Avoiding duplication. ◆ Disseminating results widely. ◆ To develop guidelines for statistical agencies on policies and practices for managing data quality in statistical programs, including the definition, control and description of data quality, and its implication for data release.
2.5	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To promote an active program of research, technology development and transfer within the region on statistical and methodological issues that cut across other PEs in the Work programme (e.g. seasonal adjustment; data quality measurement: non-sampling error; sampling and estimating; questionnaire design; confidentiality protection; longitudinal surveys). ◆ To ensure that the results of this work are accessible to statistical offices throughout the region. ◆ To publish manuals of best practice for the most common adjustment and estimation procedures in Eurostat.
2.5	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The handbook on seasonal adjustment (Eurostat): To have finalised the handbook on best practices for seasonal adjustments. The handbook is being developed in order to implement the Eurostat seasonal adjustment policy, and will cover both conceptual and methodological aspects. A chapter will be dedicated to informing the user about the quality of seasonal adjustments. The objective is to have a tool for both Eurostat production Units and the National Statistical Institutes. ◆ Setting up of a competence network on seasonal adjustment among NSI's, Universities, and Central Banks: To have improved the co-operation framework for seasonal adjustment activities in the ESS and to implement the co-operative arrangement with the US. The network would bring together the different actors, such as Eurostat, NSI's, Central Banks, and the US Bureau of the Census. It would ease the convergence of Member States policies, and the development (and support) of methods and tools.
2.5	Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The increased and widespread implementation of ICT calls for new data and meta-data modelling. ◆ Research in the area of data modelling is lacking and should be given high priority.
2.5	Decisions taken by the Conference	None
2.5	Rapporteur	Eurostat
2.5	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: European Plan for Research in Official Statistics (EPROS), 23 - 25 October 2002 (+ twice a year in March and October) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Seasonal Adjustment, once a year in April ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Assessment of quality of statistics, once a year in May ◆ UNSD: Expert Group on the preparation of a technical report on operating characteristics of surveys in developing countries, October 2002.
2.5	Activities of CES	None

2.5	Activities of OECD	<p><u>New activity to be undertaken in the next two years:</u></p> <p><u>Quality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To develop a corporate quality evaluation framework for OECD statistics taking advantage of similar work done in other organisations. ◆ To implement the quality evaluation framework within the OECD. ◆ To identify and initiate projects for improving the quality of OECD statistics as identified by the evaluation processes. <p><u>Priority objectives of this work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ On-going enhancement of the quality of OECD statistics; ◆ Increased transparency of the quality processes used across the OECD Secretariat and by the OECD Committees; ◆ Reinforced role of the OECD in the context of the "information society"; ◆ Improved management of the OECD statistical system; ◆ Improved satisfaction of the OECD staff involved in statistical activities.
2.5	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Encourage and facilitate research activities within the ESS through a comprehensive R&D programme, within the European Framework R&D Programmes. Promote national and international co-operation and Knowledge and Technology Transfer. The objective is to develop methods and tools as well as new methodologies for the producer and user of official statistics. ◆ During the five years 2003-2007, efforts will be concentrated on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the development of new tools and methods for official statistics; ▪ the better conceptualisation and development of statistics to measure new emerging socio-economic phenomena; ▪ the transfer of technology and know-how within the European Statistical System; ▪ the improvement of the quality of the statistical production process and the statistical output. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>R&D in Statistics</u> In R&D in Statistics, the main objective will continue to focus on new tools, methods and techniques for the benefit of the ESS. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure the proper management of the on-going R&D projects (around 40 projects, from 6 previous calls). ▪ To encourage potential consortia to submit proposals under the 5th Framework Research Programme, in view of preparing future activities under the 6th Framework Research Programme. ▪ To continue the preparation of the 6th Framework Research Programme, in co-operation with the other Commission's services, and the scientific and official statistical communities. In this context Eurostat, in co-operation with the relevant services of the other Directorate Generals, will seek to improve the co-ordination of the statistical dimension of the new research programme, both as regards R&D in Statistics and statistics in support of EU policies, in particular in the fields recommended at the Lisbon summit: R&D indicators, Science and Technology statistics, and statistics for the new information economy. ◆ <u>Quality</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide assistance for the implementation of internal quality reports. ▪ To continue assisting sectoral working groups in the implementation of new quality reports or the extension of existing ones. ▪ To co-ordinate the activities in the ESS for assessing the quality of statistical output. ◆ <u>Estimation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To continue to develop the methodologies for the design of European sample surveys ▪ To provide methodological guidance for the assessment of the methods used for

		<p>the production of short term indicators and structural indicators at Eurostat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To co-ordinate seasonal adjustment activities in Eurostat (and in the ESS) and to finalise a handbook on seasonal adjustment. <p><u>Other Activities of the European Commission:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ <i>Transfer of Technology</i> Eurostat and the JRC in Ispra co-operate in a joint venture, the ESL (European Statistical Laboratory), which is dedicated to technology transfer between research projects financed under the various framework programmes and the European Statistical System. The JRC also participates in the AMRADS project, which is an accompanying measure funded the 5th Framework Research Programme.◆ <i>Seasonal Adjustment</i> The JRC will continue to provide targeted methodological studies and training and to contribute to quality reports for seasonal adjustment. Furthermore, the implementation and dissemination of the Demetra software is supported by JRC.◆ <i>Short-term analysis</i> The JRC will continue to contribute with studies and appropriate plug-in programs on business cycle analysis and short-term indicators for the Euro zone in the framework of the Euroindicators Web site. <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Finalisation of the new 5-year programme for participation in the 6th Framework Programme◆ Continue implementation of co-operation arrangements with USA and Canada◆ Give special attention to the domains of Confidentiality, Seasonal Adjustment, Estimation and Quality evaluation <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ <u>R&D in Statistics</u> (<i>It is not possible to define future research activities as long as the place of statistics in the 6th Framework Research Programme has not been defined</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To follow the implementation and running of the six thematic working groups set up under the AMRADS project, on Disclosure control, Quality in statistics, Business registers, Automated data capture, Time series and Metadata.◆ <u>Quality</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To compile a list of current best methods and to provide guidance for the estimation of variance.▪ To organise one meeting of the Working Group on the Assessment of Quality in Statistics.▪ To establish co-operation with the US in the field of quality measurement.◆ <u>Estimation</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To publish manuals of best practices for the most common adjustment and estimation procedures in Eurostat.◆ <u>Seasonal Adjustment</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To develop and implement seasonal adjustment practices throughout the ESS.▪ To set up a competence network in the domain of seasonal adjustment methods within the NSI's, Universities, and the Central Banks.▪ To organise one meeting of the Informal Working Group for Seasonal Adjustment.
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2.5	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ UNSD has constituted a work unit on statistical development and analysis, which studies measurement issues. A technical report will be published in 2002 containing an analysis of operating characteristics of surveys in developing countries, including costs, design effects and response rates. In the preparation of this document an expert group will be called in October 2002.◆ In order to support the collection of information in the area of disability statistics, another technical report will analyse census and survey design in support of disability statistics.◆ A third area of research in which a technical paper is planned for 2002 is statistical indexes.
2.5	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<p>The Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), developed to provide a more structured approach and a common language for data quality assessments, was used in a number of countries during 2001. It was adopted by the IMF for conducting assessments of countries' statistical systems in the context of the IMF's standards and codes initiative, which aims at promoting financial stability (see http://www.imf.org/external/standards/index.htm). The DQAF methodology is expected to be used by three main categories of users—national producers of official statistics, the IMF and other international organizations, and other data users including those in the private sector. The DQAF could also provide support for technical assistance work. The Data Quality Reference Site (http://dsbb.imf.org) provides information on ongoing work.</p>

PE 2. 6

2.6	Title	Geographical and regional data
2.6	Goal	That geographical information standards are universally adopted and that geographically based information is disseminated as widely and efficiently as possible.
2.6	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development and integration of statistics for sub-national and supra-national regions. ◆ The efficiency, quality and comparability of the geographic dimension of official statistics. ◆ The measurement and reinforcement of economic and social cohesion of the European Union using high-quality statistical information on the European regions. ◆ Availability of necessary regional data for the definition, follow-up and evaluation of regional policies (both national and European Union) and the evaluation of the socio-economic situation and evolution of the regions of Europe. ◆ To design and develop concepts and standards, new tools and technology (GIS), dissemination of geographical products and spatial analysis.
2.6	Strategic medium-term objectives	<p>For ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementing the outcomes of Work Sessions on Methodological Issues Involving the Integration of Statistics and Geography. ◆ Preparation of guidelines on cartography for statistical purposes; presentation of the survey on the use of GIS in NSOs. <p>For Eurostat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Publication of statistical yearbook "REGIONS". ◆ Complete classification of regions for the new member states. ◆ Publication of methodology for regional household accounts. ◆ Publication of first results of the screening exercise.
2.6	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Creation of the EU <i>Portrait of the Regions</i> website. ◆ Publication of a survey of methodologies used in Member countries to define functional regions in the sense of self-contained labour markets (OECD). ◆ Addition of sub-national data to World Bank databases.
2.6	Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There needs to be closer co-operation among National Statistical Offices, national mapping agencies and national administrative systems if the availability and comparability of spatial information is to be improved.
2.6	Decisions taken by the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below).
2.6	Rapporteur	Eurostat

2.6	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Methodological Issues involving the integration on Statistics and Geography (April 2003). Items on the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Infrastructure requirements for geo-statistics, i.e. needs of statistical users; data models; data quality; spatial data infrastructure; activating awareness of statisticians as a user community; geo-located confidentiality problems.</i> ◆ <i>Cooperation between national statistical institutes and geo-data providers, i.e. practical examples from different countries of pricing problems, copyright, etc.; copyright issues; updating issues connected to the data; alternative sources of data (remote sensing).</i> ◆ <i>Solutions for supporting user needs, i.e. spatial analysis; use cases; examples from NSIs or other institutes.</i> ◆ <i>Geocoding and georeferencing of datasets used in statistics in different countries, i.e. what are the problems and how to improve methodologies.</i> ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Geographical Information Systems for Statistics, 23 - 24 October 2002 ◆ (+ once a year in October) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Regional Statistics, 5-6 December 2002 (+ twice a year in May/June and November/December) ◆ OECD: Working Party on Territorial Indicators (February 2003)
2.6	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Methodological Issues Involving the Integration of Statistics and Geography April 2003, to consider: (i) <i>Infrastructure requirements for geo-statistics, i.e. needs of statistical users; data models; data quality; spatial data infrastructure; activating awareness of statisticians as a user community; geo-located confidentiality problems;</i> (ii) <i>Cooperation between national statistical institutes and geo-data providers, i.e. practical examples from different countries of pricing problems, copyright, etc.; copyright issues; updating issues connected to the data; alternative sources of data (remote sensing);</i> (iii) <i>Solutions for supporting user needs, i.e. spatial analysis; use cases; examples from NSI's or other institutes;</i> (iv) <i>Geo-coding and geo-referencing of datasets used in statistics in different countries, i.e. what are the problems and how to improve methodologies.</i> ◆ One-day training session on GIS implementation for interested countries back -to back to the Work Session. <p>Secretariat resources: Substantial</p>
2.6	Activities of OECD	<p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Enlarge the OECD territorial grid with new Member countries. ◆ Finalise a consistent classification system based on settlement patterns, distribution of employment across major industrial sectors and on regional accessibility in order to ensure the comparability of the analysis of sub-national socio-economic structures and trends across OECD member countries. ◆ Publish a survey of methodologies used in Member countries to delineate functional regions in the sense of self-contained labour markets. <p><u>New activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop a set of key indicators for each sub-national territorial unit within OECD Member countries. ◆ Prepare analytical reports on socio-economic structures and trends in sub-national territories across OECD Member countries. ◆ Enhance the analytical detail for assessing the implications and impacts of international, national, regional public policies. ◆ Contribute to the development of territorial policy recommendations to promote sustainable territorial development.
2.6	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Regional statistics</u>

		<p>Integrating the accession countries into the Community system will have to be fully completed in 2002. There should be by the end of 2002 a mutually agreed division of their territory into regions, complying with the provisions of the draft Council Regulation on NUTS (which should be adopted in 2002), so that these breakdowns can become parts of the NUTS nomenclature at the time of each country's accession. In addition, work on the quality of the statistical indicators used for the Community's regional policy (GDP, unemployment rates, population etc.) will inevitably give rise to a number of recommendations that will have to be implemented at both Community and Member State levels. In view of the priority given to sustainable development, particular attention will be paid to the suitability of including in the REGIO database regional statistics on the environment and to statistics on conurbations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ <u>Geographical Information</u> A large number of departments within the Commission make use of geographical information systems for the drafting, implementation and evaluation of the policies for which they are responsible. This trend will become increasingly evident in the next few years as technology advances and data become more extensively available. The initiatives on a European spatial data infrastructure will lead to new challenges in this area. Eurostat, as manager of the Commission's reference database, must meet these challenges. During the period 2003-2007 work will progress in the area of further integrate the use of Geographical Information systems for policy management. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ <u>Regional statistics</u> Regular updating of the various domains of the REGIO database in NewCronos; completion of planned extensions to education and structural business statistics within the database; dissemination of results in the form of a yearbook which includes a CD-ROM; further integration of the candidate countries into the Community system of regional statistics. Quality assessment of regional accounts and regional employment/unemployment data; improved coverage of the "industry", "services" and "environment" regional statistics; continued construction of an information system on urban agglomerations (Urban Audit).◆ <u>Geographical information</u> Regular updating of the Commission's geographical reference base (GISCO). Production of maps to illustrate Eurostat publications. Spatial analyses in conjunction with other Eurostat or Commission departments. Financing studies (in conjunction with the requesting Member States) designed to automate the transmission to Eurostat of changes to the nomenclature of local territorial units. <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ <u>Regional statistics</u> Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS). <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ <u>Geographical information</u> Creation of Intranet/Internet applications combining statistical and geographical data stored in related databases.◆ <u>Regional statistics</u> Creation of a web-site "Portrait of the Regions" with analytical text, graphs and tables; integration of new regional cohesion variables into the database, following the CEIES report. Setting up a methodological database on regional accounts and indicators, including information from Member States and candidate countries.
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2.6	Activities of UN Statistics Division	With respect to Geographic Information System (GIS), UNSD is adopting a twofold approach: internal use within the Division and UN bodies and promotion and technical assistance to developing countries. For the next two years the development of a Statistical Map Server is planned: a GIS-based application, presenting statistical data and indicators through maps in a hierarchical design, allowing the user to visualise maps by region and by country. UNSD will continue to participate in the UN Geographic Information Working Group activities, including the development of the UN geographic database. UNSD will also put emphasis on the promotion of the use of GIS technologies by developing countries, particularly with Census and Surveys, through the UN regional conferences and forums, publications (i.e. the Handbook on GIS and digital mapping for population and housing censuses) and training courses.
2.6	Activities of the World Bank	In the next two years, the World Bank will be increasingly involved with maintaining, documenting, and incorporating sub-national data into its databases. This includes internal as well as external systems. We will be augmenting the World Development Indicators CD-ROM product to support mapping and charting of sub-national data.
2.6	Activities of FAO	<p><u>Spatial Information Management and Decision Support Tools</u> Expected achievements of the FAO's work in this area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further development of spatial data standards and norms, including development of standard layers of interest. ◆ Effective "spatial networking" to facilitate wide accessibility of spatial data and information, including vector data (maps), raster data (remote sensing images), meta-databases and geo-referenced non-spatial information, and maintenance of related website (GEONETWORK). ◆ Development of a meta-database and a corporate gateway on spatial products. ◆ Integration of various thematic maps and filling of spatial data gaps in particular land use maps and databases.

PE 2. 7

2.7	Title	Human resource development
2.7	Goal	That personnel involved in statistical work should be appropriately trained and that adequate systems exist for the on-going training and development of staff.
2.7	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Experience of training in general shall be exchanged, its organisation and practises be reviewed, the complementarity between national and international training be investigated. ◆ The needs of countries with small internal resources for training should especially be considered. ◆ The EU considers a new permanent structure for the organisation of European statistical training necessary. ◆ Training is a fundamental basis of building a harmonised, high quality statistical system. The training aspect should in general be seen to be an important element of most meetings, involving exchange of information on tools, methods and best practises. ◆ Joint international training courses should be promoted, taking into account specific needs for training due to changing methods, tools, staff requirements, and the needs for international harmonisation. ◆ As the main systematic contribution for training in the ECE area is provided by the training programme of Eurostat (TES), it is important to ensure a good functioning of the programme.
2.7	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To ensure a well prepared training programme within the framework of TES, by analysing user requirements and by involving the countries in its preparation and execution. ◆ To seek economy of scale in organisation of training among similar countries. ◆ To ensure wide participation in this training programme by distributing information on the programme. ◆ To ensure improved co-ordination of training offered by international actors and NSIs by exchange of information, Eurostat being the centre for co-ordination. Joint information should be made available via the Eurostat Circa Interest group; to evaluate the training component in different working groups offered by Eurostat, OECD or ECE.
2.7	Expected outcomes in the next two years	None
2.7	Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Task Force Human Resources (Eurostat and National Statistical Institutes of EU Member States) dealing with aspects of common concern and interest in the field of human resource management, among which promoting exchanges of staff not only with Eurostat but amongst the member institutes (in connection with the TES Task Force).
2.7	Decisions taken by the Conference	None
2.7	Rapporteur	Eurostat
2.7	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Training of European Statisticians (TES) (once a year in April)
2.7	Activities of CES	None

2.7	Activities of OECD	<p><u>New activity to be undertaken in the next two years:</u> To develop and maintain a programme of training events in statistical subject areas, to include: a programme of regular courses provided by OECD staff; a dynamic timetable of events such as seminars/workshops provided by staff and visiting speakers; liaison with other agencies providing training; e-learning materials; a statistical "knowledge base". The events are aimed at both compilers/managers of data and users, and may be open to both OECD staff and external participants.</p>
2.7	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall Goal</u> The aim of statistical training for European statisticians is to draw up a general programme based on foreseeable training requirements taking into account the development and needs of the European Statistical System and the needs of transition economies in statistics. The main foreseeable user groups are management, statistical methodologists and the users of statistics. Supply of training courses will be based on regular courses and tailor-made client defined special courses.</p> <p><u>Ongoing work</u> The general management of the statistical training programme and related contracts will continue as well as the analysis of the training requirements. The objective is to create a new and lasting organisational structure for the supply of European statistical training as well as for the co-ordination of statistical training within Europe. A working group with EEA countries and CECs will be organised once a year. Eurostat will contribute with its functional budget to the training demands of the Member States. Statistical training is part of the technical assistance programme of Phare, managed by the Enlargement DG. The aim is to support the institution building and enlargement programmes. Countries assisted by Phare funds will take part in both regularly organised courses and special courses. Tacis, CARDS and Meda programmes will also include some statistical training activities.</p> <p><u>Priority objective of the work to be undertaken in the next two years</u> Improving international co-operation in the formulation of training programmes and their dissemination via an Internet access address common to the ESS and the candidate countries. Continuing implementation of training programmes for European statisticians by the improvement of operational structures and service quality.</p> <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u> To create a new and lasting organisational structure for the supply of European statistical training as well as for the co-ordination of statistical training within Europe.</p>
2.7	Activities of ILO	<p>An ILO Training Compendium on Labour Statistics was tested in 2000 and is now being produced as a multi-part modular training tool in a joint project by the Bureau of Statistics and ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy. It will be available for distribution in 2002. This tool will be used for international training courses in labour statistics undertaken by the Bureau at the Training Centre in Turin and workshops organised, upon request, on behalf of other international or regional agencies. It may also be useful for other training agencies and National Statistical Offices for in-house training.</p>
2.7	Activities of the World Bank:	<p>The World Bank's Global Development Learning Network is to increase access to high quality, up dated, and cost effective training for public and private decision-makers, and improve in turn, their capacity to design, plan and manage, economic, and social development policies. By reaching across geographic borders, time zones, and language barriers, our goal is to Provide the means to deliver cutting-edge knowledge to the development community on current issues, in real time, through virtual face-to-face events and activities.</p>

2.8	Title	Sustainable development indicators
2.8	Goal	To identify best measures for sustainable development; develop indicators or framework to evaluate sustainable development
2.8	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Although countries call for good indicators to be developed there is much ambivalence as to how this is to be achieved. ◆ Currently there is no agreed set of international indicators for sustainable development. ◆ Indicators that are currently being used tend to be more relevant to developing countries rather than European countries. ◆ The OECD has provided a motivating force behind ensuring that indicators do not focus exclusively upon economic and environmental issues. Some moves have been made towards putting together agri-environmental indicators, and towards conceptual thinking on production and consumption. ◆ Statistics on sustainable development need to be produced in such a way as to ensure that they can be integrated across the social, economic and environmental spheres of sustainable development.
2.8	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To produce a set of indicators for sustainable development that are relevant to both developed and developing countries. ◆ To devise a theoretical framework to allow the integration of statistics which is both practical and relevant to policy formulation, execution and monitoring. ◆ Compile a set of indicators suitable for the Commission on Sustainable Development
2.8	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Indicator-based assessment of environmental health status and progress on actions (for 4th ministerial conference on health and environment, Budapest 2004). ◆ Pilot implementation of the EH indicator system in selected countries (WHO Euro).
2.8	Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Necessity for active cooperation of NSOs in developing measures for sustainable development. ◆ Evaluate the follow-up of the Johannesburg Summit on sustainable development.
2.8	Decisions taken by the Conference	None
2.8	Rapporteur	OECD
2.8	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Joint UNECE/ WHO Euro meeting on methodological issues in environment and health assessments (tentatively scheduled for June, 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT: Topics, such as pressure indicators, transport/environment, agriculture/environment are dealt with at meetings, which do not take place regularly. ◆ OECD: periodic technical meetings on MDG indicators (none yet planned for June 2002 to June 2004 period)
2.8	Activities of CES	None
2.8	Activities of OECD	None

2.8	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>NB:</u> For Eurostat see also the information described under 5.1</p> <p><u>Overall Goal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The EU Strategy on Sustainable Development was adopted by the European Council in June 2001 and sets objectives for economic, social and environmental sustainability. The integration of sustainability and environmental considerations into all relevant statistical domains has gained importance. In line with the Amsterdam Treaty, successive European Councils have made policy commitments on integrating environmental concerns into other policies, including follow-up through better indicators. These new programmes will influence the work on sustainability and environment statistics and indicators, but also social statistics and statistics such as transport, energy, health and agriculture, as well as environment accounts. A complementary goal is also to enhance data collection and analysis on global sustainable development. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Compilation and improvement of indicators on integrating environmental concerns relating to agriculture, energy, transport and industry. Work in accordance with the Communication on statistical needs for agri-environment indicators and the Communication on integrating environment and sustainable development into energy and transport policy. ◆ Compilation of a set of indicators on sustainable development supporting the Commission for Sustainable Development. ◆ Support for PHARE countries and for non-EU Mediterranean countries in environment statistics. <p><u>Work dependent on financing from other Commission DGs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improvement of basic statistics needed for environmental and sustainability indicators, including “headline” indicators (Environment DG). ◆ Improvement of environmental indicators for transport, including estimation of energy consumption, pollutant emissions, noise and waste from transport (Transport and Energy DG). <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To produce easily understandable environmental and sustainability indicators in co-operation with other Commission services and the European Environment Agency. ◆ To work in a Task Force with Member States work on methodological issues related to indicators on sustainable development. Work will include to analyse and develop suitable frameworks for statistical work on indicators of sustainable development. It will also cover an active role in work on identifying indicators for sustainable development, so that statistical issues will be considered and so that the necessary statistics are compiled, using experiences from Member States in order to achieve common approaches at EU level. ◆ To continue work to add an environmental domain to national accounts, through regular production of a set of environmental accounts and to adapt them to the priority sustainability issues <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A programme for an EU approach to indicators of sustainable development is to be developed to monitor progress in the EU’s sustainability strategy (see the Task force above).
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2.8	Activities of WHO Regional Office for Europe	<p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u> A set of indicators has been proposed to address the following environmental issues/risks of public health impact: air (ambient and indoor) quality, housing and settlements, traffic, noise, radiation, waste and contaminated lands, water and sanitation, food safety, chemical emergencies, workplace. The process includes validation, testing feasibility for data collection and linkage analyses to produce evidence-based assessments of environmental health status, and presentation methods for supplying information to decision-making. The work will be carried out in collaboration with external experts as well as in working group meetings of invited national professionals. Pilot implementation of the EH indicator system in selected countries of the WHO European region. Parallel to these, mechanisms for regular reporting will be created in collaboration with the relevant international agencies and forums to avoid duplication of efforts and minimize the burden of reporting by the countries.</p> <p><u>Priority objectives over the next two years:</u> An indicator-based assessment of the environmental health status and progress in actions in WHO European region as a background for the 4th Ministerial conference on health and environment in Budapest, 2004. A methodology for integrated environment and health assessments and indicator-based reporting will be widely disseminated. A system framework and tools for data collection, analysis and interchange will be developed to set an international database of EH indicators.</p> <p><u>Meetings planned to be organised in the next two years:</u> A joint UNECE/ WHO Euro meeting on methodological issues in environment and health assessments (tentatively scheduled for June, 2003). It will gather statisticians and professionals dealing with evaluation of national action programmes on public health and/or environment. The meeting will plan a review to identify critical data gaps and agree on areas of collaboration to streamline the information flow and methodology exchange. It will also promote working relationships with the stakeholders involved in the process.</p>
2.8	Activities of the World Bank:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Little Green Data Book presents a number of environmental indicators based on the World Development Indicators and its accompanying CD-ROM. Under the headings of agriculture, forests, biodiversity, energy, emissions and pollution, water and sanitation, and 'greener' national accounts, the Little Green Data Book presents key indicators of the environment and its relationship to people for more than 200 countries. ◆ The Bank is and will be contributing to the development of core environmental indicators for monitoring progress toward the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the World Bank, United Nations, and the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. The development and expansion of an environmental database is on-going. Its coverage includes, among others, the ECE countries and it is annually updated from various sources inside and outside the World Bank. Being available to all World Bank staff, it is mainly utilized for the expanded Environmental section of the World Development Indicators. Also, a set of selected environmental indicators is being published annually by the Environment Department and the Development Data Group of the World Bank. The publication, organized by country, covers more than 200 countries and each country page presents more than 50 indicators. ◆ The World Bank works closely with the UN Statistics Division in this area and continues to support initiatives in the field of environmental accounting primarily through the London Group. The Bank is contributing to the preparation of the revised SEEA dealing with the issues of valuation, as well as potential operational policy relevance and use of the proposed manual in informing a wider range of management decisions. Work in this area is bolstered by the development of accompanying indicators of environmental change including estimation of Adjusted Net Savings (genuine savings) for more than 120 countries.