

Methods . . . Approaches . . . Developments

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New ways of data collection

Pilot sample survey on services

In agreement with the Federal Ministry of Economics, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Laender North Rhine-Westphalia, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Bavaria and Berlin have conducted a pilot sample survey at service enterprises (survey for special purposes according to Article 7, para. 2, Federal Statistics Law). The survey was confined to service enterprises mainly providing modern business services.

It was the primary purpose of this survey to find out how to collect better statistical data which are urgently needed for this specific field of the service sector. More specifically, the survey was supposed to provide information on the survey units, the fields to be covered, as well as on the accessibility of survey units in these fields (sampling basis, willingness to respond), and to test the respective survey instruments and the survey procedure.

Moreover, the pilot survey was meant to reduce, if not close, already some of the gaps in the information available on modern business services. For the target universe to be studied, this could, however, be achieved only to the extent that the prescribed collateral clauses for special-purpose surveys permitted (voluntary response, upper limit of survey scope).

Although the survey had not been designed for the collection of statistical results in the first place, the data obtained nevertheless provide valuable information on the economic significance of the service fields covered by the survey. In 1987, these economic branches, comprising five percent of all persons employed subject to social insurance contributions, recorded sales of approx. DM 86 billion and paid out some DM 21 billion of gross wages and salaries. About one quarter of the more than half a million employees were working part-time. A particularly large number of part-timers was recorded in the advertising industry where about 37 percent of the employees were working on a part-time basis.

The methodological concept of the pilot sample survey on services as well as its results will presumably be presented in greater detail in "Wirtschaft und Statistik".

Survey on Land Use 1989: First survey on planned use

The increasing importance attached to soil and landscape protection as well as nature preservation has resulted in a growing demand for nationally comparable data on land use. For improving the data material available, the quadrennial survey on land use will be supplemented by a new survey part in 1989. In addition to the survey on *actual* land use, which is based on an evaluation of land registers, data will be collected on the *planned* use as shown in municipal development plans.

For the first time nationally comparable data as of 31 December 1988 will thus be available on the present and prospective conditions of land use. The two survey parts will together provide basic data for various analyses and projections in the field of regional and urban planning as well as environmental protection policies.

Preliminary studies revealed that the desired information, in fact, is contained in the development plans which have to be drawn up by the municipalities as part of the planning competencies conferred upon them. The municipal development plans thus will provide the basis for the survey on planned land use. For the first time data for official statistics will be derived from cartographical material.

During the preparation of the survey, a number of special problems had to be solved which mainly arose from differing local conditions.

- Only few municipalities can for instance evaluate the map contents by means of EDP equipment; the majority of them have to depend on manual procedures, such as plane geometry and counting of grids.
- There are communities whose local development plans do not cover the whole municipal area. Alternative procedures must be applied in these cases so as to meet the survey objectives as closely as possible.
- Quite a considerable margin is left for the presentation of data in development plans so that, in order to ensure the comparability of the data, provisions for narrowing this margin had to be made when drawing up the survey catalogue.

Nationally comparable data are needed despite the differing basic conditions prevailing in the individual municipalities and the federal Laender. To this end, the Federal Research Institute for Regional Geography and Regional Planning in cooperation with the statistical offices of the Federation and the Laender has prepared a detailed "Manual for covering areas according to the type of use presented in a development plan", which is to provide the municipalities with instructions for the survey.

The preparatory work was focussed, inter alia, on drawing up a national survey classification. It proceeded from the data as they were presented in an average development plan pursuant to the legal provisions on

municipal development planning. On the other hand, the classification had to be adapted to the greatest possible extent to the types of uses recorded by the land registers, on which the survey of actual land use is based. Due to methodological and conceptual differences in the two survey parts, however, the desired confrontation of data on planned use with data on real use, i.e. the so-called balance of actual and planned use, can only be achieved by approximation. This comparison might provide information on the replacement of, and competition among, differing types of uses.

The new survey is a first step towards gathering information on the future land use for the whole of a given area. For the first time national statistical data will be available on the future land use planning of the competent municipal bodies at a given date and in a detailed material and regional breakdown. This will considerably enlarge the basis of information available for projections on the need for settlement areas, land reserves, protected areas, etc.

The proposed Statistical Information System on Land Use (STABIS) will help to facilitate the organization and improve the contents of future surveys on planned land use. By linking local STABIS data on actual land use with local information on planned land use it could thus become possible to find out which types of present use will in future be replaced by which other types of use.

The catchword

Environmental protection goods industry

Prior to the amendment of the Law on Environmental Statistics, the Federal Statistical Office and other competent bodies, such as the working party on "Further development of environmental statistics", have been discussing the question of how to improve the coverage of environmental activities of enterprises.

There already exist statistics on the *demand* of enterprises for environmental protection goods and services. The next step will be to prepare surveys on the *supply* of these goods and services. For this purpose, the individual goods and services to be attributed to the environmental protection supply will have to be determined. In cooperation with the various economic associations, a list of "pure" environmental protection goods and services is being compiled, comprising all those goods (incl. services and construction work) which exclusively serve environmental protection purposes, such as dustbins.

The "pure" environmental protection goods, however, form only part of the environmental protection supply. There are also products which can be used both for environmental protection and for other purposes (so-called multifunctional goods). They include, for instance, pumps which may be used in water treatment plants, i.e. for environmental protection, on the one hand, and in processes polluting the environment, on the other.

Although the share of such products which is being used for environmental protection will certainly have to be attributed to the environmental protection supply, it is extremely difficult to record. The suppliers of such products as a rule are unable to state where the products will actually be used. Therefore, it would have to be considered in a further step whether and how this supply can be covered.

Another problem involved with the statistical description of the environmental protection supply relates to the coverage of production facilities equipped with so-called integrated techniques which are compatible with the environment. The above environmental protection goods serve for reducing the volume of emissions released by existing production facilities and therefore are often referred to as end-of-the-pipe equipment. Environmental protection measures, however, often come in already at an earlier stage.

By changes in production methods and process techniques (e.g. fluidization, changing of combustion temperatures, introduction of water cycles, etc.) the generation of waste air, waste water and solid wastes can be limited or avoided from the very beginning. Such technologies have however not been included in the above list so far. A decrease in the production of the goods and services included in the list does not yet permit definite statements to be made on the environmental impact. As the subject is a very intricate one, it cannot be expected that a quick solution will be found on how to cover the above integrated equipment. Yet, these problems should be borne in mind when interpreting and assessing statistical data on "end-of-the-pipe products".

Finally, it will have to be decided whether low-polluting consumer goods (e.g. unleaded petrol, phosphate-free detergents, goods carrying the "blue angel" label)¹⁾ should also be included in the supply of environmental protection goods. According to the present position of the discussions, attempts will first be made to gather information on these goods from other sources – and this all the more so as only a small selection of goods can be considered in this connection because there exist extraordinary conceptual difficulties.

1) The "blue angel" label is awarded by the Federal Environmental Agency to particularly low-polluting products.

Further development of the collection, processing and presentation of data

Introduction of uniform hospital statistics for the entire Federal Republic

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs at present is engaged in a fundamental reorganization of hospital statistics and in drawing up a uniform legal foundation for the statistics in 1989. The present coordinated statistics of the Laender are still based upon legal provisions dating back to the 1930s, and their contents no longer meet modern requirements. The varying contents of the present Laender statistics, discrepancies in concepts and classifications, and the lack of uniform collection, checking and processing techniques, etc. are complicating the coordination of the statistics. As a consequence, urgently required national data either are not available at all or can be provided only with considerable delay. Against the background of the ongoing discussions on health policy, it seems therefore urgently necessary to update the hospital statistics and to adjust their contents to the increasing information needs of the Federation and the Laender.

The new hospital statistics are intended to provide information for all quarters involved, which in close cooperation at the federal and Laender levels contribute to the economic maintenance of the hospitals and to a need-orientated medical care for the population. The reform project has therefore been thoroughly discussed for two years at several meetings of a working party. This working party comprises representatives of the federal and Laender ministries, as well as of the head organizations of health insurances, physicians and hospitals.

The respondents for hospital statistics will in future include

- hospitals providing hospital treatment and
- preventive care and rehabilitation facilities.

The survey programme of hospital statistics consists of three parts: The basic data supply major structural information on the equipment, the flow of patients and on medical and non-medical staff. The costs data comprise detailed information on individual types of costs. Data on diagnoses combined with information on age, sex, length of stay (days) and residence of patients permit to set up comprehensive statistics on morbidity and on catchment areas.

The processing of the data has been designed in a flexible way so that comprehensive analyses will be feasible. The new information system on hospitals is to provide a large group of users with a framework of quantity and value data for more detailed studies. Furthermore, it is intended to contribute to putting planning and decision making in the field of health policy on a rational basis that can be verified statistically.

Events

Scientific symposium on the objectives, methods and new concepts of time budget surveys

In various industrialized countries, data on the population's use of time are collected as part of official statistics, for instance in order to permit analyses on the time spent on child care, the work load of working women, the organization of life in old age, the use of the media or the volume of non-market household production. In the Federal Republic of Germany, too, there is a great demand for time budget data, e.g. for politics in the field of family and women's affairs or for determining the value of non-market household production as part of national accounts. The relevant questions were discussed at a scientific symposium chaired by Professor von Schweitzer (Institut für Wirtschaftslehre des Haushalts und Verbrauchsforschung at the University of Giessen) on 27 and 28 February 1989 at the Federal Statistical Office.

In the first part of the conference programme, the participating experts from science, politics, enterprises and associations discussed the state of international research with regard to both the theoretical and the methodological bases of time budgets and with a view to the possibilities of an international comparison of time budget data.

The second part presented the demand for time budget data in politics and science. In the sphere of politics the main emphasis is on data for policies in the field of family and women's affairs; representatives of social economics and household science discussed the matter on behalf of science. The last paper on the second main issue of the colloquium dealt with the inclusion of non-market production of households into national accounts.

The third block of meetings presented the concept of the envisaged time budget survey of official statistics besides the two time budget surveys already conducted by the Land Statistical Office Baden-Wuerttemberg. This survey, which was announced for 1991/1992, will be conducted in the form of a sample survey covering a maximum of 10,000 respondents and is to provide representative data on the time use of the population.

For further information please contact Dr. Ehling, Working Party for Methodological Research in Federal Statistics, Federal Statistical Office (tel.: 06121/75-2903). The papers and the results of the discussions will be published in the publication series "Forum der Bundesstatistik" edited by the Federal Statistical Office.

Bodies

Ad Hoc Working Party on Tourism Statistics submits report

On 1 March 1989, the Working Party on Tourism Statistics held in Wiesbaden its second session since it was constituted on 2 November 1987. The members of the working party made an interim stocktaking of their previous discussions and approved the report of the working party on a new concept of tourism statistics together with a resolution adopted unanimously:

- The internationally binding definitions and concepts in the field of tourism (WTO, OECD, EC) shall be uniformly taken as a basis for national official and non-official statistics.
- Commensurate with its economic significance in modern society, tourism shall be presented separately within the framework of national accounts (special accounting system "tourism"). This will also promote the EC's sustained efforts towards harmonization in the sphere of tourism. The Federal Republic of Germany may thus make a constructive and path-breaking contribution to the development of a harmonized European reporting system for tourism statistics.
- For purposes of the continuous observation of economic trends and structural comparisons in the field of tourism, basic statistics shall be compiled and existing statistics be developed appropriately:
 - 1 On the demand side in order to record the entire tourist activities of residents (in the Federal Republic and abroad), irrespective of their motivations:
 - 1.1 Household enquiries distributed over the four quarters of the year with sampling fractions of about 0.5 %, and the obligation to provide information, to be conducted at intervals of several years as structural surveys on tourists staying overnight, with a detailed classification of characteristics.
 - 1.2 Advanced tourism-related analyses of the sample surveys on income and expenditure conducted at 5 years' intervals (possibly also with a view to excursion tourism).
 - 2 On the supply side: Recording of the total domestic capacity available (commercial accommodation establishments and private quarters) and its utilization by residents and foreign guests staying overnight in the form of a continuous monthly survey and/or as a capacity survey on the available accommodation to be conducted at intervals of several years.
 - 3 An analysis of the data of the 1987 Census of Non-Agricultural Local Units shall be made for the field of tour operation and tourist booking services (inter alia in order to secure the addresses); the survey concept should provide for a sample survey. A first sample would possibly have to be conducted pursuant to Article 7 of the Federal Statistics Law.
 - 4 In order to record the tourist activities of coach operators (non-scheduled bus tours), a survey according to Article 7 of the Federal Statistics Law shall first be held for coach operating companies in order to investigate the demand and supply parameters in tourism.

The report presented at the second session of the Working Party on Tourism Statistics will be submitted in the approved version as a programme recommendation to the Advisory Council for Tourism Affairs at the Federal Ministry of Economics. The first part of the working party's mandate will thus be accomplished. The working party will then deal with the completion of the reporting system according to the sectorial delimitation as determined and provided within the framework of national accounts and primarily work on the tourism-related harmonization, adaptation and analysis of the numerous statistics on supply and demand of secondary tourism-oriented activities in the field of transport, commerce and other services. In this connection all possible avenues shall also be explored to draw upon data from the non-official sector - e.g. through business associations, enterprises and the like.

International matters

Main tasks within the framework of the European Statistical Programme for 1989-1992

The Statistical Programme of the EC for the period 1989-1992 is based on the political objectives laid down in the Single European Act, transforming them into working objectives and assignments for the statistics of the EC and its member states. This includes current activities, some of which have been in progress for several years, as well as new projects and activities.

The harmonization and coordination of existing statistics as well as the evaluation of results already available, e.g. with regard to special structural requirements, constitute a large part of the overall programme. In this connection the extensive work on the elaboration of uniform European statistical standards is of greatest importance; these standards are to achieve a high degree of harmonization of the bases of the EC member states' national statistical systems. The European Statistical Programme provides for a comprehensive stock-taking of existing sources of data and the development of harmonized concepts of systems. Particular importance is also attached to the creation of uniform statistical nomenclatures.

As regards the creation of a uniform economic and social area, the following tasks of the Statistical Programme of the EC for 1989-1992 are of special significance:

- the statistics on the trade in goods between the member states in the period after 1992 (intra-EC trade statistics) require extensive conceptual activities in the fields of data collection and processing;
- the decision of the European Council to employ the gross national product as an additional basis for the assessment of the EC's own resources implies the elaboration of a binding uniform methodology as well as the detailed documentation of work stages and calculation sources;
- through the extension of the statistics on the service sector, the information provided on this economic sector shall be improved;
- an extension with regard to the contents of the labour force sample survey of the EC is to take into account the increased demand for information on education and vocational training, the forms and conditions of employment, vocational and geographical mobility as well as on the causes and consequences of underemployment and unemployment. Improved information is also required for a comparative statistical description of the social situation of low-income groups of the population; information on public health expenditure, on the one hand, and analyses of regional fluctuations of mortality and causes of death, on the other hand, are intended to improve the reports on public health. These projects also imply the development of new concepts and methods as well as the utilization of existing sources of data;
- pursuant to EC decisions on structural policy, as for instance the Decision of the Council on taking land out of use, agricultural statistics also have to meet new information requirements of politics. To this end, methods of remote sensing will be used and tested in official statistics for the first time as part of the project "Remote Sensing and Statistics: Utilization in Agriculture" in order to collect and analyse information on land use and land coverage for the entire area of the EC. It is also planned to employ the results for a preselection of the sample areas for a number of agricultural surveys;
- after the termination of the pilot phase scheduled for the period 1989 - 1992, the possibility of extending the activities later on to cover the field of environmental statistics will have to be investigated because the development of a system of Community environmental statistics is emerging as a future priority task. The activities envisaged in the programme for the period 1989-1992 centre primarily on the conceptual development of an integrated system of environmental accounting linked to national accounts as well as on the stocktaking of existing data sources.

The distribution of roles in the European statistical system:

The political integration of statistics

Introduction - Objective and challenge

Europe, or to be more precise the European Communities, offer great opportunities to their States and peoples. Whether these opportunities are taken or not will depend on how cooperation is organized, whether the interplay of authorities is rational and transparent so that political decisions can be taken without "frictional losses". Top-heavy bureaucracies, as they develop according to Parkinson's law, must be avoided as much as restrictions of the freedom of action, the latter being not only a moral requirement but the basis of a modern economy in the successful industrial nations of our earth.

A most important condition for correct decisions and for a well-organized management structure is correct information - information on the main subject fields, reliable, rapid and inspiring confidence. Acquiring this information must also be organized. Quantitative information on society, the economy and the environment is provided in our countries by official statistics, but these by no means always cover the same areas, are prepared by the same methods or are available for comparable periods because their historical development has been different from country to country. Statistics must now be organized for the Europe of the large internal market if they are to fulfil their true function.

A little thought on the future structure of Community statistics will bring up two major sets of problems:

On the *one* hand, the status of the statistical authorities in the Community institutions, their position with respect to the Commission, the Commissioners, the Parliament and other institutions will have to be determined. Their constraints and margins for manoeuvre, their tasks, responsibilities and rights must be standardized.

On the *other* hand, the structure of the official statistical system in the Community must be discussed as an overall concept linking the Community authorities and the statistical offices in the Member States. The tasks of the future Statistical Office of the EC and its rights with respect to the offices of the Member States and, conversely, the obligations of the latter vis-à-vis the Community authority, must be clearly laid down.

I should like to go into both these sets of problems and conclude with some diagrams which contain proposals on organization.

Political integration and the legal position of statistics in the Community institutions

Let us not consider whether the European Communities are already a state in sociological and legal terms or are to become one in the foreseeable future. What is clear is that the objective of a uniform market, and the consequences for all Europeans of decisions emanating from Brussels make it essential for the Community to be a modern state, organized and administered in accordance with the principles accepted in the western world. These include democracy and the separation of powers. As we know, Montesquieu distinguished between three spheres: the legislative, the executive and the judicial power. I have read somewhere that the Chinese had a fourth, which was that of examining, or deciding whether Mandarins should be admitted to one of the state offices. In our day, many consider the press as the fourth power but then this is outside a state organization.

However, how would it be if we demanded a special place for statistics in the centre, even if they remain subject to considerable restraints? Before answering this question, before proposing certain organizational forms, I am reminded of the builder who commissions an architect to design his building. In other words, we must know what we expect of statistics. Allow me here to quote Article 1 of the Law on Federal Statistics in Germany. Not because I think that European statistics must be arranged on German lines but because we German statisticians have succeeded after a long struggle in persuading our legislator to lay down the role of statistics in a rather unusual but binding form.

"Statistics for federal purposes (federal statistics) are designed, in the federal overall structure of official statistics, to collect, process, present and analyse data on mass phenomena on a regular basis. They are subject to the principles of neutrality, objectivity and scientific independence. Data are obtained through the application of scientific knowledge and the appropriate methodology and information techniques. The results of federal statistics throw light on social, economic and ecological relationships for the whole Federation, the Laender and municipalities, society, science and research. Federal statistics are essential for policies based on the principle of the social state. Information obtained for federal statistics is solely to be used for the purposes laid down in this Law or other legal instruments initiating federal statistics".

To understand the role of official Community statistics, as I have already discussed it with the predecessors of Mr. Franchet, presupposes the question: for whom do they function, for the Commission, for the Council, for the Parliament, for which body today and which body tomorrow? The only answer can be: for everybody, for society but also for industry and political parties. They may not be affected by political aspects. They must seek the truth and their findings must be available to everyone, with just a few limitations, in the form of publications, press reports and answers to queries.

The question is, who is to control statistics, who can give the orders, or do they represent an authority with repressive tasks? The answers to these questions should be based on the task itself! Statistics have to be coherent in operation and design. The persons who are collecting and processing information must not have an institutional interest in the results and thus be tempted to manipulate them. Nor must it be possible to divert statistical tasks for other purposes. Statistics in Europe must provide the most important information bases for directing the economy, assessing the consequences of planned taxation and evaluating plans for new laws. They must do so without being affected by the enormous political pressures when compiling national accounts and accounts on the environment. The form of organization chosen must thus fulfil the following *minimum requirements*:

1. Objectivity, i.e. representing reality, seeking the truth without preconceived ideas and without heeding the consequences.
2. Neutrality, i.e. taking all aspects into account without favouring any nation, party or group and without bowing to the wishes of politicians.

3. Independence, i.e. statistics must be free from the instructions of other bodies, just as the law is; findings may not be replaced by those of a Commissioner, the Commission or a central bank. This freedom obviously only applies to statistics taken as a whole, not to a statistician vis-à-vis his superior and not entirely to the national offices vis-à-vis the European office.
4. Scientific principle, i.e. statistics must be organized on scientific lines and not be based on outmoded traditions or the implementation of over-rigid methodology.
5. Statistical confidentiality, i.e. information on the individual citizen or the individual undertaking may not be disclosed, not to the institutions of the European Communities, not to professional associations and not to the Member States (except to the national statistical offices insofar as it is part of the normal work flow); this confidentiality is absolutely essential for high quality because it gives the respondent the confidence he requires.

Obviously, there can be, indeed should be, an intensive discussion of all these basic requirements which will result in far-reaching consequences for the Member States. We must not forget, however, that each institution is in some kind of dependent relationship with all the others. The European budget will determine performance, at least at the top levels, and possibly at Member State level too. In the long term, this will need a parliamentary basis and legitimation; to become properly established, legal norms will be required.

From these interrelationships between preconditions and requirements, between given situations and objectives, I come to the following *proposals*:

1. Within the Community, the responsibility for statistics is centralized in the Statistical Office of the European Communities. With the exception of administrative statistics and certain special cases, statistics should be prepared, managed, analysed and made available to users only by this Office.
2. The statistics produced by the SOEC will normally be public, the results being disseminated via press notices and other publications; in principle, information will be given to everyone on request.
3. For the Community institutions, special analyses should be made which the SOEC budget must provide for in financial and staff terms. For outside parties, e.g. economic groups, such analyses will normally be made against payment.
4. The Statistical Office of the Communities will come under one Commissioner who has administrative responsibility for it. However, the Office answers operationally to all Commissioners and has direct right of communication to each of them and to the Parliament.
5. The legal status of the SOEC is governed by a statute taking the above considerations into account.
6. The introduction of binding statistics for which respondents are obliged to provide information needs a legal instrument, but this must be sufficiently flexible to establish the necessary survey characteristics in accordance with economic developments, or the requirements of the Commission or in line with general statistical considerations within the SOEC.
7. The SOEC is headed by a Director-General who is appointed on the proposal of the responsible Commissioner by the President of the Commission; this proposal requires the agreement of two thirds of both departments of the supervisory body.
8. A supervisory authority is added to the SOEC consisting of two departments: Department I to comprise representatives of the Commission, trade associations, the trade unions and the scientific community, Department II to consist of the directors of the statistical institutes of the Member States. Each department should have a maximum of eight members and the same number of deputies. Thus the supervisory authority should decide, on a proposal from the Office, on programmes, survey characteristics, questionnaires, methodology, etc.

The distribution of tasks between the Communities and the Member States

The Community consists of states with differing languages, cultures, economic methods and historical development but which are joined to the Community through their common economic, and in many cases political, objectives. This set-up makes a federal approach a sensible one since it promotes agreement on important points, while leaving the decision on the special features, such as language and cultural development, to the individual states. Important decisions and actions thus will be a matter for the Community, and other matters of importance, including some of Community-wide relevance, the responsibility of the sub-elements. Where there is a significance at Community level, however, the Community will have to exert its influence through legislation and supervision, it will have the right to demand the correct and timely fulfilment of tasks by the sub-elements. This is the basic idea of federalism, the division of sovereignty between the Community and the Member States in order to achieve joint goals without losing national special features.

It is not my intention to sketch out a constitution for the Community but I can imagine that the necessary compromise between the desire for independence of all, and especially some, Member States and the necessity for uniformity in important sub-areas will more or less come about in this way. This solution is one put to the test in multilingual Switzerland – because of its varying languages and cultures, Switzerland is a kind of model for European possibilities which one should not, however, copy slavishly.

As far as statistics are concerned, this would mean that the interplay between national and central statistical services must be planned so that

- all belong to one *uniform statistical system*,
- the comparability of sub-results and their aggregation facility to European level is guaranteed,
- work in the Member States can be carried out in the native language.

This would give the SOEC a quite decisive leadership role, the responsibility for developing and determining methods, laying down deadlines, complying with legal provisions and determining the questions and questionnaires. However, the statistical offices of the Member States can participate in the decision making of the SOEC via Department II of the supervisory body, through regular conferences with the Directorate-General, conferences of experts and written contributions.

The overall result would be an intermingling of the independence of the component parts and the responsibilities of the SOEC which would add up to an effective whole.

The SOEC should therefore have the following assignments and spheres of competence vis-à-vis the statistical offices of the Member States:

1. Developing of European statistics and advising the Commission or Parliament on the legal bases required for this purpose.
2. Aggregation of the contributions from the sub-elements and summarizing of same to produce European statistics.
3. Development of methods which must be uniform throughout the Community, development of questionnaires, classifications, compatible EDP systems, rules of confidentiality, technical standards, etc.
4. National accounts and overall environmental accounts – development, production and analysis.
5. Direct data collection should be the exception; it can be considered for
 - a) EC foreign trade (possibly after analysis of the customs certificates by the Member States),
 - b) small panels, e.g. for an industrial panel on short-term economic trends. The national offices should, however, be involved, if only for linguistic reasons, provided that they can ensure the technical side and timeliness of data transmission to the SOEC.
6. Preparation of European economic data to assess the economy and ditto for social data to the extent that this is within the Community's sphere of competence; publications.
7. Contacts with the UN, ECE and similar supra-regional organizations. However, as long as multilateral economic relationships exist to other states in the world, the national statistical offices should be directly represented at these international bodies.
8. Preparation of time schedules and work quotas for the national statistical offices. These would form the basis for budgetary decisions on the number of the staff and capacity and hence ensure that work would be completed at more or less the same time through reasonably equal performance.
9. The right of inspection of the national offices in order to guarantee that statistics are uniform and reliable.

Arrangement, tasks, rights and duties of the statistical offices of the Member States in the overall Community system

An overall statistical system can function successfully only if its organizational form and modus operandi are coordinated; in other words, if the inner structure, method of operation and tasks of the national statistical offices correspond to those of the SOEC and are comparable to the extent that work contacts can be set up through directly corresponding partners. If Community statistics are to be standard, comparable and reliable in all parts of the Community – and this is the objective we should never lose sight of – the Member States will be called on to display a high degree of adaptability to joint developments and standards. One basic structure must be agreed on and these agreements implemented in each office. This basic structure itself must make the correspondence to the SOEC organization quite clear; this correspondence must then be real in the design

of the national offices so that a smooth cooperation is possible. As far as expectations in European statistics go, these can be met only if the organizational requirements are not only met at the top level, i.e. at the SOEC, but also in the sub-elements, that is in all of the national statistical offices. There would obviously be no point in guaranteeing objectivity and neutrality at the SOEC if Member States governments could and were even permitted to manipulate the data collection policy of their own offices and thus affect the information going to the SOEC.

The consequence is that harmonized statistics in the EC require harmonized statistical structures in all the Member States and these must be planned as of now. Transitional periods and solutions will be necessary but they must not develop into permanent provisional arrangements.

I should like to cite the following requirements of the central statistical institutes of the Member States:

1. Concentration in technical terms, i.e. statistics must not be an offshoot of administrative activity divided over various government departments and authorities. They must be concentrated in *one* statistical and independent office. This does not, of course, mean that other authorities may not be obliged to send information to a given statistical office.
2. The principles of objectivity, neutrality and scientific independence must apply to the statistical offices vis-à-vis the other authorities in their own country in the same way as they do to the SOEC itself. The only limitations are vis-à-vis the SOEC which must be able to play a leadership role as regards responsibilities and methodology to guarantee comparable and uniform statistics.
3. The organization of the statistical offices must be agreed in outline so that work relationships between the SOEC and the national offices can function without problem.
4. Staffing levels, machine capacity and hence efficiency must be agreed with the SOEC so that correct and punctual operation is possible.
5. The Member States are empowered to give their offices additional national tasks, i.e. without prejudice to the cooperation with the SOEC. In these cases, too, the principle of independence and neutrality must be observed to prevent misconceptions and to ensure that statistics are accepted by the public.
6. The statistical offices of the Member States are entitled, and, on the request of the Member States obliged, to prepare and publish the results they have ascertained for Community statistics also for national purposes.
7. Every statistical office of a Member State is directed by a Director-General (President) to be appointed by the national government. I shall leave it an open question whether this should involve coordination with the Commission or the SOEC.
8. Every office of the Member States should have an advisory council grouping representatives of government, political parties, both sides of industry and others. Its activity should be purely advisory and ensure contact between official statistical circles and the social sphere in the Member States.

I can imagine that some or perhaps many of you will have had a slight shock in hearing these proposals. After all, everyone of us thinks in the familiar categories of his own organization at home, and though everyone can theoretically envisage changes to this structure or indeed believes that these changes must come, most of us, even the progressive ones, remain rather conservative and stick to old principles.

If Europe as a large economic unit is to become with the EC and through it not just a political vision but practical reality for its people, numerous changes must take place in the public sphere, not the least important of which being shifts in the decision-making processes. Anyone who lays plans for his own area of interest without accepting such conditions would be ill-advised from the outset. Those of us responsible for official statistics in the EC would be ill-advised if we did not develop an ideal model of well-functioning Community statistics in the early stages, discuss it and then stand by it. Statistics cannot be better than the working conditions which create them. They must, however, be good and reliable if they are to form the basis for far-reaching decisions.

What I have been talking about is a rough outline of such an ideal model. It is not an official national proposal, made legitimate or coordinated with the government of my country. The model has been developed

- from the moral obligation of the statistician to provide information,
- from patriotism - or should I say matriatism? - of the European who says yes to Europe without renouncing his mother country,
- from experience in a federal statistical system and the knowledge of its advantages and disadvantages.

Put in a nutshell, the idea of separating objective determination of information and subjective political decision is incorporated in this model, just as properly produced newspapers distinguish between news and commentaries.

It is my sincere hope that Mr. Franchet will in the reasonably near future be at the head of a European statistical office which is at the centre of Community information in the way I have described.

(Contribution presented by Mr. E. Hölder, President of the Federal Statistical Office, at a meeting at the Statistical Office of the European Communities in Brussels on 8 April 1989.)

Foreign-Language Publications

English

Survey of German Federal Statistics

This abridged issue is intended above all for users looking for a general outline of statistical activities rather than the details. It therefore comprises from the detailed version the full text part describing the objectives, bases, methods and results of federal statistics.

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Aperçu de la statistique fédérale allemande

Cette édition abrégée a été préparée surtout à l'intention des utilisateurs désireux de se renseigner sur les grandes lignes des activités statistiques plutôt que sur tous les détails. Elle contient donc de la version intégrale l'ensemble des textes décrivant les buts, les bases, les méthodes et les résultats de la statistique fédérale.

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Cette brochure comprend une sélection des principaux chiffres de référence de tous les domaines ainsi que des chiffres comparatifs pour des années antérieures.

Publication annuelle.

Spanish

Guía Estadística

Este folleto contiene una selección de datos importantes en todos los campos así como los datos comparativos de los años anteriores.

Publicación anual.

Trilingual

Trilingual List of Statistical Terms (German – English – French)

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