

VOORBURG GROUP ON SERVICE STATISTICS
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Session 5

Development of an International Manual for the Collection
of Service Statistics

Contribution by Erwin Veil

Development of an International Manual for the Collection
of Service Statistics

1. There does not exist a methodological manual for the collection of service statistics at the UNITED NATIONS and the OECD level. Both organisations have undertaken methodological work in specific service statistics areas, but neither has developed a comprehensive methodology.
2. By contrast, EUROSTAT initiated the elaboration of such a methodology some years ago. This initiative has resulted in the drafting of the "Methodological Manual of Statistics on Service Enterprises". This Manual consists of a general framework common to all service sectors, and sectoral chapters that address specific issues of the following sectors:
 - a. Distributive trade
 - b. Hotels/ restaurants/ canteens/ travel agencies
 - c. Transport
 - d. Banking and financial services
 - e. Insurance
 - f. Information and communication
 - g. Business services
 - h. Audiovisual services
 - i. Services to persons and the collectivity.
3. The Version 1.4 of the General Framework of the EUROSTAT Manual was finalised in August 1994 and circulated to the Participants of this meeting. The status of the sectoral chapters is described in the EUROSTAT document "Development of the Methodological Manual" (by N. Wurm), Chapter 2, which was also circulated.
4. The latter document explains, in its Chapter 1, the EUROSTAT plans for the development of a new version (Version 2) of the General Framework. This new version will take account of the new version of the European System of Accounts (ESA). EUROSTAT also envisages to integrate the service statistics manual into a general manual on enterprise statistics, and to complement it with a data collection manual.

5. In the context of the OECD Group for Service Statistics and of the Seventh Meeting of the Voorburg Group there have been preliminary discussions on these issues, without arriving at definitive conclusions.
6. As a follow-up to these discussions, it is suggested that the Participants of this meeting exchange views on the following questions:
- a. Do Participants perceive a need of a methodological manual of service statistics at the UNITED NATIONS and/ or the OECD level ?
 - b. If so, do Participants consider the EUROSTAT Manual as an appropriate starting point for developing such a manual ?
 - c. Does a positive answer to question b. relate to the whole EUROSTAT Manual, or is it confined to its General Framework ?
 - d. If the answer to question b. is positive, which adjustments to the EUROSTAT Manual are considered to be necessary ?
 - e. What are the Participants' views on the procedure for an adjustment of the EUROSTAT Manual to accomodate non-European Union considerations ?