

# **STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

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### **EU Pilot Surveys**

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# EU Pilot surveys

Experience and strategy

Comparison of EU model surveys

## 1. Objectives

The objective of this document is threefold:

- to provide an overview of the executed and to be executed EU pilots on services;
- it provides a short overview of the “coordination” or management experience;
- it provides an overview of the questions listed in 8 model surveys on which the implementation of the pilots on the national level has been based.

Aim of this document is to serve as background information.

## 2. History Eurostat pilots on service sectors

In the early nineties Eurostat started with the execution in cooperation with EU Member States of pilot surveys in the services areas. The purpose of the first pilot surveys has been two-fold, namely supplying preliminary data for the surveyed sectors and gaining methodological experiences and thus preparing the way for regular data collection in the framework of a regulation on structural business statistics.

The first pilot was executed in the field of businesses services (reference year 1991). This pilot was followed by surveys on audiovisuals, hotels and travel agencies (reference year 1992) and transport (subdivided by air, road freight and rail transport, reference year 1993). Some results were published in 1994 on the business services pilot and in 1997 on the results of the three other pilots<sup>1</sup>.

These pilots had a number of characteristics:

- participation of more than 10 Member States i.e. large projects;
- long projects - implementation taking over three years;
- implementation with the help of a coordinating country.

Coordination by a Member State is seen as very important:

- it allows Member States to develop a leadership role in a certain field. The coordinating country should give direction to the project and provide technical assistance to countries participating in the project;
- it promotes integration and co-operation amongst NSIs and between NSIs and Eurostat;
- it provides to the project and Eurostat expertise and experience which is not available at Eurostat.

The implementation of the above mentioned pilots was during a period in which the underlying legislation concerning statistics was changing. In the last few years either substantial changes

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<sup>1</sup> “Statistics on selected service sectors in the EU - A synthesis of quantitative results of pilot surveys on audiovisual services, hotels and travel agencies and transport”, Luxembourg, 1997.

in data collection had to be made or new data collection had to be started - depending on the Country. Changes concerned:

- the NACE Rev. 1 regulation<sup>2</sup>. Changes with existing national classifications were often substantial. Nace Rev.1 is for both collection and transmission of data to Eurostat. Full implementation is still not finalized.
- the Regulation on statistical units<sup>3</sup>. Units of observation chosen for services are the enterprise and the local unit;
- the Regulation on statistical business registers, which requires all firms in a Member State to appear in a central register used for statistical purposes. In this field some Member States do not yet follow the requirements.

End 1996 a regulation concerning structural business statistics has been adopted by the EU Council of Ministers. The regulation describes in detail the set of statistics on services which Member States must provide to the European Commission.

### **3. Experience and conclusions on the implementation**

- In a situation where many Member States implement a pilot study on the same sector methodological problems and conclusions do in general not differ much from one Member State to another. Small sets of Member States are sufficient to test methodology. The group needs however to be selected with some care in order to have a set of Member States with both developed and less developed systems.
- Delays in one participating Member State may delay the whole project. Deadlines on final results should be strict. Small groups limit risk of delays.
- Projects took long providing problems concerning the coordination:
  - changing project managers as people move on from one job to another. New project managers do often not have the history of the project and sometimes do not show the same commitment and motivation. The longer the project takes the higher the risk of changes. In the 4 first pilot projects such change occurred in 3 of the projects.
  - difficulty to combine heavy extra workload coming from project (especially at project end) with regular workload of the office (which often continued).
  - as projects take longer it becomes more difficult to draw up final results as also in Member States staff moves on. Remaining questions which the coordinator would like to pose a Member State remain unanswered.
- Translation caused substantial delays. At present for a number of projects Member States are requested to deliver reports in English.

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L293, 9.10.1990. NACE Rev.1 is not only a data transmission activity classification but also a data collection classification thus improving the quality of transmitted data.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L76, 15.3.1993.

#### **4. Strategy for the execution of pilots**

Given the above conclusions Eurostat will aim to keep projects which have methodological development as the main objective slim. Projects should not run over a long period nor should they in general involve more than 5 Member States.

The current and planned pilots have been divided into 2 groups:

- pilots executed within the context of the transitional period of the Council regulation concerning structural business statistics:

- FATS pilot study - being executed up to 1999<sup>4</sup>. At present 9 Member States participate.

- pilots on Nace Rev.1 Sections M-O concerning education, health and social work and other community, social and personal services. These are to be implemented up to 1998. At present Eurostat analysis whether and how the non-market sector could be incorporated in the data collection as the non-market part of total activities in these sectors are relatively very important in Europe.

- Other pilots aimed at collecting specific information, speeding up data collection or preparing the drawing up of new annexes to the above mentioned regulation. They are combined in this group as they are not directly required by the regulation:

- 4 pilots on business services. Few participating Member States, limited implementation period.

- pension funds. Limited set of Member States.

- financial auxiliaries. Limited set of Member States.

- telecommunications. Speeding up data collection and expanding covered information. Large set of Member States participating.

- insurance. Preparing a new annex to the SBS regulation.

#### **5. Overview EU Model surveys**

In the annex an overview is provided on the questions asked in 8 pilot surveys: transport, hotels and travel agencies, audiovisual services, business services (1991), information technology, labour recruitment, industrial cleaning and engineering consultancy. Detailed discussion of the four business services pilots can be found in other Voorburg Group papers. Methodological papers on the first four pilots were presented at the 1995 Voorburg Group meeting.

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Luxembourg, August 1997  
Jeroen Jutte

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<sup>4</sup> Eurostat aims to publish first statistical findings by October/November 1997.

ANNEX  
EU Pilot surveys

	Transport		Hotels		Travel agencies		Audiovis. services		Business services		Information Techn.		Labour recruitment		Industrial cleaning		Engineering consult.	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1 GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ENTERPRISE	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
1.1 IDENTIFICATION OF THE ENTERPRISE	X		X		X		X		X		X°		X°		X°		X°	
1.2 LEGAL STATUS	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
1.3 CONTROL	X		X			X	X			X	X		X		X		X	
1.3.1 Controlled	X		X			X		X		X	X		X		X			X
1.3.2 Controlling		X	X			X	X			X	X		X		X		X	
1.4 DOMESTIC LOCAL UNITS AND ESTABLISHMENTS ABROAD	X		X		X			X	X		X		X		X		X	
1.5 DATE OF CLOSURE OF LAST ACCOUNTING PERIOD	X		X		X		X			X	X		X		X		X	
1.6 ACTIVITY OF THE ENTERPRISE	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
1.6.1 Main activity	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
1.6.2 Secondary activity		X	X		X		X		X			X	X		X		X	
1.7 YEAR OF BUSINESS START-UP		X	X		X		X		X			X	X		X			X

	Transport		Hotels		Travel agencies		Audiovis. services		Business services		Information Techn		Labour recruitment		Industrial cleaning		Engineering consult	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
2. INCOME OF THE ENTERPRISE	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
2.1 GROSS TURNOVER	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X(1)		X	
2.2 SUBCONTRACTING	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
2.3 TOTAL NET TURNOVER	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
2.4 CHANGES IN STOCKS		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
2.5 FIXED PRODUCTION	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
2.6 OPERATING SUBSIDIES	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
2.7 OTHER OPERATING INCOME	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
2.8 TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
2.9 FINANCIAL INCOME	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
2.9.1 Interest income	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
2.9.2 Other financial income	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
2.10 EXTRAORDINARY INCOME	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
2.11 BALANCE BEFORE TAXES (DEFICIT)	X		X	X				X		X		X(1)		X		X		X
2.12 TOTAL	X			X		X		X		X		X(1)		X		X		X

	Transport		Hotels		Travel agencies		Audiovis. services		Business services		Information Techn.		Labour recruitment		Industrial cleaning		Engineering consult.	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
3. COSTS AND EXPENSES OF THE ENTERPRISE	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
3.1 LABOUR COSTS	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
3.1.1 Gross wages and salaries	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
3.1.2 Employer's social contributions	X		(X)		(X)		(X)		X		X		X		X		X	
3.1.3 Voluntary social security contributions and other labour costs			(X)		(X)		(X)		X			X			X			X
3.2 PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES OF WHICH	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
3.2.1 Changes in stocks		X	X		X		X		X	X	X		X		X		X	X
3.2.2 Purchases of goods and services for resale	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
3.3 DUTIES AND TAXES (OTHER THAN VAT) RELATED TO PRODUCTION	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X			X
3.4 DEPRECIATION	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
3.5 OTHER OPERATING COSTS	X			X		X		X		X	X		X		X		X	
3.6 TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	X			X		X		X		X	X(1)		X		X			X
3.7 FINANCIAL EXPENSES (LEGAL PERSONS ONLY)	X			X		X		X		X	X		X			X		X
3.7.1 Interest expenses	X			X		X		X		X	X			X		X		X
3.7.2 Other financial expenses	X			X		X		X		X	X			X		X		X
3.8 EXTRAORDINARY INCOME	X			X		X		X		X	X			X		X		X
3.9 BALANCE BEFORE TAXES (PROFIT)	X		X		X	X	X		X		X(1)			X	X			X
3.10 TOTAL	X			X		X		X		X	X(1)		X		X			X

	Transport		Hotels		Travel agencies		Audiovis. services		Business services		Information Techn.		Labour recruitment		Industrial cleaning		Engineering consult.	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
4. EXPORTS AND IMPORTS	X			X	X		X		X			X		X		X		X
4.1 EXPORTS	X			X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
4.1.1 Intra/extra community	X			X		X			X		X		X		X			
4.2 IMPORTS	X			X	X		X			X		X		X				X
4.2.1 Intra/extra community	X			X		X				X		X		X				X
5. INVESTMENTS AND LEASING	X		X		X		X		X			X	X			X		X
5.1 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	X		X		X		X		X			X	X		X		X	
5.2 LAND NOT BUILT UPON	X		X		X		X			X		X	X		X			X
5.3 EXISTING BUILDINGS	X		X		X		X			X		X	X		X			X
5.4 CONSTRUCTION OR CONVERSION OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER REAL ESTATE	X	X	X		X		X			X		X		X		X		X
5.5 INTANGIBLE INVESTMENTS		X	X		X		X			X	X			X		X		X
6. EMPLOYMENT	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
6.1 NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
6.1.1 Permanent/temporary employees		X	X		X		X			X		X	X		X			X
6.1.2 Full/part-time	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
6.1.3 Hours worked		X	X		X			X	X			X	X		X			X
6.2 NUMBER OF NON-SALARY EARNERS (SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS, EMPLOYERS, UNPAID FAMILY WORKERS)	X		X		X		X		X			X	X		X		X	X



	Transport		Hotels		Travel agencies		Audiovis. services		Business services		Information Techn.		Labour recruitment		Industrial cleaning		Engineering consult	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
7 SECTORAL BREAKDOWN	X		X		X		X			X	X		X		X		X	
7.1 BREAKDOWN OF TURNOVER	X		X		X		X			X	X		X		X		X	
7.2 BREAKDOWN OF PURCHASES	X		X		X		X			X	X			X		X		X
7.3 BREAKDOWN OF EXPORTS	X			X	X			X		X	X		X		X		X	
7.4 BREAKDOWN OF IMPORTS	X			X	X			X		X		X		X		X		X
7.5 BREAKDOWN OF FIXED PRODUCTION		X		X		X	X			X		X		X		X		X
7.6 BREAKDOWN OF TANGIBLE ASSETS	X			X		X	X			X		X	X		X			X
7.7 BREAKDOWN OF INTANGIBLE INVESTMENTS		X		X		X	X			X	X			X		X		X
7.8 BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYMENT	X			X		X		X		X	X		X		X		X	
7.9 BREAKDOWN OF CLIENTS		X		X		X		X	X		X		X		X		X	
7.10 PHYSICAL OUTPUT	X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
7.11 REGIONAL DATA	X			(X)		X		X		X		X		X		X		X