

## Editorial

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The present issue of the Statistical Journal focuses on globalization and measuring the activities of multinational enterprises (MNEs). It includes the papers and presentations considered at the Seminar on globalization organized by Statistics Canada within the fifty-first plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians<sup>1</sup> (CES) held in June 2003 in Geneva.

The issue follows the structure of the Seminar concentrating on the following four topics: (I) gauging the globalization phenomenon; (II) impact of globalization on traditional statistical systems; (III) globalization questions to which users of statistics want answers; and (IV) international statistical cooperation. Philip Smith (Statistics Canada), Chairman of the session provides the introduction and overall summary of the event. Svein Longva (Statistics Norway) and Len Cook (Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom), who served as Discussants, summarize the papers considered during the sub-sessions and highlight the issues that they found specifically noteworthy. The keynote speech by David Dodge (Governor of the Bank of Canada) adds a different perspective on globalization as a user of statistics.

All papers and presentations considered at the meeting are included. The wide-ranging viewpoints reflect the richness of the discussion that took place at the Seminar.

As a practical outcome of the Seminar, it is planned to launch an experiment on measuring the activities of MNEs (the MNE Project, see paper by Richard Barnabé). Interested readers may also check the summary of the session on globalization in the report of the CES plenary session at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2003.06.ces.htm>.

The editors hope that the present issue of the Statistical Journal contributes to the better understanding of globalization and the problems related to its statistical measurement, thereby providing an impetus for the future discussion on this topic.

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<sup>1</sup>The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) is composed of the Heads of National Statistical Offices of the UNECE member countries and international statistical organizations. Statistical offices of some countries outside the UNECE region are also represented (such as Australia, Brazil, Japan, Mexico and Peru). The CES meets annually at the plenary session to discuss the most important problems and developments in official statistics. More information about the CES can be found on the Internet: <http://www.unece.org/stats>.