

## News from the Statistical Offices

### Austria

#### *Management Changes*

Former Vice-President Dr. Viktor Lenhart has retired and since mid-April 1994, Dr. Kurt Klein has been ÖSTAT's new Vice-President.

Mr. Alfred Franz, previously Head of the National Accounts Division, has been appointed Head of the Social Statistics Division. The new Head of National Accounts is Mr. Reinhold Schwarzl and Mr. Norbert Rainer has been appointed Deputy Head.

#### *Statistical Legislation*

In preparation of the Austrian membership to the European Union, the Federal Statistics Act 1965 was revised. It now also comprises statistical surveys and operations to be performed by the Austrian government as a result of international obligations which have effect at the internal level. The catalogue of survey items and the cooperation with district authorities has been modified.

#### *Publications*

Publication by A. Franz, *Volkswirtschaftliche Gesamtrechnungen, Das Statistische System der Makroökonomie, Österreichische Studien zur Amtlichen Statistik*, vol. 1 (1995). Also, a commemorative publication *Republic of Austria 1945–1995* will be published in April 1995.

#### *Meetings*

For the next six months, no international meeting is to take place at ÖSTAT's. Some bilateral meetings have been planned, however, in the framework of the PHARE Assistance Project in Macedonia. The exact dates are to be announced in the near future.

#### *New Tasks*

With the Austrian entry to the European Union on 1 January 1995, the EU and Eurostat working programmes become obligatory. As a consequence, ÖSTAT has to adapt its statistics to EU requirements in all statistical fields of work, such as:

- introduction of the EC statistical classification systems (NACE, CPA, PRODCOM);
- adaptation to the concepts of the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts 1995, harmonisation of the gross social accounting;
- adaptation to a new foreign trade statistics – INTRASTAT;
- works at the new business register;
- preparation of a new concept of short-term data surveys in the production area;
- preparatory works for the performance of the European Household Panel;
- harmonised European consumer price index – index revision;

- Labour Force Survey and Family Budget Survey;
- adaptation of the structural agricultural survey and of the livestock survey;
- inclusion of migration statistics into the ÖSTAT's Annual Working Programme.

## Cyprus

### *Information Technology*

The Department of Statistics and Research has recently launched a series of new projects. In the area of computerisation, the Department initiated two major projects – the establishment of data banks and the introduction of computer assisted interviewing. The establishment of data banks is now well underway and we have already produced our first electronic publication. Computer assisted interviewing is at its initial stages and is currently being examined in depth.

### *Cyclical Indicators*

The Department has also entered into the process of compiling cyclical composite indicators (leading, coincidence and lagging) and the first results are expected soon.

### *Publications*

In the area of publications for an international audience, the Department is publishing a book on *Labour Utilisation and Income Distribution in Cyprus*. The book contains studies by various scholars on topics related to existing labour conditions, potential labour supply, the female labour force, time-use and income distribution and poverty. The Department has also accepted an offer to be

the executive agency of the UNDP project for the preparation of the Cyprus National Human Development Report, the first edition of which is expected in May 1995.

## Czech Republic

### *Statistical Legislation*

A debate is in progress on the State Statistical Service Bill, which should replace the present Act. The bill was approved by Cabinet on 25 January and, hopefully, Parliament will pass it before long, so that it could become effective on 1 July 1995. Enshrined in the bill are principles of statistical services in democratic countries with market economies. Great attention is given to individual data protection.

### *Publications*

The Czech Statistical Office publishes in English (or in Czech and English) the following publications, which are being regularly distributed:

- *Statistical Yearbook* – annually, last edition 1994;
- *Czech Republic in Figures* – annually, last edition 1994;
- *Economic and Social Development Indicators of the Czech Republic* – quarterly, last edition March 1994;
- *Quarterly Statistical Bulletin* – last edition February 1994 (also available in French);
- *Statistical Bulletin CESTAT* – quarterly, last edition March 1994;
- *Monthly Statistics of the Czech Republic* – last edition January 1995;
- *Economic and Social Development Indicators of the Czech Republic* (in cooperation with Siemens A.G.).

## Meetings

Due to cuts in the PHARE regional programme, we had to cancel the organisation of a regional seminar on Improvement of Business Registers in autumn 1994. If funds become available, we would like to host this seminar as soon as possible.

## Surveys

At the request of several ministries, the CSO organised a housing survey. As requested by the Ministry of Economy, a survey on tourism was conducted. Between November 1995 and the first half of 1996 an Agrocensus, requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, is going to be carried out to record all important business entities in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

## Denmark

### Management Changes

The head of Danmarks Statistik, the National Statistician Professor Hans E. Zeuthen, retired on 1 February 1995. His successor has not yet been appointed.

### Publications

Danmarks Statistik has compiled a book giving a comprehensive description of the Danish register based statistical system with emphasis on the socio-demographic statistics. The book was published in Danish last October and has now been translated into English by Eurostat who will publish it in March 1995.

## Estonia

### Statistical Legislation

A working group in the Statistical Office has compiled a new statistical law during the last year. The draft law was presented to the Ministry of Finance for the coordination with the other ministries at the end of 1994.

### Publications

The Statistical Office of Estonia publishes all its main publications both in Estonian and English. We suggest for an international audience:

- *Monthly bulletin Estonian Statistics*;
- Annual pocket-size publication especially for the general public abroad *Estonia in Figures*;
- Annual publication *Statistical Yearbook*.

### Meetings

A meeting between the Statistical Office of Estonia, the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, the Lithuanian Department of Statistics and Eurostat will take place in Tallinn on 30 March 1995. A Common Declaration will be signed by the Director-Generals of these institutions. The Declaration includes a work plan in preparation for the accession of these three countries to the European Union. The Steering Committee of the EC/EFTA statistical cooperation programme will meet in Tallinn on 31 March 1995. The Director-General of Statistics Norway will be the chairman and head of unit concerned with relations between Central and Eastern European countries and EFTA. Eurostat will be co-chairing the meeting.

### *Surveys*

The Living Conditions Survey was implemented in September 1994, the first conclusions will be drawn by mid-1995. The same kind of survey has taken place in Latvia, Lithuania, Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad at the same time. This gives us an opportunity to compare ourselves with our neighbours. The Labour Force Base Survey is going on from 1 January to 1 May 1995. We will start the Household, Income and Expenditure Survey in July 1995. The conclusions of both surveys will be published in 1996.

### **France**

#### *Seal of Approval for French Official Statistics*

As in many other countries French small or middle size businesses are more and more reluctant to answer to official surveys. On the other hand, the high authority responsible for individual data confidentiality protection (CNIL) is more and more restrictive about official statistical inquiries. There is until now no crisis of the relations existing between the statistical system and the public but some signs show that it could happen. This is the reason why INSEE authorities decided in 1993 to improve the management of the new statistical operations creating a Comité du label of the CNIS (National Council for Statistical Information). This institution has been in charge of yearly statistical program approvals since 1984. Its 170 members are representative of the social and economic groups and have to verify that the statisticians plans are consistent with social needs.

The new committee is smaller (9 persons) and combines its work with the CNIS. For example, it has to verify very closely sampling methods, so as to avoid that small businesses may receive too many questionnaires, and to examine the questionnaires in detail, so as to protect individuals from intrusive questions.

At the end of each examination, the committee decides if the planned survey may receive a Label d'intérêt général, and, in some cases, if answering shall be compulsory or not, as permitted by the French statistical law of 1951. The "label" is a sort of seal of good housekeeping that offers more guarantees of quality to the people who will have to answer to questions.

#### *Consumer Price Indices for France and Germany*

A comparative study was undertaken in 1994 by the Statistisches Bundesamt in Germany (Mr. Wolfgang Buchwald) and INSEE in France (Mr. Alain Saglio) to compare the French and German price indices.

The comparability of the official German and French price indices is affected by significant methodological differences. These differences make the weight of rents much higher in the German index, which takes into account the rents that owner-occupiers would pay themselves if they had to rent their housing at market rates. The differences also mean that insurance services are tracked in the German index, whereas they still elude the French index. In addition, the two indices have highly different ways of observing health service prices.

After common statistical processing of these differences, the rate of inflation is still substantially lower in France than in Germany, but the gap narrows in 1992

and 1993. It would most likely have been less than one point for these two years, as opposed to 1.8 point in 1992 and 1.6 point in 1993. Two papers have simultaneously been published in the French monthly review *Economie et Statistique* (n° 275–276, 1994 – 5/6) and in the German review *Wirtschaft und Statistik*.

## Hungary

### Publications

Our publications in 1994 for an international audience are:

- *Hungarian Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities*;
- *Information Bulletin on the Activity of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office*;
- *Farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs*, 1993;
- *Hungary*, 1993;
- *Labour Force Survey*;
- *Hungarian Statistical Pocket-book*, 1993;
- *Quarterly 1994 Czech-Hungarian-Polish-Slovak Bulletin*;
- *Yearbook for Foreign Trade*, 1993;
- *Yearbook of Tourism*, 1993;
- *Pocket-book of Agriculture and Food*, 1993;
- *Demographic Yearbook*, 1993;
- *Some Features of Mortality in Hungary*, 1993;
- *Main Economic Indicators of Hungary*, 1994 (monthly).

### Meetings

International meetings to be held by the HCSO in the next six months are:

- OECD/HCSO Workshop on Quar-

terly National Accounts, 21 to 24 February 1995;

- UNEP/HCSO Workshop on Environmental Accounting, 27 to 30 March 1995;
- Eurostat/HCSO High level seminar on Experience of Statistical Transition for countries of the CIS, 3–7 April 1995.

### New Tasks

Major new tasks to be executed for our government are:

- Programme of the National Statistical Data Collection, 1995;
- Creation of a survey system of the small and medium enterprises;
- Creation of a new custom nomenclature;
- Deciding on the criteria for defining disadvantaged territories.

## Iceland

### Management Changes

As of 1 February, a new Deputy Director-General, Dr. Eiríkur Hilmarson has been appointed. Mr. Hilmarson (37), is a PhD graduate in educational administration from the University of Iceland and the University of Madison, Wisconsin. Since then, he has worked in the fields of management, consulting, teaching and research; and, as of 1992, he has been Director of the Institute of Labour Market Research of the Icelandic Federation of Labour and the Confederation of Icelandic Employers.

As of 1 February, Dr. Magnús S. Magnússon has been appointed to the post of Director of the Statistics Division replacing Mr. Vihjálmur Ólafsson who retired due to health reasons. Mr.

Magnússon (42), graduated from the University of Iceland and the University of Lund (Sweden) with a fil.dr. degree in economic history. He has worked at the Statistical Bureau of Iceland since 1986 where he has, among other things, been the editor of the Statistical Yearbook.

## Ireland

### *Statistical Legislation*

Until October 1994, the CSO operated under the Statistics Act 1926 which provided the basis for the collection and compilation of official statistics. On 1 November 1994, this Act was repealed and the Statistics Act 1993 came into operation. Its key features are:

- establishment of CSO as a statutory body;
- Director-General appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister);
- independence in statistical matters (methodology, content of publications, timing and methods of dissemination);
- establishment of the National Statistics Board (eight members, including the Director-General) as an integral part of CSO's structure, with the function of guiding the strategic direction of the Office;
- CSO given authority to coordinate official statistics compiled by public authorities, and to assess and maximise the statistical potential of the administrative records maintained by them;
- provision of anonymous data for the purposes of statistical research is permitted;
- forms completed in Censuses of Population will be publicly accessible after 100 years;

- penalties increased to realistic levels.

### *Management Changes*

Mr. Donald Murphy, formerly Director of the CSO, was appointed Director General by President Mary Robinson on 1 November 1994.

## Netherlands

### *Change of Address*

As of 1 January 1995, Statistics Netherlands has a new postal address and postal code for its Voorburg office, namely:

Statistics Netherlands  
P.O. Box 4000  
2270 JM Voorburg  
The Netherlands

The address and postal code for the Heerlen office will remain the same.

### *Restructuring*

TEMPO, the current internal reorganisation of Statistics Netherlands, is nearing completion under the leadership of the bureau's Director-General, Ad Abrahamse.

The new organisation is made up of eight divisions. Four of these are subject-matter oriented, two are concerned with input (fieldwork, business register, etc.) and output matters (national accounts, publications, marketing and the like) and the remaining two deal with research and development, including automation, and household affairs. The divisions have approximately the same size: 200 to 300 staff.

For the first time in history, Statistics Netherlands has a woman on its board.

Ms. Lidwien Dellaert will head the output division.

Three division managers, Ms. Dellaert, Jan Looije (input division), and Jacob Zuurmond (socio-cultural statistics), have been recruited from outside Statistics Netherlands.

Cornelis van Bochove (socio-economic statistics), Wouter Keller (research and development), Johan Lock (agriculture, industry and environment) and Toon Theunissen (transport, trade and financial services) were selected from the old management. Mr. Abrahamse will be assisted by two staff directors, Willem de Vries for corporate relations (also Deputy Director-General) and Henk van Tuinen for statistical policy development.

#### *Management Changes*

The Chairman of the Netherlands Central Commission of Statistics, Gijs van Aardenne, has given up the chair due to health reasons. He has been granted royal honours for his political, economic and social activities in general, and for his contributions to the management of official statistics in particular. A successor is currently being recruited.

### **Slovak Republic**

#### *Publications*

Publications made available for an international audience in 1994:

- *Statistical Yearbook of the Slovak Republic*, 1993. The 1994 issue is under preparation;
- *Slovak Republic in Figures*, 1993;
- *Slovakia 1994 – Selected Statistical Indicators*;
- *Environment in the Slovak Republic*

- *Selected Indicators in 1985–1993*;
- *Slovak Statistical Review* (quarterly magazine);
- *Statistical Bulletin* (quarterly publication containing data from Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary);
- *Monitor of the Economy in the Slovak Republic*. Publication containing the latest data on the economy in Slovakia.

#### *New Tasks*

The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic prepared its Concept of Transition and Development of Official Statistics in the Slovak Republic. The document outlines main directions up to the year 2000 and specific tasks for 1995. The office aims to implement statistical methodologies and standards of the European Union. The first progress report is expected in January 1996.

The Statistical Office has been given authorization to coordinate work on the harmonization of statistical business, administrative and taxation registers. The aim is to develop a new statistical register.

An Administrative Information System will be developed during 1995–1996 with the aim of increasing the level of informatization in the Slovak Republic. It comprises implementation of standards comparable to those used in the developed European countries.

### **Slovenia**

#### *Statistical Legislation*

In 1994 the Slovenian government accepted a new Standard Classification of Economic Activities based on the Clas-

sification NACE, Rev. 1. This classification was promulgated in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 34/94 and replaced the old federal Classification EKD (the Unified Classification of Activities). The acceptance of this new classification is an important step towards the harmonisation of Slovenian statistics with those of the European Union and the United Nations in the field of official statistics.

### *Publications*

In order to inform international users about our latest statistical data we have published a bilingual *Statistical Yearbook* (Slovene-English). Four other publications on the Population Census 1991; Labour Force Survey; Foreign Trade Statistics; and, National Accounts have also been translated.

### *Meetings*

The Statistical Office will host the international Working Party on Migration Statistics. It will be held in June 1995 and will be organised together with Eurostat for countries of the Central European Initiative, including some other Eastern and Baltic countries. The preparations are in progress.

### *New Tasks*

In the next few months we can expect the adoption and promulgation of Slovenian Law on Business Register which will be governed and maintained by our Statistical Office. The proposed bill is based on the appropriate regulations of the European Union.

## **The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

### *Statistical Legislation*

A Draft-Act on Statistics as well as a Draft National Programme for Statistical Surveys and an Act on Business Registers are under preparation. The Act on Statistics will incorporate the principles of official statistics of the Conference of European Statisticians, recommendations of international organisations as well as experiences of statistical offices of developed states.

### *Publications*

Publications of interest for an international audience are:

- *Statistical Yearbook* (700 pp.) which is the most complete publication of the Statistical Office; it contains systematised data of all areas of social life and work of the Republic, municipalities and cities in the country;
- *Basic Economic Data*. New monthly publication which gives information about the economic situation in the country through data on population, employment, living standards, national accounts, investments, financial indicators, etc.;
- *Historic Statistical Data*;
- *Short-term Statistical Data about Economic Movements* is a monthly publication which provides information about industrial production, construction, transport, trade, tourism and catering, prices, cost of living, employment and wages;
- *Monthly Statistical Report* gives monthly information about the business cycle;
- *Statistical Reviews* (ten issues), contains detailed annual results for po-



pulation, agriculture, social product, industry, employment, education, etc.

## **Turkey**

### *Management Changes*

As of 27 January 1995, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Kaytaz has been appointed to the post of President of the State Institute of Statistics, Prime Ministry, Republic of Turkey, Professor Orhan Güvenen has left the Institute to take up his new post as Turkey's Ambassador to the OECD in Paris.

### *Publications*

Since all publications produced by our Institute are bilingual, Turkish and English, international audiences can benefit from our publications. The data presented in some publications are also made available to researchers on diskettes for use on their personal computers. The catalogue covering detailed information on the publications is available upon request.

## **United Kingdom**

### *Management Changes*

It was announced on 28 February that Professor Tim Holt, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Leverhulme Professor of Social Statistics at the University of Southampton, has been appointed as Director of the Central Statistical Office and Head of the Government Statistical Service. He will take up duty on 1 July for a period of three years which can be extended. Over his career, Professor Holt has been prominent in statistical work in

the UK and internationally, and has worked in Statistics Canada. William McLennan will return to Australia in April to head the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

## **Uzbekistan**

### *Management Changes*

Mr. R.A. Saifullin has been nominated Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Statistics of Uzbekistan.

### *Statistical Legislation*

The following legislations on statistics have been passed:

- The law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on State Statistics, September 1993;
- Resolution of the Cabinet Ministers on a State transition Programme to adjust its accounting system and statistical practices to international standards, August 1994;
- Resolution of the Cabinet Ministers to establish a standardization State register of enterprises and the classification of all forms of property and management, November 1994.

### *Publications*

*Main economic indicators of the Republic of Uzbekistan*, 1994.

## **Yugoslavia**

### *Management Changes*

Milovan Zivkovic, M.A. in economic sciences, Serbian (53), has been nominated Director of the Federal Statistical

Office in October 1994. Mr. Zivkovic has graduated from the Higher School of Statistics in Belgrade in 1963 and from the Faculty of Economy in 1965. He speaks German and has a passive knowledge of English. He has spent almost all his working life in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia where he started as a trainee. He contributed to the development of Serbian and Yugoslav statistics and has been cooperating with government bodies, economic associations, scientific institutions and Statistical Bureaus of other countries. Mr. Zivkovic has published papers in the field of national account statistics.

### *Statistical Legislation*

The Federal Assembly passed in November 1994 a new law on the System of Statistical Research. This law regulates and harmonizes the programme of statistical research on demographic, economic, social and other current phenomena needed by government and the public. The law sets out the uniform methodologies and statistical standard to be applied.

Data from statistical research is public, but the provision of individual data is limited by the law to protect individuals and enterprises.