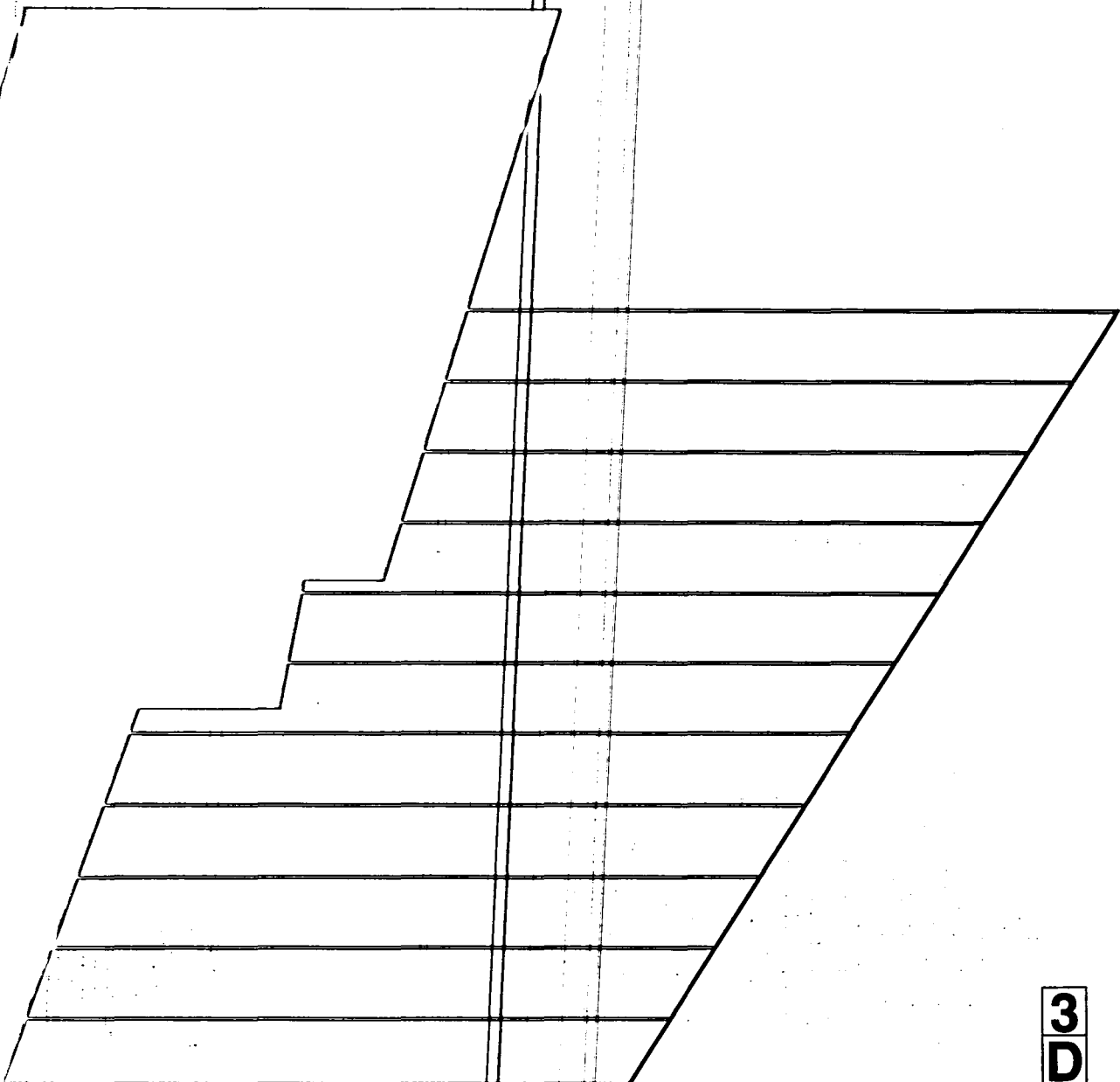




DIGEST OF STATISTICS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION IN EUROPE

Volume 8: General neediness

LIBRARY



USCE: 15 00

**3
D**

STATISTISCHES AMT DER EUROPÄISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFTEN
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
OFFICE STATISTIQUE DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES

L-2920 Luxembourg — Tél. 43 01-1 — Télex COMEUR LU 3423
B-1049 Bruxelles, rue de la Loi 200 — Tél. 299 11 11

Eurostat hat die Aufgabe, den Informationsbedarf der Kommission und aller am Aufbau des Binnenmarktes Beteiligten mit Hilfe des europäischen statistischen Systems zu decken.

Um der Öffentlichkeit die große Menge an verfügbaren Daten zugänglich zu machen und Benutzern die Orientierung zu erleichtern, werden zwei Arten von Publikationen angeboten: Statistische Dokumente und Veröffentlichungen.

Statistische Dokumente sind für den Fachmann konzipiert und enthalten das ausführliche Datenmaterial: Bezugsdaten, bei denen die Konzepte allgemeinbekannt, standardisiert und wissenschaftlich fundiert sind. Diese Daten werden in einer sehr tiefen Gliederung dargeboten. Die Statistischen Dokumente wenden sich an Fachleute, die in der Lage sind, selbständig die benötigten Daten aus der Fülle des dargebotenen Materials auszuwählen. Diese Daten sind in gedruckter Form und/oder auf Diskette, Magnetband, CD-ROM verfügbar. Statistische Dokumente unterscheiden sich auch optisch von anderen Veröffentlichungen durch den mit einer stilisierten Graphik versehenen weißen Einband.

Die zweite Publikationsart, die Veröffentlichungen, wenden sich an eine ganz bestimmte Zielgruppe, wie zum Beispiel an den Bildungsbereich oder an Entscheidungsträger in Politik und Verwaltung. Sie enthalten ausgewählte und auf die Bedürfnisse einer Zielgruppe abgestellte und kommentierte Informationen. Eurostat übernimmt hier also eine Art Beraterrolle.

Für einen breiteren Benutzerkreis gibt Eurostat Jahrbücher und periodische Veröffentlichungen heraus. Diese enthalten statistische Ergebnisse für eine erste Analyse sowie Hinweise auf weiteres Datenmaterial für vertiefende Untersuchungen. Diese Veröffentlichungen werden in gedruckter Form und in Datenbanken angeboten, die in Menütechnik zugänglich sind.

Um Benutzern die Datensuche zu erleichtern, hat Eurostat Themenkreise, d. h. eine Untergliederung nach Sachgebieten, eingeführt. Daneben sind sowohl die Statistischen Dokumente als auch die Veröffentlichungen in bestimmte Reihen, wie zum Beispiel „Jahrbücher“, „Konjunktur“, „Methoden“, untergliedert, um den Zugriff auf die statistischen Informationen zu erleichtern.

Y. Franchet
Generaldirektor

It is Eurostat's responsibility to use the European statistical system to meet the requirements of the Commission and all parties involved in the development of the single market.

To ensure that the vast quantity of accessible data is made widely available, and to help each user make proper use of this information, Eurostat has set up two main categories of document: statistical documents and publications.

The statistical document is aimed at specialists and provides the most complete sets of data: reference data where the methodology is well established, standardized, uniform and scientific. These data are presented in great detail. The statistical document is intended for experts who are capable of using their own means to seek out what they require. The information is provided on paper and/or on diskette, magnetic tape, CD-ROM. The white cover sheet bears a stylized motif which distinguishes the statistical document from other publications.

The publications proper tend to be compiled for a well-defined and targeted public, such as educational circles or political and administrative decision-makers. The information in these documents is selected, sorted and annotated to suit the target public. In this instance, therefore, Eurostat works in an advisory capacity.

Where the readership is wider and less well defined, Eurostat provides the information required for an initial analysis, such as yearbooks and periodicals which contain data permitting more in-depth studies. These publications are available on paper or in Videotext databases.

To help the user focus his research, Eurostat has created 'themes' i.e. a subject classification. The statistical documents and publications are listed by series, e.g. yearbooks, short-term trends or methodology, in order to facilitate access to the statistical data.

Y. Franchet
Director-General

Pour établir, évaluer ou apprécier les différentes politiques communautaires, la Commission des Communautés européennes a besoin d'informations.

Eurostat a pour mission, à travers le système statistique européen, de répondre aux besoins de la Commission et de l'ensemble des personnes impliquées dans le développement du marché unique.

Pour mettre à la disposition de tous l'importante quantité de données accessibles et faire en sorte que chacun puisse s'orienter correctement dans cet ensemble, deux grandes catégories de documents ont été créées: les documents statistiques et les publications.

Le document statistique s'adresse aux spécialistes. Il fournit les données les plus complètes: données de référence où la méthodologie est bien connue, standardisée, normalisée et scientifique. Ces données sont présentées à un niveau très détaillé. Le document statistique est destiné aux experts capables de rechercher, par leurs propres moyens, les données requises. Les informations sont alors disponibles sur papier et/ou sur disquette, bande magnétique, CD-ROM. La couverture blanche ornée d'un graphisme stylisé démarque le document statistique des autres publications.

Les publications proprement dites peuvent, être réalisées pour un public bien déterminé, ciblé, par exemple l'enseignement ou les décideurs politiques ou administratifs. Des informations sélectionnées, triées et commentées en fonction de ce public lui sont apportées. Eurostat joue, dès lors, le rôle de conseiller.

Dans le cas d'un public plus large, moins défini, Eurostat procure des éléments nécessaires à une première analyse, les annuaires et les périodiques, dans lesquels figurent les renseignements adéquats pour approfondir l'étude. Ces publications sont présentées sur papier ou dans des banques de données de type vidéotex.

Pour aider l'utilisateur à s'orienter dans ses recherches, Eurostat a créé les thèmes, c'est-à-dire une classification par sujet. Les documents statistiques et les publications sont répertoriés par série — par exemple, annuaire, conjoncture, méthodologie — afin de faciliter l'accès aux informations statistiques.

Y. Franchet
Directeur général

DIGEST OF STATISTICS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION IN EUROPE

Volume 8: General neediness

Theme
Population and social conditions
Series
Studies and analyses

3
D

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the official opinions of the institutions of the European Communities.

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1994

ISBN 92-826-8414-8

© ECSC-EC-EAEC, Brussels • Luxembourg, 1994

Reproduction is authorized, except for commercial purposes, provided the source is acknowledged.

Printed in Italy

CONTENTS

Part I INTRODUCTION

1.	Objectives	6
2.	Classifications	6
3.	Method used to compile the Digest	7
4.	Presentation of data	8
5.1.	General Neediness function: Content	8
5.2.	General Neediness function: Definitions of types of benefit	8

Part II COUNTRY TABLES: Benefit expenditure and number of beneficiaries

Belgium	12
Denmark	14
Germany	16
Greece	18
Spain	20
France	22
Ireland	24
Italy	26
Luxembourg	28
The Netherlands	30
Portugal	32
United Kingdom	34

Part III ANALYSIS AND COMPARATIVE TABLES

1.	Defining General Neediness	38
2.	General Neediness expenditure: differences among the Member States	38
3.	The Guaranteed Minimum Income	40
4.	Other forms of general neediness benefits	42
5.	Comparative tables	
1.	Amounts of benefit by type - 1991	43
2.	Index of amounts of benefit by type: national currencies at 1985 prices	44
3.	Trends in amounts of benefit in national currencies at 1985 prices	45
4.	Amounts of benefit as a % of GDP and per capita	46

Part IV DESCRIPTIVE FORMS BY TYPE OF BENEFIT

Belgium	48
Denmark	49
Germany	53
Greece	56
Spain	58
France	60
Ireland	61
Italy	63
Luxembourg	64
The Netherlands	66
Portugal	68
United Kingdom	73

At regular intervals Eurostat publishes aggregated data on current social protection expenditure and receipts (1), which are compiled and presented using the ESSPROS methodology (2). One classification of the benefits is by "functions", in other words by risk covered.

The Digest of Statistics on Social Protection in Europe - of which this publication represents Volume VIII devoted to the General Neediness function - provides more detailed information and data on total benefits paid and numbers of beneficiaries.

1. Objectives

The purpose of the Digest of Statistics on Social Protection in Europe is to obtain, in respect of each function, a breakdown by type of benefits paid and the corresponding number of beneficiaries.

This breakdown, specific to each function and common to all member states, should allow more accurate European comparisons (cf. Part III) and in-depth national analyses (cf. Part II) to be undertaken in parallel, and the two approaches to be combined.

The fact sheets describing the main features of national benefits (cf. Part IV) for a given function - i.e. the agency which provides the benefits, the conditions governing the granting of the benefits and the method of calculating them - can greatly assist interpretation of the data.

Finally, data collection at two different levels - that is, at the level of the "agencies" or administrative units in the case of ordinary ESSPROS statistics, and at the level of national benefits in the case of data in the Digest - enables valuable data cross-checking.

2. Classifications

ESSPROS classifies social protection benefits as follows (3):

- by country
- by function (or social risk)
- by scheme (or grouping of administrative units referred to as agencies)
- by type of benefit (general types, identical for all functions).

The classification and presentation of statistical results in the Digest are based on this ESSPROS classification, subject to the following clarifications:

a) Each volume of the Digest contains data (benefits paid and numbers of beneficiaries) for one of the twelve functions. Volume VIII covers the General Neediness function as defined in point 5.1 of this introduction.

b) The data are presented by country (Part II), and summarized in comparative tables (Part III).

c) Generally, national benefit types are classified in three groups of schemes:

- Basic schemes - first "pillar"
- Supplementary schemes - second "pillar"
- Means-tested welfare schemes

These correspond to the ESSPROS groups of schemes.

As a reminder, but without repeating the full definitions in the methodology, the basic schemes (paragraph 317) are schemes which, pursuant to the provisions of laws or regulations, provide for primary protection against one or more risks.

The supplementary schemes, also known as complementary in the ESSPROS methodology (paragraph 326), are schemes which presuppose that, in the case in question, primary benefits are being granted under a basic scheme.

The means-tested welfare schemes are known as "schemes relating to other forms of social protection" in ESSPROS (paragraph 329). The schemes covered by this group are those which aim to provide a minimum income to those without sufficient means.

The first two groups of schemes in ESSPROS, however, are not relevant to the General Neediness function. Only the means-tested welfare schemes relate to this volume of the Digest.

d) The types of benefits considered in this Digest, being specific to each function, differ from the types of benefits in ESSPROS (paragraph 605) which are common to all the functions and are therefore more general (see classification plan on next page).

ESSPROS	DIGEST - VOL VIII: GENERAL NEEDINESS
<p style="text-align: center;">TYPES OF BENEFIT (same for all functions)</p> <p>Cash benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . income maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long term periodic - short term periodic - paid once only . to compensate for special expenditure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long term periodic - short term periodic - paid one only . other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long term periodic - short term periodic - paid once only <p>Benefits in kind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . reimbursement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - medical care - social assistance - other reimbursement . directly provided benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - medical care - social assistance - other direct benefits 	<p style="text-align: center;">TYPES OF BENEFIT (specific to the general neediness function)</p> <p>Cash benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . guaranteed minimum income . discretionary welfare payments . other cash benefits <p>Benefits in kind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . basic goods . welfare services

This change reflects the attempt to obtain uniform classifications for all countries in the way best suited to provide a cross-country analysis by function. The "types" in the Digest and in ESSPROS differ therefore not in concept, but in the level at which the benefits enjoyed by households are presented. These types are generic, for example, guaranteed minimum income and discretionary welfare payments, and group together national benefits covering the same risks as laid down by law or a specific regulation.

The various types of benefits and their definitions are listed in point 5.2 of this introduction. The national benefits are the subject of the fact sheets (Part IV).

It can be concluded from the foregoing that the Digest is based on the ESSPROS methodology, but with some adaptations of the grouping of benefits at the level of schemes and types.

3. Method used to compile the Digest

Eurostat requested an expert from each country's national administration to supply detailed data regarding the amounts of benefits paid and the numbers of beneficiaries in respect of each function, for the period 1980-1992, the data being accompanied by corresponding fact sheets.

Based on an analysis of this raw material, Eurostat compiled an initial classification of benefits for a given function common to all countries. The national benefits were subsequently allocated to this classification. The data breakdowns were rearranged, and the data and the fact sheets were completed.

This work was undertaken in close cooperation with the Member States. The link with the ordinary ESSPROS statistics was maintained throughout the procedure. Furthermore, certain corrections will be made to the ESSPROS statistics based on the results of this work.

4. Presentation of data

This introduction, containing definitions of the general neediness function and the types of benefits specific to it, is followed by country tables for the years 1980 to 1992 (Part II). These tables provide two series of data, the sum of benefits paid expressed in national currency (table 1) and the number of beneficiaries by national benefit type (table 2).

Part III contains an analysis of the data on the basis of comparative tables. This part of the publication gives an overview of the trends and of the structure of benefit expenditure on general neediness in the Community as a whole and in each of the Member States.

Part IV contains fact sheets describing the main characteristics of national benefit types for the general neediness function. The information concerns the agencies which provide the benefits, the conditions governing the award of the benefits and the method of calculating them.

It should be noted that in order to facilitate the comparison of structures, the tables list all types of benefits, both when the data are not available (indicated by a colon ":") and when they do not exist in the Member State in question (indicated by a hyphen "-").

5.1 General neediness function: content

This function includes all benefits granted because of a recognized lack of resources, regardless of the existence of a cause or conditions coming under the terms of the other functions (4).

This includes the following:

(a) assistance for destitute persons in so far as the contingency responsible for their lack of resources cannot be classified under another function;

(b) social welfare assistance for the homeless;

(c) social welfare assistance in the general context of the campaign against poverty.

5.2 General neediness function: definitions of types of benefit

The benefits may be in cash (various categories of assistance) or in kind (goods or services).

Cash benefits

11. Guaranteed minimum income: benefits paid to people falling below a certain poverty line or to people who do not meet the social conditions required for integration into community life. The benefits may be short or long term, paid to the individual or family, and provided by central or local government - e.g. Periodic Assistance (ABW) in the Netherlands.

12. Discretionary welfare payments: cash support for poor or destitute people, designed to meet a particular subsistence need - e.g. Resettling Assistance in Denmark.

13. Other cash benefits: cash payments provided to help alleviate poverty but which cannot be classified as either of the above - e.g. "Casa da Misericórdia" miscellaneous allowances in Portugal.

Benefits in kind

21. Basic goods: provision of items such as food, clothing, fuel and furniture, to ensure the recipients achieve minimum subsistence conditions, either directly or by means of reimbursement - e.g. heating allowance in Luxembourg.

22. Welfare services: services provided to help people in poverty, such as counselling, day shelter, assistance in discharging daily tasks, institutional care, emergency assistance - e.g. CPAS benefits in Belgium.

Footnotes:

(1) cf. "Social Protection Expenditure and Receipts 1980 - 1992". Expenditure mainly comprises social protection benefits paid plus management agency operating costs.

(2) European System of integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS).

(3) Eurostat, ESSPROS methodology, volume I, 1981.

(4) See ESSPROS methodology, paragraph 538.

GENERAL NEEDINESS

CLASSIFICATION PLAN OF TYPES OF BENEFITS

GS	GT	T	
3			MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES
	10		Cash Benefits
		11	. Guaranteed Minimum income
		12	. Discretionary welfare payments
		13	. Other cash benefits
	20		Benefits in Kind
		21	. Basic goods
		22	. Welfare services

GS: Group of schemes
 GT: Group of types of benefit
 T : Types of benefit

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Belgium

Table 1: Benefits in Mio BFR

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			2168	2369	2611	2794	2996	3050	3057	3022	4651	4884	5153	5513	:
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	2168	2369	2611	2794	2996	3050	3057	3022	4651	4884	5153	5513	:
				- Minimum means of existence (Minimex)												
		12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				. Discretionary welfare payments												
		13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				. Other cash benefits												
	20			9250	10419	11200	12205	12468	12919	13349	14155	12428	13014	13725	14548	:
				Benefits in kind												
		21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				. Basic goods												
		22		. Welfare services												
			2	9250	10419	11200	12205	12468	12919	13349	14155	12428	13014	13725	14548	:
				- Benefits provided by CPAS												
				11418	12788	13811	14999	15464	15969	16406	17177	17079	17898	18878	20061	:
				TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS												

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Belgium

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries (x1000) at 31 December

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3																
	10															
		11														
			1	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
		12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20															
		21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		22														
			2	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Denmark

Table 1: Benefits in Mio DKR

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			:	:	:	4841.3	4976.4	4931.0	4834.2	5415.1	6006.4	6712.4	7181.3	8032.4	:
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	:	:	:	3790.3	2100.0	2179.7	2174.7	2552.6	2847.3	3009.2	3068.1	3429.1	:
			2	:	:	:	16.7	1325.0	1253.0	1136.9	1417.6	1741.1	2099.8	2347.6	2691.9	:
			3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105.0	178.4	224.4	197.0	:
			4	:	:	:	256.8	232.5	191.5	183.9	91.7	-	-	-	-	-
			5	:	:	:	0.1	177.1	144.9	134.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
			6	:	:	:	760.4	894.3	883.4	906.4	1009	931.3	1050.9	1176.3	1366.8	:
			7	:	:	:	2.2	230.4	260.3	278.5	323.0	357.7	351.2	341.8	337.9	:
			8	:	:	:	14.8	17.1	18.2	18.9	21.2	24.0	22.9	23.1	9.7	:
		13		. Other cash benefits												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20			Benefits in kind												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	21			. Basic goods												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	22			. Welfare services												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS												
				:	:	:	4841.3	4976.4	4931.0	4834.2	5415.1	6006.4	6712.4	7181.3	8032.4	:

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Germany

Table 1: Benefits in Mio DM

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS--TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			4085	4488	5058	5529	6176	7353	8563	9169	9797	10813	11827	11976	:
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	2579	2882	3449	3945	4420	5312	6413	7037	7522	8217	9091	9250	:
			2	448	435	407	411	390	391	388	380	366	357	324	304	:
			3	12	20	21	21	20	19	18	17	16	14	14	14	:
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
			4	688	746	766	803	900	1206	1438	1556	1633	1736	1805	1828	:
			5	28	35	34	36	40	41	42	44	48	53	59	64	:
			:	330	370	381	313	406	384	264	135	212	436	534	516	:
		13		. Other Cash Benefits												
			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20			268	382	420	443	433	457	546	587	937	1292	1494	1448	:
		21		. Basic goods												
			6	268	382	420	443	433	457	546	587	937	1292	1494	1448	:
		22		. Welfare services												
			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				4353	4870	5478	5972	6609	7810	9109	9756	10734	12105	13321	13424	:

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Spain

Table 1: Benefits in Mio PTA

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			442	497	558	627	705	792	890	962	1039	1122	2012	6309	:
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	- Periodic income support												
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
			2	- Lump sum benefit												
		13		. Other cash benefits												
	20			6069	7214	7809	8841	9842	10931	11999	13015	14119	15499	16813	18336	:
		21		. Basic goods												
		22		. Welfare services												
			3	- Social services for refugees												
			4	- Miscellaneous social services (reimbursements)												
			4	- Misc. social services (directly provided benefits)												
				6511	7711	8367	9468	10547	11723	12889	13977	15158	16621	18825	24645	:
				TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS												

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Spain

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries (x1000) at 31 December

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	
3																	
				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES													
	10			Cash benefits													
		11	. Guaranteed minimum income - Periodic income support	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	:	:	:
		12	. Discretionary welfare payments - Lump sum benefit	2	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
		13	. Other cash benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20			Benefits in kind													
		21	. Basic goods		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		22	. Welfare services														
			- Social services for refugees	3	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
			- Miscellaneous social services (reimbursements)	4	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
			- Misc. social services (directly provided benefits)	4	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Footnote:

All figures are estimates

GENERAL NEEDINESS

France

Table 1: Benefits in Mio FF

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	
3																	
				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES													
	10			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6082	10024	11793	13522
	11																
				. Guaranteed minimum income													
				- Minimum insertion income (RMI) (a)													
			1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6082	10024	11793	13522
	12			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				. Discretionary welfare payments													
	13			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				. Other cash benefits													
	20			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Benefits in kind													
	21			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				. Basic goods													
	22			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				. Welfare services													
				TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS													
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6082	10024	11793	13522

GENERAL NEEDINESS

France

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries (x1000) at 31 December

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3																
				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			Cash benefits												
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	407.1	510.1	582.4	671.2
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		13		. Other cash benefits												
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20			Benefits in kind												
		21		. Basic goods												
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		22		. Welfare services												
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Footnote:

(a) The RMI (Revenu Minimum d'Insertion) was introduced in December 1988

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Ireland

Table 1: Benefits in Mio IRL

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			7.7	13.6	25.4	25.3	30.1	32.1	34.3	36.4	38.9	41.3	54.1	67.1	:
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	5.3	10.4	21.6	21.1	25.5	27.8	29.8	31.9	34.3	36.5	48.9	61.9	69.5
			2	- Supplementary welfare allowance (a)												
				2.5	3.2	3.8	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.8	5.2	5.2	:
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
			-	-												
		13		. Other cash benefits												
			-	-												
	20			10.7	17.5	18.4	19.7	20.3	24.4	28.0	29.4	27.4	27.5	31.0	36.0	:
		21		. Basic goods												
			3	9.6	16.3	17.1	18.5	19.0	23.0	26.5	27.9	25.9	25.9	29.5	34.4	:
			4	- National fuel scheme												
				1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	:
				- School meals												
		22		. Welfare services												
			-	-												
				18.4	31.1	43.9	45.0	50.3	56.4	62.3	65.8	66.3	68.7	85.1	103.1	:
				TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS												

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Ireland

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries (x1000) at 31 December

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3																
	10															
		11														
			1	:	:	:	46.0	51.3	52.9	55.3	56.0	54.1	51.6	61.8	69.0	80.2
			2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	:
		12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20															
		21														
			3	:	:	:	153.1	157.2	168.6	177.0	180.7	235.6	210.4	219.7	230.0	:
			4	:	:	63.9	63.0	68.0	69.6	73.7	69.2	:	:	:	:	:
		22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Footnote:

(a) Includes child dependant additions which are also in the family function

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Italy

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries (x1000) at 31 December

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3																
	10															
		11														
			1	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
		12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20															
		21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Luxembourg

Table 1: Benefits in Mio LFR

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			340.7	383.9	478.6	575.3	594.3	577.3	581.6	779.4	958.2	1010.9	1114.9	1254.1	1320.3
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	198.7	216.0	233.4	247.6	259.1	258.4	279.4	542.9	749.4	815.2	938.8	1096.0	1176.2
			2	142.0	167.9	245.2	327.7	335.2	318.9	302.2	236.5	208.8	195.7	176.1	158.1	144.1
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
		13		. Other cash benefits												
	20			–	–	–	13.3	34.4	41.0	36.7	24.3	5.6	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.7
		21		. Basic goods												
			3	–	–	–	13.3	34.4	41.0	36.7	24.3	5.6	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.7
		22		. Welfare services												
				–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
				TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS												
				340.7	383.9	478.6	588.6	628.7	618.3	618.3	803.7	963.8	1012.5	1117.4	1255.8	1322.0

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Luxembourg

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries (x1000) at 31 December

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			Cash benefits												
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	:	:	:	:	:	2.2	2.4	3.4	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.5
			2	10.5	10.0	9.6	9.5	9.2	8.8	7.0	6.5	5.9	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.2
				- Guaranteed minimum income (RMG)												
				- Cost of living allowance												
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		13		. Other cash benefits												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20			Benefits in kind												
		21		. Basic goods												
			3	-	-	-	3.1	4.1	3.6	3.1	3.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
				- Heating allowance												
		22		. Welfare services												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL NEEDINESS

The Netherlands

Table 1: Benefits in Mio HFL

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES													
		10		Cash benefits													
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income													
				1	2591	2856	3257	3278	3501	3651	3624	3741	3813	3766	3996	4315	4493
				2	-	55	131	192	433	391	353	33	201	64	18	-	-
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments													
				3	60	57	69	63	74	74	63	28	43	68	40	:	:
		13		. Other cash benefits													
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		20		Benefits in kind													
	21		. Basic goods														
	22		. Welfare services														
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
				TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS													
				2651	2968	3457	3533	4008	4116	4040	3802	4057	3898	4054	4315	4493	

GENERAL NEEDINESS

The Netherlands

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries (x1000) at 31 December

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			Cash benefits												
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	171.0	178.0	189.0	189.0	199.0	208.0	208.0	230.0	218.0	221.0	220.0	218.0	191.0
				- Periodic assistance (ABW)												
			2	-	:	224.0	394.0	518.0	583.0	454.0	308.0	-	-	-	-	-
				- Benefit to increase purchasing power												
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
			3	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
				- Occasional assistance (ABW)												
		13		. Other cash benefits												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20			Benefits in kind												
		21		. Basic goods												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		22		. Welfare services												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Footnote:

(a) Benefit ceased in 1988

GENERAL NEEDINESS

Portugal

Table 1: Benefits in Mio ESC

GS	GT	T	Form.n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992		
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES														
	10			:	:	:	1377.3	1537.2	1706.2	1980.7	2182.4	2445.1	2590.4	2915.1	2706.2	:		
		11	.	Guaranteed minimum income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		12	.	Discretionary welfare payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		13	.	Other cash benefits														
			-	Casa da Misericordia miscellaneous allowances	1	:	:	:	336.0	397.7	447.7	515.8	823.7	1023.0	1066.7	1213.0	893.2	:
			-	Social solidarity institution allowances	2	:	:	:	411.0	390.0	391.0	388.0	380.0	366.0	357.0	324.0	304.0	:
			-	Red Cross allowances	3	2.1	2.3	3.3	7.1	8.4	7.4	12.4	10.8	14.5	17.4	19.3	21.2	:
			-	IGFSS occasional payments	4	652.4	732.5	601.6	623.2	741.0	860.2	1064.4	967.9	1041.6	1149.3	1358.9	1487.9	:
	20			Benefits in kind		:	:	:	1320.8	3198.8	2703.4	3301.6	4166.0	4016.7	5382.4	5764.3	5540.3	:
		21	.	Basic goods														
			-	Social solidarity institution goods	5	2.0	2.3	2.5	14.6	18.1	15.5	20.5	38.6	23.1	27.8	33.8	53.9	:
			-	Red Cross goods	6	6.2	3.8	2.5	4.1	2.5	8.2	21.1	43.9	59.0	73.4	88.1	70.4	:
		22	.	Welfare services														
			-	Casa da Misericordia services	7	:	:	:	155.7	1950.5	2176.1	2797.7	3808.3	3711.0	5044.1	5389.1	4925.4	:
			-	Red Cross services	8	4.3	6.3	8.8	43.2	48.2	73.1	76.8	109.3	143.3	174.5	209.5	167.5	:
			-	IGFSS services for the homeless	9	18.4	43.0	293.5	1103.3	1179.4	430.6	385.5	165.9	80.3	62.6	43.8	323.1	:
				TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS		:	:	:	2698.1	4735.9	4409.7	5282.3	6348.4	6461.8	7972.8	8679.4	8246.5	:

GENERAL NEEDINESS

United Kingdom

Table 1: Benefits in Mio UKL

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			1504	1943	2448	2454	2937	3225	4032	4569	4867	5404	6401	7696	:
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	- Supplementary benefit / Income support (a)												
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
			2,3	- Supplementary benefit / Social fund												
		13		. Other cash benefits												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20			479	480	499	519	527	522	559	546	469	503	518	530	:
		21		. Basic goods												
			4	- Free school milk and/or meals												
		22		. Welfare services												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				1983	2423	2947	2973	3464	3747	4591	5115	5336	5907	6919	8226	:

GENERAL NEEDINESS

United Kingdom

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries (x1000) at 31 December

GS	GT	T	Form n°	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3				MEANS-TESTED WELFARE SCHEMES												
	10			Cash benefits												
		11		. Guaranteed minimum income												
			1	2339	2488	2579	2662	2801	2827	3083	3187	2963	3055	3089	3207	3665
		12		. Discretionary welfare payments												
			2,3	497	369	685	688	901	:	1190	1475	:	:	:	:	:
		13		. Other cash benefits												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20			Benefits in kind												
		21		. Basic goods												
			4	:	:	1397	1504	1594	1583	1588	1547	990	975	1036	1234	:
		22		. Welfare services												
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Footnotes:

- (a) Minimum guaranteed income does not include benefits granted for unemployed
Income support replaced Supplementary benefit in 1988
An estimation for the year 1992



Part III ANALYSIS AND COMPARATIVE TABLES

This publication presents the results of a statistical study of General Neediness benefits granted between 1980 and 1992, carried out by Eurostat in collaboration with the twelve Member States of the European Union.

Following on from the previous seven volumes concerning other areas of social protection, this volume attempts to provide as complete a picture as possible of general neediness benefits and how Member States protect their poorest citizens. As before, a common classification has been applied to disaggregated benefit data. These statistics on levels of benefit provided and numbers of beneficiaries gives a new insight into this area of social protection and allows comparisons between Member States to be made.

Four countries - France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom - were able to provide data for 1992. For the remaining countries, the final year of reference is 1991. The statistics available for each country are shown in detail in Part II (tables I and II by country, where ":" indicates missing data). This chapter summarises the main findings and, accompanied by comparative tables and graphs, attempts to clarify and explain the disparities between Member States regarding provision of general neediness benefits.

N.B. Throughout this volume, reference to Germany refers to the territorial situation of the Federal Republic prior to October 1990; statistics for the former GDR are not yet available.

1. Defining General Neediness

General Neediness represents to some extent a residual function in terms of social protection. Means-tested benefits which are aimed at specific categories of risk, such as unemployment, old age, or disability, are classified in the appropriate function. Thus, if a benefit which ensures a minimum income is paid to persons specifically on the basis of old age, for example, then that would be classified in the old age function. Only when the benefit does not refer to any particular function in the system can it be classified under the General Neediness function.

Benefits which can be classified as belonging to the General Neediness function come under two categories, Cash Benefits and Benefits in Kind.

Cash Benefits primarily refers to the provision of a Guaranteed Minimum Income, or also Discretionary Welfare Payments for a particular subsistence need. Benefits in Kind can either be the provision of Basic Goods such as food, clothing and fuel, or Welfare Services such as counselling or institutional care.

These benefits are provided either by the State, at a national or a regional level, or by churches and charities at a local level.

Remarks on the comparability of data

Before making any analysis and comparisons, however, it is necessary to point out several important factors affecting comparability which the reader should be aware of.

Firstly, because of the type of benefits which are classified under this function, it is unavoidable that large gaps in the data exist, both in terms of expenditure and numbers of beneficiaries. Almost all Member States could not provide complete data, although for some the deficiency is more apparent than others. Thus, interpretation of the figures should be treated with caution.

Secondly, as general neediness benefits can come under many different guises, it is perhaps only the Guaranteed Minimum Income schemes which are really comparable across the Community. Having said that, however, it is still possible to gain an overall impression of how Member States help alleviate poverty, albeit an approximate one.

Thirdly, in order to fully understand how the poor population is covered within each Member State, one cannot examine this volume alone but rather in conjunction with the previously published volumes regarding social protection. For example, in Portugal and Greece there are no real general neediness benefits provided by the state but this has to be considered in conjunction with how poor people are covered by other functions.

2. General Neediness expenditure: differences among the Member States

Owing to insufficient data on numbers of beneficiaries, it is not possible to relate total benefit expenditure to beneficiaries. Instead, all ratios have to be based on more general demographic data. It is also difficult to examine

changes over the period in question throughout the EU as a whole, again owing to incomplete time series.

If we look at 1991, the last year of complete data, total expenditure on General Neediness throughout the EU was 23731 million ECU (Italy excluded due to lack of data). Of this, almost 50% was attributable to the UK whereas Greece provides no social protection, at least in terms of cash benefits.

Table A: General Neediness Benefits in 1991 - total expenditure (million ECU), as a % of GDP, and per capita (PPS)

	expenditure (mio ECU)	as a % of GDP	per capita (PPS)
B	475.1	0.30	46.6
DK	1015.6	0.96	150.8
D	6545.1	0.51	96.4
GR	:	:	:
E	191.8	0.04	5.2
F	1691.2	0.17	29.1
IRL	134.3	0.37	39.9
I	:	:	:
L	29.7	0.39	82.3
NL	1867.0	0.80	124.2
P	46.2	0.07	6.8
UK	11735.1	1.44	211.5
EUR	23731.1	0.50	79.3

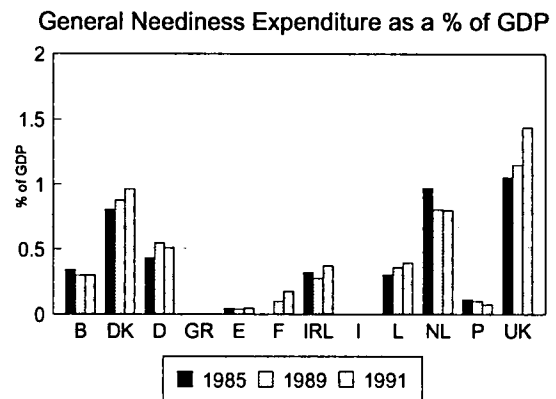
PPS - purchasing power standard

In terms of expenditure per capita and as a percentage of the GDP, the UK, Denmark and the Netherlands are noticeably higher than other Member States. This has been the case throughout since 1980, with these three countries consistently spending a higher proportion of their GDP on general neediness. For the UK, this proportion has been steadily increasing during most years since 1980, and in Denmark also since 1986. In the case of the Netherlands, however, the proportion has been gradually decreasing since 1984 - expenditure on general neediness was actually lower in 1989 than in 1985 even without taking inflation into account.

In Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg, the proportion has increased gradually throughout

the 1980s whereas in Belgium, Spain and Portugal, expenditure as a percentage of GDP has not changed significantly since 1980. In the case of Spain and Portugal, their GDP, along with Greece, has been amongst the fastest growing in the EU.

Graph A: Expenditure as a percentage of GDP - comparing 1985, 1989 and 1991



GR, I - no available data
F - only introduced in 1988

All Member States spent more on General Neediness, in real terms, in 1991 than in 1980 and only two countries, the Netherlands and Portugal, spent less in 1991 than in 1985. In real terms, spending in France has doubled between 1988 and 1992, although as a percentage of GDP it remains higher only than Spain and Portugal. In Denmark and the UK in particular, expenditure in real terms continues to grow steadily. Spending in the UK doubled between 1980 and 1991.

Comparison with expenditure in other areas of social protection

As mentioned earlier, it is important to remember that this volume should not be examined solely on its own but rather in conjunction with the other volumes of the Digest which cover social protection, in order to obtain a clearer overall picture. Table B compares expenditure on general neediness with total social protection expenditure in each of the Member States, expressed as a percentage of GDP.

Table B: Social protection expenditure (1991) - comparing general neediness expenditure with total social protection expenditure

Expenditure as a % of GDP in 1991		
	General Neediness	Total Social Protection
B	0.30 (7)	27.56 (5)
DK	0.96 (2)	30.74 (2)
D	0.51 (4)	27.01 (6)
GR	:	20.18 (11)
E	0.04 (10)	21.71 (9)
F	0.17 (8)	28.46 (3)
IRL	0.37 (6)	20.87 (10)
I	:	24.62 (8)
L	0.39 (5)	27.61 (4)
NL	0.80 (3)	32.45 (1)
P	0.07 (9)	16.90 (12)
UK	1.44 (1)	24.74 (7)
EUR	0.50	25.24

In general, expenditure on general neediness is a small proportion of what each country spends on social protection as a whole, as would be expected. The differences relate much to the coverage of the system in each country and the extent to which other areas of social protection are more widely catered for in the Member States. For example, although the UK spends the most on general neediness, expenditure on social protection as a whole is below the Community average. On the other hand, France spends below the Community average on general neediness but well above the average on total social protection.

To understand better these disparities, and with a view to obtaining a more detailed insight into how each Member State approaches the question of general neediness, it is necessary to examine more closely each benefit type, in particular cash benefits.

3. The Guaranteed Minimum Income

The majority of expenditure on the General Neediness function can be attributed to the provision of a Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI). There are two concepts of GMI existing in Europe. The first is simply the provision of

cash benefits to people who have inadequate resources to meet basic requirements. This is associated with most European countries which have a nationwide system, is often of unlimited duration, and is available to everyone who satisfies the definition of having inadequate resources. The second concept is linking the provision of a GMI with social integration and reintegration back into society. This can be associated with France and the RMI (Revenu Minimum d'Insertion).

Throughout the European Union, there are 8 countries where a GMI is paid to those left without any form of income. The Southern European countries tend not to. Neither Greece nor Portugal have general schemes, and those without assistance depend instead upon provisions by charitable organizations such as the Red Cross or the Church. In Italy and Spain, although some form of cash benefits are provided, these are largely in a decentralized nature and provided by local bodies.

Most systems in the remaining countries have been established for a long time, for example, Germany since 1961 and the Netherlands since 1963. The most recent was France where the RMI was introduced in 1988. In these 8 countries, there are many differences, not just in the amounts paid but in the conditions which have to be satisfied.

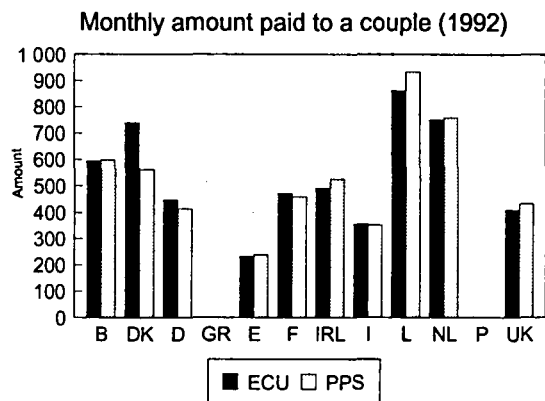
The amounts paid, if any, vary considerably between the Member States. Indeed, a recommendation by the Council on 24 June 1992 (92/441/EEC) urged Member States to recognize the "basic right of a person to sufficient resources ... to cover essential needs with regards to human dignity". In other words, stating the EU's desire that the existing systems of GMI converge (taking into account the different standards of living in each country), and systems be introduced where none exist at present.

As an illustration of the differences which exist at present, Graph B examines one example of the GMI - in this case, to a married couple with no children - both in terms of monetary amounts (ECU) and taking into account the standards of living in each country (PPS).

In terms of monetary benefits, amounts varied from 226 ECU in Spain to 872 ECU in Luxembourg. The Netherlands, Denmark, and Belgium, as well as Luxembourg, also provided well above the average in 1992 to a married couple without children. The amount paid in the UK under these circumstances was 391 ECU per month, higher only than the national

averages in Spain and Italy. No general schemes exist in Portugal or Greece.

Graph B: Guaranteed Minimum Income paid to a married couple with no children (1992), amount expressed in ECU and PPS (Purchasing Power Standard)



DK - reduction after 9 months. Amounts vary for 18 to 23 year olds
 D,F,UK - housing costs not included
 D - average, varies according to Lander
 E,I - average, regional variations exist
 GR,P - no general scheme exists

If the different standards of living are taken into account, a slightly different picture emerges. For Denmark, the change is most significant, with the value of the GMI falling into line with Belgium and Ireland. However, the gap between the highest GMI and the lowest GMI remains as large.

The conditions which have to be satisfied in order to be eligible for the GMI vary considerably between Member States, and can significantly affect total expenditure. Coverage can refer to such factors as age, residency requirements, definitions of "availability for work", duration rules, amounts paid to a second adult or for children, and so on.

For example, Denmark, which has generally a high level of social protection expenditure, has also amongst the most relaxed eligibility conditions. Here, there are no age limits nor nationality conditions, the benefit is of unlimited duration, and it is the only Member State which pays 100% of the GMI to the second adult. By

way of contrast, France requires a minimum age of 25, Belgium pays 33% of the GMI to the second adult, and Luxembourg requires residency in the country for 10 years during the previous 20. The United Kingdom requires "availability for work" without really specifying what this means, whereas in Luxembourg and France the beneficiary must accept any job or vocational training courses offered or the benefit can be withdrawn.

A complete analysis is hampered not only by a general lack of data but also factors such as changes in the coverage of the system. For example, in the UK, the previous system of Supplementary Benefit was replaced by Income Support in April 1988. Two rates - an ordinary rate and a higher long-term rate - were replaced by one, and the methods of calculating resources were different. Furthermore, in September 1988 changes were made which resulted in the majority of 16 to 17 year olds becoming ineligible. This type of change affects both total expenditure and numbers of beneficiaries.

Numbers of beneficiaries

Examining numbers of beneficiaries is particularly hazardous as this is an area where collection of statistics can be difficult, especially in terms of isolating numbers who specifically receive each benefit. Also, due to the fact that the same person can be eligible for more than one general neediness benefit, it is not possible to add up numbers of beneficiaries.

The lack of data also makes it difficult to analyse changes over time, but where data does exist, the trend is that of consistently upwards in the majority of countries. The effect of the change in the UK from Supplementary Benefit to Income Support in 1988 is illustrated by the reduction in that year of numbers of beneficiaries. Thereafter, the numbers continue to grow. In the UK, numbers of GMI recipients increased by more than 50% during the period 1980 to 1992, and in France by a similar rate between 1988 and 1992. In Germany, numbers of beneficiaries more than doubled between 1980 and 1989.

If the situation at the end of 1991 is examined to obtain a snapshot impression, proportionally Denmark, Germany and the UK have the highest number of claimants, with 5% or more of the total population receiving some form of GMI.

Table C: Numbers of beneficiaries receiving GMI as at 31.12.91

	Number (x000)	% of population
B	:	:
DK	284	5.5%
D	3221	5.0%
GR	0	0.0
E	:	:
F	583	1.0%
IRL	71	2.0%
I	:	:
L	9	2.3%
NL	218	1.4%
P	0	0.0
UK	3207	5.6%

F - Overseas beneficiaries not included

4. Other forms of general neediness benefits

Although the GMI is the primary form of social protection and the type of benefit which accounts for the largest proportion of expenditure in this function, other means of assistance form a smaller, but in some countries equally important, part of protection against poverty. This refers to the remaining forms of cash benefits, primarily benefits in the form of payments for specific purposes and other cash benefits, and also benefits in kind.

Payments for specific purposes can include assistance with resettlement or education as in Denmark, or social assistance payments in Germany when it is known that the income deficiency is temporary. The Netherlands makes discretionary payments to those in need usually in connection with illness, disability or social circumstances.

A third category, other cash benefits, covers payments made which are neither to provide a GMI nor to cover a particular subsistence need. This primarily relates to the social protection system in Portugal and the financial assistance provided by the "Casa da Misericórdia" and other such non-profit organizations, which form a large part of social protection in Portugal classified under the umbrella of general neediness.

Where the social protection system for those in need is less developed, then especially benefits in kind become more significant. In Spain, for example, throughout the 1980s, spending on benefits in kind, in particular welfare services, accounted for more than 90% of total expenditure on general neediness. Only since 1990 has the provision of a GMI become more widespread, such that in 1991 spending on welfare service had reduced proportionally to 75% of total expenditure. Portugal also spends more on benefits in kind than on cash benefits, especially services provided by the "Casa da Misericórdia".

Provision of benefits in kind is not confined to southern European countries however. Belgium, for example, also spends more on benefits in kind than on cash benefits. Ireland has an extensive national fuel scheme which ensures its poorest citizens do not have to worry about fuel during the coldest months. Luxembourg also has a heating allowance, although this has diminished in significance since the mid-1980s. The primary benefit in kind available in the UK is the provision of free school milk and school meals.

1. GENERAL NEEDINESS: AMOUNTS OF BENEFIT BY TYPE – 1991

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK	EUR
	Mio ECU												
3 MEANS-TESTED SCHEMES	475.1	1015.6	6545.1	:	191.8	1691.2	134.2	:	29.7	1867.0	46.2	11735.1	23731.2
Cash benefits	130.6	1015.6	5839.1	:	49.1	1691.2	87.4	:	29.7	1867.0	15.2	10979.0	21703.9
Guaranteed minimum income	130.6	798.8	4665.0	–	38.9	1691.2	87.4	:	29.7	1867.0	–	10939.1	20247.8
Discretionary welfare payments	–	216.8	1174.1	:	10.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	39.9	1441.0
Other cash benefits	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15.2	–	15.2
Benefits in kind	344.6	–	706.0	:	142.7	–	46.8	–	0.04	–	31.0	756.1	2027.2
Basic goods	–	–	706.0	:	–	–	46.8	–	0.04	–	0.7	756.1	1509.6
Welfare services	344.6	–	–	–	142.7	–	–	–	–	–	30.3	–	517.6

Footnotes:

Greece and Italy – no data available

EUR – should be interpreted with caution given the above

2. GENERAL NEEDINESS: INDEX OF AMOUNTS OF BENEFIT BY TYPE: NATIONAL CURRENCIES AT 1985 PRICES

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK	EUR
	Index in 1991 (1980 = 100)												
3 MEANS-TESTED SCHEMES	109.2	120.2	230.1	:	148.0	181.8	258.5	:	230.5	122.8	104.5	207.9	:
Cash benefits	158.0	120.2	218.8	:	558.2	181.8	402.3	:	230.2	122.8	67.2	256.5	:
Guaranteed minimum income	158.0	112.6	234.9	-	:	181.8	402.3	:	230.2	125.7	-	261.8	:
Discretionary welfare payments	-	159.8	171.8	:	115.8	-	-	-	-	:	-	-	:
Other cash benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67.2	-	:
Benefits in kind	97.7	-	403.1	:	118.1	-	155.1	-	:	-	143.4	55.4	:
Basic goods	-	-	403.1	:	-	-	155.1	-	:	-	227.7	55.4	:
Welfare services	97.7	-	-	:	118.1	-	-	-	-	-	142.2	-	:

Footnotes:

Greece and Italy – no data available

Denmark and Portugal – index 1983 = 100 owing to missing data in previous years

France – index 1989 = 100 as no schemes specific to the general neediness function existed until 1988

Spain, the Netherlands and the UK – ":" indicates missing data

EUR – owing to missing data, a comparable index is not feasible

3. GENERAL NEEDINESS: TRENDS IN AMOUNTS OF BENEFIT IN NATIONAL CURRENCIES AT 1985 PRICES

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
	INDEX 1980 = 100												
BELGIUM	100.0	104.1	103.4	104.3	101.1	99.6	101.0	104.1	102.3	104.0	106.1	109.2	:
DENMARK	:	:	:	100.0	96.8	91.6	86.6	93.3	99.0	105.5	110.0	120.2	:
GERMANY	100.0	105.3	112.4	118.7	128.2	148.2	173.0	184.9	200.9	220.4	236.2	230.1	:
GREECE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SPAIN	100.0	103.3	98.1	98.9	99.1	102.1	103.2	106.3	110.0	112.9	119.8	148.0	:
FRANCE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	159.4	181.8	203.7
IRELAND	100.0	140.0	168.8	156.7	161.3	171.7	182.6	186.9	184.4	183.6	220.1	258.5	:
ITALY	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LUXEMBOURG	100.0	104.2	118.8	134.5	135.0	127.6	127.2	165.5	195.5	198.8	211.5	230.5	235.4
THE NETHERLANDS	100.0	105.0	115.7	115.0	126.5	127.0	124.4	117.6	124.4	118.2	120.0	122.9	123.2
PORTUGAL	:	:	:	100.0	135.7	105.9	113.6	124.8	115.9	126.8	122.0	104.5	:
UNITED KINGDOM	100.0	109.4	122.5	118.1	131.0	133.6	158.3	169.4	168.4	173.0	185.1	207.9	228.5
EUR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Footnotes:

Greece and Italy – no data available

Denmark and Portugal – index 1983 = 100 owing to missing data in previous years

France – index 1989 = 100 as no schemes specific to the general neediness function existed until 1988

EUR – owing to missing data, a comparable index is not feasible

4. GENERAL NEEDINESS: AMOUNTS OF BENEFIT AS A % OF GDP AND PER CAPITA

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK	EUR
	1980												
(1) TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS Expenditure (mio ECU)	281.2	:	1724.5	:	65.3	—	26.6	:	8.4	960.4	:	3313.3	:
(2) GDP (mio ECU)	85009.3	47755.6	583152.7	28840.5	152133.8	478501.3	13847.3	325990.1	3274.3	124082.1	20537.1	386306.8	2249430.8
(3) POPULATION (x 1000)	9846.8	5123.0	61556.3	9642.5	37386.1	53880.0	3401.0	56433.9	364.9	14149.8	9766.3	56329.7	317880.3
(1) as a % of GDP	0.3	:	0.3	:	0.04	—	0.2	:	0.3	0.8	:	0.9	:
(1) per capita	28.6	:	28.0	:	1.7	—	7.8	:	23.0	67.9	:	58.8	:
	1991												
(1) TOTAL GENERAL NEEDINESS Expenditure (mio ECU)	475.1	1015.6	6545.1	:	191.8	1691.2	134.2	:	29.7	1867.0	46.2	11735.1	23731.2
(2) GDP (mio ECU)	158809.2	105361.0	1284739.2	56844.5	426722.4	967574.9	36152.3	930437.3	7550.5	234487.2	63494.5	815691.9	5087864.9
(3) POPULATION (x 1000)	10004.5	5154.0	63725.7	10200.0	39024.9	57055.4	3523.8	56760.0	387.1	15069.6	9861.7	57800.9	328567.6
(1) as a % of GDP	0.3	1.0	0.5	:	0.04	0.2	0.4	:	0.4	0.8	0.1	1.4	0.5
(1) per capita	47.5	197.1	102.7	:	4.9	29.6	38.1	:	76.8	123.9	4.7	203.0	72.2

Footnotes:

Greece and Italy – no data available

Denmark and Portugal – no data available for 1980

France – no schemes specific to the general neediness function existed until 1988

EUR – should be interpreted with caution given the above

Part IV DESCRIPTIVE FORMS BY TYPE OF BENEFIT

BELGIUM			
Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Public social assistance centres (CPAS)	1	Local social aid administrations (CPAS)	2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Minimum means of existence: Minimex		SCOPE/BENEFIT Help to people in need	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY (a) Claimants should either be at least 18 years old, married, pregnant, or responsible for children. (b) They have to prove that they are available for work unless this is not possible due to equity or health reasons. (c) The income of the claimant must lie below the Minimex. All resources, of whatever nature or origin, are taken into account. *		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Aid is given to people in towns and cities who are not able to provide for their basic needs.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) The Minimex is set at different levels according to family composition, taking into account the number of people and age of children. The benefit is the difference between the Minimex and the family's total resources. Monthly amounts (1.7.1992): Single person: BFR 18.729 Married couple (with or without children): BFR 24.971 Single parent family: BFR 24.971 Family allowances are paid in addition. Duration: unlimited.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Services include cleaning, provision of food and budget management.	

Remarks: * Exceptions include family allowances; social assistance granted by CPAS; study allowances granted for the benefit of himself or his dependant children; donations (in certain cases).

DENMARK

Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Municipalities' social departments	1	Municipalities' social departments	2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Assistance for up to 9 months		SCOPE/BENEFIT Assistance after 9 months	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Assistance is given to persons unable to maintain themselves and their family. They must be at least 18 years old or, if younger, have a spouse or children to look after. The claimant and his or her spouse must have exhausted all possible job opportunities. They will not receive assistance if their assets could cover their financial requirements. All resources, regardless of their nature and origin, are taken into account. Eligibility is reassessed after 3 months.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The same as for assistance up to 9 months.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) There is a standard amount, which is doubled for a married couple. Supplements for children and/or housing may be paid. Monthly amounts (1.7.1992): Single person: DKR 2.909 Married couple: DKR 5.818 Supplement for children: DKR 1.122/child Family allowances are paid in addition.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) The same system as for assistance up to 9 months, but with a lower standard rate. Monthly amounts (1.7.1992): Single person: DKR 2.559 Married couple: DKR 5.118 Supplement for children: DKR 1.122/child Family allowances are paid in addition. Duration: unlimited.	

DENMARK			
Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Municipalities' social departments	3	Municipalities' social departments	4
SCOPE/BENEFIT Assistance for young people without family responsibilities		SCOPE/BENEFIT Long-term assistance (abolished 1987)	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Conditions are the same as for basic assistance (Forms 1 & 2) but this benefit is solely for young people aged 18 to 23 who are not responsible for a spouse or children. A further condition is that the claimant did not previously receive an income above the amount of the benefit.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Assistance was given to persons unable to maintain themselves and their family. They had to be over 18 or, if younger, have had a spouse or children to look after. The benefit was granted only if the needs of the person and his/her family could not be covered by benefits under social pension legislations.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) There are two rates: one for people living at home, the other for those who have left home. The rates are smaller than those for general assistance up to and beyond 9 months (Forms 1 & 2), because the claimant does not have to maintain a family and has not previously had a substantial income. Monthly amounts (1.7.1992): Living with parents: DKR 1.919 Living separately: DKR 3.198 Duration: unlimited.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) There was a standard rate for single people and married couples. There was a supplement for each child. Monthly amounts (1987): Single person: DKR 3.044 Married couple: DKR 4.580 Duration: unlimited.	

DENMARK

Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Municipalities' social departments	5	Municipalities	6
SCOPE/BENEFIT Supplementary assistance (abolished 1987)		SCOPE/BENEFIT Rehabilitation benefit, formerly education assistance	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY As for long-term assistance, except that this benefit went to those in particularly difficult circumstances, due to unusually heavy family responsibilities or high housing costs. This benefit was only paid if the applicant was previously entitled to receive assistance.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Recipients must be at least 18, or be responsible for a spouse or children. They must be unable to obtain any government education grants. The benefit is to help with all kinds of education, not just vocational training, so it is not specifically an employment promotion measure.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) No fixed amount.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) A basic benefit is granted, plus a housing supplement and supplements for any dependent children. The amounts paid depend on age and duration of need, and are the same as the rates for the benefits described in Forms 1-3. Assistance may also be granted with any special expenditure arising from education or training.	

Remarks: Rehabilitation benefit replaced education assistance in 1990.

DENMARK

Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Municipalities' social departments	7	Municipalities' social departments	8
SCOPE/BENEFIT Assistance for special expenditure		SCOPE/BENEFIT Resettling assistance	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Assistance is given to persons unable to maintain themselves and their family. They have to be over 18 or, if younger, have a spouse or children to maintain. The assistance is a one-off payment, made only if the expenditure is essential in order for the claimant to manage financially in the future.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Beneficiaries must be over 18 or be responsible for a spouse or children. They must have insufficient funds necessary to relocate, but they can be moving for any reason, not just to find employment. This benefit is mainly for relocation within Denmark, but assistance may also be given for a move abroad in special cases.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) No fixed amount.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) No fixed amount.	

Remarks: From 1991 this benefit was subsumed within assistance with special expenditure.

GERMANY

Agency Municipalities	Number of form 1	Agency Central Government	Number of form 2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Social assistance maintenance		SCOPE/BENEFIT Subsidies for maintenance, special severity funds	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Insufficient income. The benefit income plus average housing costs must remain under the lowest average wage level in the Land, with extra allowances for children and housing. All income, social allowances, and all assets are taken into account.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY There is a means test.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) The basic amounts vary amongst the Länder. There are various rates for the first family member and subsequently declining rates for other family members. Monthly amounts in the old Länder 1.7.1992: Single person: DM 486 - 555 (average DM 508) * Married couple: DM 875 - 999 (average DM 914) Children aged 0 to 6: 50% of single persons basic amount 7 to 14: 65% of single persons basic amount 14 to 18: 90% of single persons basic amount These basic amounts do not include supplements for special needs. Duration: unlimited.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) There is a set rate of about DM 900/month and recipients receive the difference between this and their income.	

Remarks: * In certain Länder: for single persons aged 18 to 25, the rate is 90% of single persons basic allowance.

Remarks: Protected persons: war victims, survivors, refugees.

GERMANY			
Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
General Government	3	Municipalities	4
SCOPE/BENEFIT Subsidies to non-residents		SCOPE/BENEFIT Social assistance maintenance, single payment	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY General neediness as a result of political, racial and other such events.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY A means test as in Form 1 is carried out. Help is given only when it is known that the income deficiency will be temporary.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Individual amounts.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Individual amounts.	

GERMANY

<p>Agency Municipalities and Federal government</p>		<p>Agency Government</p>
<p>Number of form 5</p>		<p>Number of form 6</p>
<p>SCOPE/BENEFIT Other cash benefits and subsidies</p>		<p>SCOPE/BENEFIT Social assistance, reimbursements</p>
<p>CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Demand, distressed condition.</p>		<p>CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Proof of distressed condition, eg necessity of care.</p>
<p>BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Individual amounts or lump sum.</p>		<p>BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)</p>

GREECE			
Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Social Security	1	The archdiocese of Athens	2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Discretionary welfare payments		SCOPE/BENEFIT Discretionary assistance in cash	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The benefit is given to individuals and families who lack the basic necessities. There need not be a specific cause of poverty.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The assistance is given to individuals and families throughout the country, not only in the Athens region. There are no standard criteria, but a means test is carried out by the archbishopric's social department.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) There is a standard amount. In exceptional cases the payments can be increased up to twice the standard amount.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) A means-tested amount within a certain range is paid monthly.	

GREECE

Agency The archdiocese of Athens	Number of form 3	Agency The archdiocese of Athens	Number of form 3
SCOPE/BENEFIT Various basic goods		SCOPE/BENEFIT Various basic goods	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The assistance is given to individuals and families in the Athens region. There are no standard criteria, but a means test is carried out by the archbishopric's social department.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The assistance is given to individuals and families in the Athens region. There are no standard criteria, but a means test is carried out by the archbishopric's social department.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Goods include free food served in special halls mostly to the elderly and large families, food packets, clothes, and educational equipment.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Goods include free food served in special halls mostly to the elderly and large families, food packets, clothes, and educational equipment.	

SPAIN			
Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Regional Government (Comunidad Autónoma)	1	Non-profit institutions	2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Periodic income support		SCOPE/BENEFIT Lump sum benefit	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The applicant has to be - resident in the territory of the Comunidad Autónoma - aged 25 to 65 * - registered as unemployed - in situation of need. The applicant is not entitled to any social security benefit.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The applicant has to be in an actual state of need and without any means of support.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Amounts varies according to the territory, the year and the number of the persons dependent on the beneficiary. Average montly amounts 1.7.1992: Single person: PTA 0 Married couple: PTA 30.000 Couple with one child: PTA 35.000 Duration: 3 - 6 months, renewable.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Benefit consists of a lump sum payment to the beneficiary in order to relieve him of an actual state of need.	

Remarks: * Or under 25 if looking after children or handicapped people.

SPAIN

Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
National Social Services Institute (INSERSO) and non-profit institutions	3	Local Government and non-profit institutions	4
SCOPE/BENEFIT		SCOPE/BENEFIT	
Social services for refugees		Miscellaneous social services (reimbursements and directly provided benefits)	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY	
The applicant has to have a legal status of refugee and be without any means.		The applicant has to be in a state of need due to drug addiction, immigration, homelessness or to form part of a marginal group such as Gypsies etc. In addition, the applicant has to be without means.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)	
Benefit consists of several services: accommodation, administrative aid, psychological care, social intergration etc.		Social services vary according to the need, accommodation, meals, administrative aid, social integration etc.	

FRANCE

Agency Central Government	Number of form 1	Agency	Number of form
SCOPE/BENEFIT Minimum insertion income (RMI)		SCOPE/BENEFIT	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Claimants must have resources below a certain level and take steps to find employment. They must be at least 25 years old or have dependent children; students are excluded.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) The benefit is calculated as the difference between an income ceiling, based on family composition, and the family's total resources. * The means test is conducted every quarter. Resources counted include earnings, benefits, pensions and interest on investments. The RMI is reduced for those in receipt of housing benefit. Monthly amounts 1.7.1992: Single person: FF 2.163 Married couple: FF 3.245 Single parent with one child: FF 3.245 Duration: three months, renewable for periods of three months to one year.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)	

Remarks : * Resources of any nature, including family allowances, earnings from activities, and revenue procured from movable or immovable property, are taken into account.

Maximum of resources: Single person FF 2.163. Household FF 3.245

IRELAND

Agency Central Government	Number of form 1	Agency Central Government	Number of form 2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Supplementary welfare allowance		SCOPE/BENEFIT Single woman's allowance	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The claimant must have insufficient resources to meet essential or special needs. * They must register for work with the National Manpower Service and apply for any other state benefit to which they are entitled.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The benefit is for single women between the ages of 58 and 66 with insufficient resources to meet essential or special needs. The claimant must not be receiving any other social welfare payment or be included as a dependant in another person's social welfare payment. She must not be a permanent resident of a hospital, hotel or home.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Resources are compared with the supplementary welfare allowance and any shortfall is paid in benefit. The allowance is supplemented for certain special needs (e.g. rent, special diet). The basic rate varies according to family size, with long term beneficiaries allowed a slightly higher income. Monthly amounts 1.7.1992: Single person: IRL 229,67 Couple without children: IRL 378,30 Children: IRL 12,50/week/child Family benefits not included. Duration: unlimited.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) There is a means test and the shortfall in resources is paid in benefit. Duration : ongoing until the age at 66, when the beneficiary can apply for the old age pension.	

Remarks: * All cash income, including other social security payments, as well as the value of property (except the home of applicant), investments and savings are taken into account. Family benefit payments are excluded from the assessment of income.

IRELAND

Agency Central Government	Number of form 3	Agency Local authorities	Number of form 4
SCOPE/BENEFIT National fuel scheme		SCOPE/BENEFIT School meals	
<p>CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY</p> <p>The National fuel scheme assists people on long term social welfare unable to meet their fuel bills. The claimant must be receiving one of a designated list of social welfare benefits and must satisfy a means test. Payments are only made between mid-October and mid-April.</p> <p>Before 1987 there was an urban fuel scheme specifically for pensioners in designated urban areas. This was subsumed into the comprehensive national fuel scheme.</p>		<p>CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY</p> <p>Meals are provided in schools for children whose educational development might be impaired due to possible dietary deficiency. In 1991, about 400 out of over 3300 national primary schools participated in the scheme.</p>	
<p>BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)</p> <p>One allowance is payable per household, in the form of vouchers which can be exchanged for fuel or for paying gas and electricity bills.</p>		<p>BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)</p> <p>Varying amounts of benefit depending on type of midday meal.</p>	

ITALY

Agency Regional Government	Number of form 1	Agency Regional Government	Number of form 2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Subsistence minimum (Minimo Vitale)		SCOPE/BENEFIT	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Individuals in need due to a lack of resources. Claimants have to be prepared to participate in activities (e.g. training courses) designed to improve their situation.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) All the resources of the family (except family dwelling) are added up and compared to the guaranteed minimum. There is considerable regional variation in the latter, which is based on the minimum pension and the amount of earnings not liable to tax. The guaranteed minimum is correlated to the number of persons in the family. Monthly amounts (examples) 1.7.1992: Single person: LIT 300.000 - 400.000 Married couple: LIT 400.000 - 700.000 Duration: limited with the possibility of renewal, depending on the particular situation.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)	

LUXEMBOURG

Agency National solidarity fund	Number of form 1	Agency National solidarity fund	Number of form 2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Guaranteed minimum income (RMG) *		SCOPE/BENEFIT Cost of living allowance	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY In general, beneficiaries must be - at least 30 years old - available for work - willing to undergo suitable training. Exceptions are made for persons unable to work or looking after a child or an invalid. The applicant has to be resident in Luxembourg territory and resided in the country for at least ten years during the last 20 years.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The benefit is for those in receipt of pensions and income from interest. Their total income must not exceed the official minimum salary.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) The benefit is calculated as the difference between the guaranteed minimum income and the total resources of the claimant's household, including the entire gross revenue, possessions, and replacement or supplementary social security benefits (excluding family allowances). Monthly amounts: 1.8.1992: Single person: LUF 26.992 Married couple: LUF 36.258 Supplement for children: LUF 4.971/child Duration: unlimited.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Fixed amount: LUF 3.400/person, LUF 5.100/household.	

Remarks: The RMG was introduced in 1986; prior to that a minimum income was provided through the solidarity pension scheme.

LUXEMBOURG

Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
National solidarity fund	3		
SCOPE/BENEFIT Heating allowance		SCOPE/BENEFIT	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Beneficiaries must be usually resident in Luxembourg and have resources less than a set minimum. The minimum, which is increased each year according to the cost of living, varies according to the size of household. Claimants need to provide an invoice as proof of their costs.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) The heating allowances are set at different levels for households ranging from one to five persons. Benefit is paid once a year.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)	

Remarks: The allowance is for solid fuel, not electricity and gas.

THE NETHERLANDS			
Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Public bodies	1	Public bodies	2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Periodic assistance (ABW) *		SCOPE/BENEFIT Benefit to increase purchasing power with a lump sum (WEU/EUZ) *	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Applicant's and their family's income (including all income in the same household) has to be below the social minimum. An upper limit is defined for family assets (HFL 17.200 for families and HFL 8.600 for single persons). There has to be no possibility of claiming under any other insurance or provision.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The income of the individual and other members of the household, from work or from various benefits, including periodic assistance, is below a specified level.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) The nationwide minimum subsistence level varies according to size of family and is derived from the net minimum wage: for example, 100% for married and cohabiting couples, up to 90% for lone parents, up to 70% for single persons aged 23 and over. There are lower rates for young people aged between 18 and 23. The income of the household is accumulated and the difference between this and the minimum subsistence level is paid in benefit. Some income from part-time employment is exempted from the calculation, as a stimulant towards finding employment. Monthly amounts 1.7.1992 (family allowances not included): Single person sharing accommodation: HFL 1.028,84 Single person living alone: HFL 1.211,57 Married couple: HFL 1.730,81 Duration: unlimited.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) The benefit is an annual lump sum. The amount depends on marital status and age of children. The claim on a benefit is valid for one year, and it had to be renewed each year.	

Remarks: * ABW: National Assistance Act.

Remarks: Benefit ceased in 1988.

THE NETHERLANDS

Agency Public bodies	Number of form 3	Agency	Number of form
SCOPE/BENEFIT Occasional assistance (ABW) *		SCOPE/BENEFIT	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY a) Income of the individual plus that of everyone else in the household is below the social minimum. b) There are no, or only modest, assets. c) The goods or services must be essential. They are usually social or medical services, or lump-sum payments in connection with illness, disability or social circumstances. d) There is no possibility of claiming under any other insurance or provision.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Fixed standard amounts apply.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)	

Remarks: * ABW: National Assistance Act.

PORTUGAL			
Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Casa da Misericordia	1	Solidarity Institutions	2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Casa da Misericordia, miscellaneous allowances		SCOPE/BENEFIT Allowances from social solidarity institution	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Recipients must be - individuals or families living in the Lisbon region - in serious need of assistance - in a situation where they are able to begin the process of social reintegration.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Those with an acute lack of resources.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Variable according to the individual situation.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Variable	

PORTUGAL

Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
The Red Cross	3	IGFSS *	4
SCOPE/BENEFIT Red Cross allowances		SCOPE/BENEFIT IGFSS occasional payments	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY A means-test questionnaire is completed by the claimant's family to see whether they should receive the allowances.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Individuals or families are given this cash benefit when any other benefits they receive are insufficient to keep them out of poverty.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Variable according to the family's means.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Variable according to individual circumstances.	

Remarks: * IGFSS - the financial institution for administering social security.

PORTUGAL			
Agency Social solidarity institutions	Number of form 5	Agency The Red Cross	Number of form 6
SCOPE/BENEFIT Social solidarity institutions goods		SCOPE/BENEFIT Red Cross goods	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY It is first necessary to be registered with an institution. The needs of all registered individuals are evaluated and the institution selects the least well off.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Local authorities provide those in need with a social security certificate which entitles them to Red Cross goods.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Various goods.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Variable according to the number of people in the family. Goods provided include food, clothing and medicine.	

PORTUGAL

<p>Agency Casa da Misericordia</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Number of form 7</p>	<p>Agency The Red Cross</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Number of form 8</p>
<p>SCOPE/BENEFIT Casa da Misericordia services</p>	<p>SCOPE/BENEFIT Red Cross services</p>
<p>CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Services are provided to poor people in the Lisbon area.</p>	<p>CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The needs of people are assessed by local authorities and Red Cross centres.</p>
<p>BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Services vary according to individual needs.</p>	<p>BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Services vary, an example would be the provision of housing to people in need.</p>

PORTUGAL

Agency IGFSS	Number of form 9	Agency	Number of form
SCOPE/BENEFIT Services for the homeless		SCOPE/BENEFIT	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The following categories of homeless people are eligible: - Single people earning less than 60% of the minimum wage. - Families of 2, 3 or 4 people earning less than 60% of the minimum wage. - Families of more than 5 people earning less than 150% of the minimum wage.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) A monthly payment is made which varies according to the size of the family (1 member, 2 or 3 members, 4 or 5 members, 6 members or more).		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT)	

UNITED KINGDOM

Agency Central Government	Number of form 1	Agency Central Government	Number of form 2
SCOPE/BENEFIT Income Support, formerly Supplementary Benefit		SCOPE/BENEFIT Social Fund, formerly supplementary Benefit special payments	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY Resources of the benefit unit (single person or couple, with or without children) have to be below the applicable amount. The claimant must also not have capital in excess of a certain limit (8000 UKL) and must not be working more than a set number of hours per week. The claimant has to be 18 or over, unless they are disabled or a single parent.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY The claimant had to be receiving Supplementary Benefit.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) The applicable amount is made up of a personal allowance, plus additions for dependent children, plus premiums to help those with certain special needs (e.g. families, single parents, the disabled, and pensioners). The resources that are compared with this amount comprise of earnings, benefits and a tariff income on capital. Monthly amounts 1.7.1992: Single person (18 to 24 years): UKL 145,60 Single person (25 years or over): UKL 183,95 Married couple: UKL 288,60 Amounts include family allowances, but not housing allowances. Duration: unlimited.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Variable amounts were granted for exceptional expenditure.	

Remarks: Income Support replaced Supplementary Benefit in 1988.

Remarks: The Social Fund replaced Supplementary Benefit special payments in 1988.

UNITED KINGDOM			
Agency	Number of form	Agency	Number of form
Benefits Agency district offices	3	Local Government	4
SCOPE/BENEFIT Social Fund loan		SCOPE/BENEFIT Free school milk and/or meals	
CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY (i) In receipt of Income Support (ii) Capital less than a certain limit (UKL 500 or UKL 1000 for persons aged 60 or over) Interest-free budgeting loans are provided to help with large or intermittent expenditure on major items or services. Crisis loans are provided to relieve serious risks to health or safety. Loans are normally to be repaid within 18 months.		CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY (i) Children must be at a school maintained by a local education authority or at a grant-maintained school (ii) Since 1988, parent(s) must be in receipt of Income Support or the pupil must be eligible for Income Support in their own right. Prior to 1988, local authorities had discretion over provision of free school milk; for free school meals, parents had to be in receipt of Family Income Supplement or Supplementary Benefit.	
BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Single payment. Amounts are decided by Social Fund Officers who take account of individual circumstances, but also consider national and district priorities and the scheme's broad policy objectives. Districts are given an annual budget for loans which they must not exceed.		BENEFIT FORMULA (AMOUNT) Children receive free school milk and/or free school meals.	

Always up-to-date on Europe ...

... with a free subscription to EUR-OP News



The internal market, the European Economic Area and the Treaty on European Union are important milestones on the road to European union. Against the current background of rapid change, *EUR-OP News* is a source of information on all the relevant developments at European level and offers you an overview of the whole range of information available on the current policies of all the European institutions.

Four times a year you can receive a general overview of all the important areas of European policy such as:

- EU institutions
- Internal market
- Economy
- Foreign policy
- EU law
- Central and Eastern Europe
- Regional policy
- Environmental policy
- Social affairs
- Research and education

EUR-OP News is intended not only for specialists and experts but also for teachers and students and anyone who simply wishes to keep abreast of European affairs.

EUR-OP News also contains information on new publications by EUR-OP, the publishing house of all the EU institutions (Council, Commission, European Parliament, etc.), so that you can obtain literature for further study of all the topics covered.

Order form

Please return the completed order form to the following address:
EUR-OP, Mr William Bray, Bureau 172,
2, rue Mercier, L-2985 Luxembourg. Fax (352) 48 85 73.

Please put me on your circulation list
for EUR-OP News:

Name:

Address:

Country:

Tel.:

Date:

(Signature)

Please indicate the language version you require:

ES DE EN FR IT NL PT

European Commission

Digest of statistics on social protection in Europe
Volume 8: General neediness

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

1994 — 74 pp. — 21.0 x 29.7 cm

Theme 3: Population and social conditions (yellow)
Series D: Studies and analyses

ISBN 92-826-8414-8

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: ECU 8

This publication aims to present comparable statistics for the general neediness function, providing data for the different types of benefits specific to each Member State.

The statistics cover the period 1980-92 and refer to benefit expenditure and number of beneficiaries.

The tables are accompanied by descriptive forms which give the main characteristics of each benefit — the 'agency' which provides the benefit, the eligibility conditions and the method of calculation of the benefit.

Venta y suscripciones • Salg og abonnement • Verkauf und Abonnement • Πωλήσεις και συνδρομές
 Sales and subscriptions • Vente et abonnements • Vendita e abbonamenti
 Verkoop en abonnementen • Venda e assinaturas

BELGIQUE / BELGIË

Moniteur belge /
 Belgisch staatsblad
 Rue de Louvain 42 / Leuvenseweg 42
 1000 Bruxelles / 1000 Brussel
 Tél. (02) 512 00 26
 Fax (02) 511 01 84

Jean De Lanoy

Avenue du Roi 202 / Koningslaan 202
 1060 Bruxelles / 1060 Brussel
 Tél. (02) 538 51 69
 Télex 63220 UNBOOK B
 Fax (02) 538 08 41

Autres distributeurs/
 Overige verkooptunten:

**Librairie européenne/
 Europese boekhandel**

Rue de la Loi 244 / Wetstraat 244
 1040 Bruxelles / 1040 Brussel
 Tél. (02) 231 04 35
 Fax (02) 735 08 60

Document delivery:

Credoc

Rue de la Montagne 34 / Bergstraat 34
 Bte 11 / Bus 11
 1000 Bruxelles / 1000 Brussel
 Tél. (02) 511 69 41
 Fax (02) 513 31 95

DANMARK

J. H. Schultz Information A/S

Herstedvang 10-12
 2620 Albertslund
 Tlf. 43 63 23 00
 Fax (Sales) 43 63 19 69
 Fax (Management) 43 63 19 49

DEUTSCHLAND

Bundesanzeiger Verlag

Breite Straße 78-80
 Postfach 10 05 34
 50445 Köln
 Tel. (02 21) 20 29 00
 Telex ANZEIGER BONN 8 882 595
 Fax 202 92 78

GREECE/ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

G.C. Eleftheroudakis SA

International Bookstore
 Nikis Street 4
 10563 Athens
 Tel. (01) 322 63 23
 Telex 219410 ELEF
 Fax 323 98 21

ESPAÑA

Boletín Oficial del Estado

Trafalgar, 27-29
 28071 Madrid
 Tel. (91) 538 22 95
 Fax (91) 538 23 49

Mundi-Prensa Libros, SA

Castelló, 37
 28001 Madrid
 Tel. (91) 431 33 99 (Libros)
 431 32 22 (Suscripciones)
 435 36 37 (Dirección)

Télex 49370-MPLI-E
 Fax (91) 575 39 98

Sucursal:

Librería Internacional AEDOS

Consejo de Ciento, 391
 08009 Barcelona
 Tel. (93) 488 34 92
 Fax (93) 487 76 59

**Librería de la Generalitat
 de Catalunya**

Rambla dels Estudis, 118 (Palau Moja)
 08002 Barcelona
 Tel. (93) 302 68 35
 Tel. (93) 302 64 62
 Fax (93) 302 12 99

FRANCE

**Journal officiel
 Service des publications
 des Communautés européennes**

26, rue Desaix
 75727 Paris Cedex 15
 Tél. (1) 40 58 77 01/31
 Fax (1) 40 58 77 00

IRELAND

Government Supplies Agency

4-5 Harcourt Road
 Dublin 2
 Tel. (1) 66 13 111
 Fax (1) 47 80 645

ITALIA

Licosa SpA

Via Duca di Calabria 1/1
 Casella postale 552
 50125 Firenze
 Tel. (055) 64 54 15
 Fax 64 12 57
 Telex 570466 LICOSA I

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Messageries du livre

5, rue Raiffeisen
 2411 Luxembourg
 Tél. 40 10 20
 Fax 49 06 61

NEDERLAND

SDU Overheidsinformatie

Externe Fondsen
 Postbus 20014
 2500 EA 's-Gravenhage
 Tel. (070) 37 89 880
 Fax (070) 37 89 783

PORTUGAL

Imprensa Nacional

Casa da Moeda, EP
 Rua D. Francisco Manuel de Melo, 5
 1092 Lisboa Codex
 Tel. (01) 69 34 14
 Fax (01) 69 31 66

**Distribuidora de Livros
 Bertrand, Ld.ª**

Grupo Bertrand, SA

Rua das Terras dos Vales, 4-A
 Apartado 37
 2700 Amadora Codex
 Tel. (01) 49 59 050
 Telex 15798 BERDIS
 Fax 49 60 255

UNITED KINGDOM

HMSO Books (Agency section)

HMSO Publications Centre
 51 Nine Elms Lane
 London SW8 5DR
 Tel. (071) 873 9090
 Fax 873 8463
 Telex 29 71 138

ÖSTERREICH

**Manz'sche Verlags-
 und Universitätsbuchhandlung**

Kohlmarkt 16
 1014 Wien
 Tel. (1) 531 610
 Telex 112 500 BOX A
 Fax (1) 531 61-181

SUOMI/FINLAND

Akateeminen Kirjakauppa

Keskuskatu 1
 PO Box 218
 00381 Helsinki
 Tel. (0) 121 41
 Fax (0) 121 44 41

NORGE

Narvesen Info Center

Bertrand Narvesens vei 2
 PO Box 6125 Etterstad
 0602 Oslo 6
 Tel. (22) 57 33 00
 Telex 79668 NIC N
 Fax (22) 68 19 01

SVERIGE

BTJ AB

Traktorvgen 13
 22100 Lund
 Tel. (046) 18 00 00
 Fax (046) 18 01 25
 30 79 47

ICELAND

**BOKABUD
 LARUSAR BLÖNDAL**

Skólavörðustíg, 2
 101 Reykjavík
 Tel. 11 56 50
 Fax 12 55 60

SCHWEIZ / SUISSE / SVIZZERA

OSEC

Stampfenbachstraße 85
 8035 Zürich
 Tel. (01) 365 54 49
 Fax (01) 365 54 11

BĂLGARIA

**Europress Klassica BK
 Ltd**

66, bd Vitosha
 1463 Sofia
 Tel./Fax 2 52 74 75

ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA

NIS ČR

Havelkova 22
 130 00 Praha 3
 Tel. (2) 24 22 94 33
 Fax (2) 24 22 14 84

MAGYARORSZÁG

Euro-Info-Service

Honvéd Europá Ház
 Margitsziget
 1138 Budapest
 Tel./Fax 1 111 60 61
 1 111 62 16

POLSKA

Business Foundation

ul. Krucza 38/42
 00-512 Warszawa
 Tel. (2) 621 99 93, 628-28-82
 International Fax&Phone
 (0-39) 12-00-77

ROMÂNIA

Euromedia

65, Strada Dionisie Lupu
 70184 Bucuresti
 Tel./Fax 0 12 96 46

RUSSIA

CCEC

9,60-letiya Oktyabrya Avenue
 117312 Moscow
 Tel./Fax (095) 135 52 27

SLOVAKIA

**Slovak Technical
 Library**

Nm. slobody 19
 812 23 Bratislava 1
 Tel. (7) 220 452
 Fax: (7) 295 785

CYPRUS

**Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and
 Industry**

Chamber Building
 38 Grivas Digenis Ave
 3 Deligiorgis Street
 PO Box 1455
 Nicosia
 Tel. (2) 449500/462312
 Fax (2) 458630

MALTA

Miller distributors Ltd

PO Box 25
 Malta International Airport
 LQA 05 Malta
 Tel. 66 44 88
 Fax 67 67 99

TÜRKIYE

**Pres Gazete Kitap Dergil
 Pazarlama Dagitim Ticaret ve sanayi
 AŞ**

Naribacçe Sokak N. 15
 Istanbul-Cagaloğlu
 Tel. (1) 520 92 96 - 528 55 66
 Fax 520 64 57
 Telex 23822 DSVO-TR

ISRAEL

ROY International

PO Box 13056
 41 Mishmar Hayarden Street
 Tel Aviv 61130
 Tel. 3 496 108
 Fax 3 648 60 39

**EGYPT/
 MIDDLE EAST**

Middle East Observer

41 Sherif St.
 Cairo
 Tel/Fax 39 39 732

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA /
 CANADA**

UNIPUB

4611-F Assembly Drive
 Lanham, MD 20706-4391
 Tel. Toll Free (800) 274 4888
 Fax (301) 459 0056

CANADA

**Subscriptions only
 Uniquement abonnements**

Renouf Publishing Co. Ltd

1294 Algoma Road
 Ottawa, Ontario K1B 3W8
 Tel. (613) 741 43 33
 Fax (613) 741 54 39
 Telex 0534783

AUSTRALIA

Hunter Publications

58A Gipps Street
 Collingwood
 Victoria 3066
 Tel. (3) 417 5361
 Fax (3) 419 7154

JAPAN

Kinokuniya Company Ltd

17-7 Shinjuku 3-Chome
 Shinjuku-ku
 Tokyo 160-91
 Tel. (03) 3439-0121

Journal Department

PO Box 55 Chitose
 Tokyo 156
 Tel. (03) 3439-0124

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Legal Library Services Ltd

Orchard
 PO Box 0523
 Singapore 9123
 Tel. 73 04 24 1
 Fax 24 32 47 9

SOUTH AFRICA

Safto

5th Floor, Export House
 Cnr Maude & West Streets
 Sandton 2146
 Tel. (011) 883-3737
 Fax (011) 883-6569

**AUTRES PAYS
 OTHER COUNTRIES
 ANDERE LÄNDER**

**Office des publications officielles
 des Communautés européennes**

2, rue Mercier
 2985 Luxembourg
 Tél. 499 28-1
 Télex PUBOF LU 1324 b
 Fax 48 85 73/48 68 17

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg
ECU 8

OFICINA DE PUBLICACIONES OFICIALES DE LAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEAS
 KONTOR ET FOR DE EUROPÆISKE FÆLLESSKABERS OFFICIELLE PUBLICATIONER
 AMT FÜR AMTLICHE VERÖFFENTLICHUNGEN DER EUROPÄISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFTEN
 ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΕΠΙΣΗΜΩΝ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΩΝ
 OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
 OFFICE DES PUBLICATIONS OFFICIELLES DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES
 UFFICIO DELLE PUBBLICAZIONI UFFICIALI DELLE COMUNITÀ EUROPEE
 BUREAU VOOR OFFICIËLE PUBLICATIES DER EUROPESE GEMEENSCHAPPEN
 SERVIÇO DAS PUBLICAÇÕES OFICIAIS DAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEIAS

ISBN 92-826-8414-8



9 789282 684146 >