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eurostat

The panelist

1 □ 1996 Bi-annual

Newsletter of the Enterprise Panels project

Foreword

"Too many data, not enough information" is threatening to become something of a catch phrase. Vast amounts of raw data are waiting to be processed. They are the products of statistical or administrative surveys or automated systems (bar codes, credit or phone cards etc.) and their volume is set to increase in the coming years. The role of the statistician, clearly, is to give these data voice: to discover how they can answer the problems which he or she is called upon to tackle.

As part of its evaluation of the impact of the Single Market, Eurostat has co-ordinated surveys of enterprises carried out by the Member States. The twelve pre-1995 Member States were involved in this exercise. In addition, the national statistical institutes of all the fifteen Member States were asked to provide longitudinal data on the structure of enterprises.

The data resulting from these actions have been pre-processed, and it is now time to make use of the data. Thus, the project is entering the analysis phase. This promises to be an interesting undertaking, involving data obtained from opinion polls, quantitative data, time series, and individual and macro-economic data. All the main ingredients for detailed analysis appear to be in place.

The Commission's departments cannot undertake this analysis alone. Any ideas, suggestions and proposals for co-operation are welcome. Methods of statistical analysis traditionally employed in different countries vary widely. Some countries favour the diagrammatic approach and exploratory analysis, while others place the emphasis on statistical models. Comparing the various statistical cultures can only contribute to a better understanding of the reality which the data are meant to describe, and help to foster new knowledge and insights. Learning to work together is a precondition for building Europe.

We are throwing a challenge to all panel methodologists and statisticians (and even users of enterprise panels data) to give suggestions and opinions on what analysis should or could be done and how. The ball is now in your court!

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OFICINA ESTADÍSTICA DE LAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEAS
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STATISTISCHES AMT DER EUROPÄISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFTEN
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The Enterprise Panels Project

The Enterprise Panels Project is one of the projects of the Directorate for Business and Energy Statistics, Research and Development and Statistical Methods of Eurostat. The programme (which has benefited from the guidance of an internal Eurostat steering group and the support of an international network of experts on panels methodologies) is managed by Unit D3 (Research and Development and Statistical Methods) headed by Mr. Daniel Defays and the director is Mr. Photis Nanopoulos.

In the last few months, the team working on the project has been strengthened by the addition of two data analysts. Mr. Raoul Depoutot responsible for the data analysis module who had in the last year overseen the activities on the project has now taken over management of the day-to-day activities of the project. Mr. Jean-Yves Bienvenue continues to manage the database. Mr. Mohamed Navid Anwar and Mr. Mohamed Radjabou have both joined the team to help in data processing and analysis. Miss Marina van Mechelen continues as the project secretary. A number of consultants (to who we are grateful) have particularly aided our operations in the course of the period especially in respect of the internal market study.

Some other useful contacts in the directorate are Mr. **François De Geuser**, head, Industry Statistics and Mr. **Marco Lancetti**, head, Service Statistics
Telephone and fax numbers for all the persons named above are listed on page 14 under the heading *useful contacts*.

General notes on the newsletter:
All contributions for the next edition must be received by the editor not later than 30th August 1996. Contributions may be sent by mail or fax.

The Panelist is one in a series of three newsletters prepared by Unit D3 of Eurostat. The others are ***REDIS News*** (on R&D and Innovation Statistics) and ***Research in Official Statistics*** (on DOSIS - Development of Statistical Information Systems).
Please note that the opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors alone. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on its behalf is responsible for the use which might be made of the information contained in the newsletter.
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The Panelist

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The Panelist

This newsletter is intended to serve as a link between all those interested in business statistics (either as users or providers of data) in general, and enterprise panels in particular. It will highlight the latest developments as regards methodologies in this field, give an insight into what is happening especially in the Member States of the European Union, and also give information on the progress of the Enterprise Panels Project of Eurostat.

The Panelist is published twice a year. Contributions within this general frame on issues of interest to the target group will be welcomed from readers. Announcements of conferences, seminars, workshops, research activities and findings, books journals etc. related to this field will also be welcomed for inclusion in the newsletter.

In this issue............

In the last two issues, we followed the progress on the statistical support for the 1996 Review of the Internal Market. Readers will recall that this statistical support comes under three *pillars*, two of which are being executed through the Panels Project.

This issue of **The Panelist** reviews the progress of the project to date and briefly looks at what it considers may be the follow-up activities. See page 5.

On page 6, Mr. Paul Reynolds of the Center for Studies of Entrepreneurship (USA) gives a brief description of the US national panel study of business start-ups. The Luxembourg experience of using panel data to evaluate the determinants of innovation is considered on page 7.

In Focus, our focus section takes a look at the current state of panel surveys in Portugal.

Evaluating the Impact of the Internal Market

Data collection and analysis and the future of the project

General Introduction

The process of evaluating the overall impact of the single market programme in socio-economic terms at regional, national and Union level involves the study of various related issues, a lot of which rely heavily on the supply of relevant statistical information. Such information exist not only at national and Union level but sometimes at the level of professional and trade associations or even at individual enterprise or group level.

Consequently, the process of gathering the necessary statistical information for this purpose inevitably has been a broad-based one involving all the national statististical institutes, a number of private research institutes, individual consultants and universities. In addition, due to the nature of the project and the importance attached to it, several services of the European Commission have been involved in it.

The contractors (under close direction of academic panels of university professors) are involved mostly in sectoral and horizontal studies. The general directorate (XV) for Internal Market and financial services of the Commission is responsible for putting together all the contributions and for producing the report.)

In Eurostat, substantial progress was made on the statistical support to the project in the last six months. With the virtual completion of the data collection process, an important aspect of the exercise has been to supply data to the private consultants and research institutes involved in the project. These data result mostly from the (ad hoc) opinion surveys and extraction of information from existing databases in Eurostat. Tables are now being prepared for the statistical volume to the publication to be released later this year.

Ad hoc Survey

This is a qualitative-type survey aimed at measuring what the managers of enterprises consider to be the impact of the internal market on their business performances. It was designed in such a way that it made it possible to look at various issues of importance to the enterprise in particular, the level of awareness of removal of trading barriers between the countries. It looked at the effect of this on the overall strategy of the enterprise in view of the single market programme in terms of production, pricing and sales both within and between Member States. The survey also attempted to assess the impact on company strategies especially in relation to product standardisation and pricing, production (including establishing of production plants), marketing and distribution, sourcing and ownership structure.

The surveys were conducted in all the (pre-1995) Member States mostly by the official national statistical institutes except in Ireland, Germany and The Netherlands. Efforts were made to ensure that they were conducted within the same time space (mostly in the second half of 1995) with the total sample size of 13494 enterprises made up of 6527 in the *industry* sector, 912 in *construction* and 6055 in *service* sector. This size ranges from 231 and 621 for Luxembourg and The Netherlands respectively to 1636 and 2325 in the United Kingdom and Germany respectively.

Some basic shortcomings noticed in respect of the data received related mostly to very little, (and in some cases no) information on sampling rates or the weighting factors and paucity of information on (item and total) non-response. In addition, data transmission did not exactly follow the prescribed format in many cases.

Notwithstanding all these, the massive "reconstruction" and "clean-up" operation which has been going on on the data in Eurostat is gradually yielding dividends. Sense is now being made out of the data sets paving the way for analysis.

Longitudinal study

This study provided the quantitative aspect to the exercise. Data on enterprises were provided to Eurostat by the national statistical offices covering:

- Enterprise identifier number for each year
- number of employees for each year
- industry affiliation (NACE code)
- labour cost for the enterprise
- location (NUTS code)
- number of local units
- total investment
- ownership type
- profit/turnover
- value added
- production

The unit used was the enterprise and the years covered were 1987 to 1993 inclusive. More than 11000 enterprises were covered in the 12 (pre-1995) Member States which participated.
Due to the fact that data is generally not available on enterprises in the service sector, this quantitative aspect only covered the manufacturing (industrial) sector.

As one would expect, due to differences in the existing data files in the individual Member States, it was not possible in some cases either to obtain data on some of the variables or in certain cases for some of the years.
Nevertheless, as a first exercise of its nature with this magnitude, the results (from the statistical perspective) have been very encouraging.

Exploitation of existing data

The third aspect of the statistical exercise aimed at studying the actual changes in market structure and competitive behaviour which are linked to the Internal Market through the exploitation of data which currently exist both in Eurostat and the national statistical institutes.

A wide range of Eurostat databases was used to provide necessary data for the 1996 Study. A major part of the data - considered as important for the evaluation exercise is available in Eurostat even though there is still a lack of quantitative information for the great part of the service sector. Sources used included macroeconomic databases such as SEC1, NAS, GBOP, etc. as well as sectoral databases such as TRAINS, TOURS, VISA, etc.

For this aspect of the study, as far as the reference years are concerned, time series starting in 1980 were considered to be most appropriate.

As at today, Eurostat has collected and prepared statistical tables to help the contractors working on a wide range of horizontal and sectoral studies. These studies focus on several economic areas which include the impact of the internal market on:

- *manufacturing industries*
- *services and infrastructure development*
- *trade and investment*
- *competition and scale effects*

Some of the studies look at:

- *the dismantling of barriers, and*
- *the regional impact of the internal market*

Preliminary results of data collection

At a sectoral level the most important indicators were trade (intra- and extra EU exports and imports) per product or per service, turnover at current and at constant prices, value added at current and at constant prices, prices, investments and employment.

At the horizontal level emphasis was placed on using data from national accounts and the balance of payments. Data on trade, investment and employment but on a higher aggregated sectoral level is also very useful.

.... and after 1996 ?

The current exercise has been rather ad hoc in nature - the only aspect of it which has reflected any significant time sensitiveness and dynamics being the longitudinal study. There was little time available to execute the project. Thus some shortcomings which could otherwise have been avoided (with more planning and careful groundwork) became evident in the process.

There is no doubt that monitoring the economic impact of the internal market will be a continuous one. *Ad hoc* approach will not be tenable more than this once. Thus, the importance of establishing a statistical information system capable of supplying on an ongoing basis the necessary information is clear. Undoubtedly, a European Union enterprise panel will play a very significant role in this direction. As noted in the earlier part, a good basis has been established for this. A first study has been successfully carried out in all the Member States using the same methodologies. (Results for Austria, Finland and Sweden were not taken into account for the EU aggregates.) Two issues which will have to be attended to *post-1996* relate to the time perspective and the substantial coverage of the study.

Time perspective

The current longitudinal study was on a retrospective basis. It was planned in 1994 (and executed in

1995). The sample of enterprises was made out in 1995 for a study which covered 1987 to 1993. A bridge (regarding coverage) between 1993 and 1996 will have to be built. Thereafter, the time perspective should be more forward looking.

Coverage

Coverage in terms of variables for the current exercise was limited. Some information necessary for building the complete picture were missing. In addition, the sample size both at the national and Union levels is low. Post-1996, it is expected that discussions will be opened on the question of how best to enlarge and enrich the existing *panel*. As the current exercise shows, the potential value of the information from this source both to the European Commission and to private and public users in the Member States is enormous.

The list below which is by no means exhaustive is of useful contacts in the European Commission on the Internal Market 1996 Study.

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The National Panel Study
of Business Start-ups in the U.S.A.

Among the least understood features of the organizational life course are the processes that lead to an organizational birth. Specifically, what type of people are involved in the conception and gestation processes that precede organizational foundings. What activities are completed, in what sequence? How long do they take? What is the nature and amount of resources absorbed by the start-up process? How much, and in what way, does the firm gestation affect the subsequent survival and growth of a new business?

The birth and growth of new businesses has become an important policy topic and much recent analysis has focused on new entries in national business registries. There is not, however, a very good understanding of when, in the start-up process a new firm will first be included in a business registry, which may vary for different registries.

In the United States, for example, four such registries are used for analysis, one based on federal tax payments, one based on federal social security payments, one based on state unemployment insurance payments, and one using listings assembled by a commercial credit rating firm, Dun and Bradstreet. Different new firms may be incorporated in these different registries at different stages of the start-up process, leading to some variation when these registries are used as indicators of new firm births. (A similar problem may develop in comparisons across EU countries when different criteria are used for including businesses in national registries.)

The study

This study will develop a representative sample of U.S.A. business start-ups in Fall 1996 and follow them for several years. The research design uses modern sampling and survey research procedures to identify adults that are representative of U.S.A. citizens 18 years of age or older. Respondents are asked if they, alone or with others, are currently starting a new business. If they are, they receive a more detailed interview schedule about their activities in the firm gestation stage. Systematic follow-ups (after 6, 12 and 18 months) will provide information on their subsequent success at launching the firm and, in turn, the initial growth of the new business. (It is hoped that once this project is underway, it will be possible to acquire funding to extend the follow-ups for at least five years.)

Several pilot studies indicate that about 4% of U.S.A. adults report participation in a new firm start-up. By collecting data on all adults (average of two) in each sampled household, we hope to locate new firm start-ups in about 6% or 1,200 of 20,000 households. Results from the pilot studies suggest that up to half of the start-ups may become operating new business. While some are a form of self-employment, many are team efforts that involve paid employees and a few will have a high growth trajectory. With larger samples and more complete information over a longer period of time it will it be possible to explore the effects of different start-up strategies and which levels of resources are optimal for ensuring a successful firm launch, a viable new business, and a higher growth trajectory.

The research involves five types of data collection:

❶ data on the number and type of individuals trying to start new firms, referred to as nascent entrepreneurs;

❷ details regarding their strategy and activities in the firm gestation process;

❸ information from a comparison group of representative adults that are not trying to start a new firm;

❹ information about progress and start-up success (to be obtained in the follow-up interviews);

❺ extensive data on the geographic and industry context of the start-up effort.

The first four types will be acquired from telephone interviews and the last will come from federal government data sets describing the host country (and industry) for each start-up.

The Entrepreneurial Research Consortium

The Entrepreneurial Research Consortium, which is being organized to initiate this project, has several unique features. It is to be a temporary association of 25 or more academic research centers, foundations, and government agencies. These sponsoring members will share the costs of all data collection, to be completed by a single academic survey research center. Each sponsoring member will be responsible for a different aspect of the analysis.

This effort has received considerable attention from those interested in the entrepreneurial process around the world. It is known that similar projects are being developed in a number of other countries (Australia, Canada, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, Sweden). By harmonizing the basic design features among the different country studies, it will be possible to determine variations in entrepreneurial activity across advanced nations.

Paul Reynolds is the head of the Center for Economic Studies, United States Census Bureau in Washington. His paper mentioned above is among the over thirty papers presented at the February 1994 Eurostat workshop held in Luxembourg. For information on the proceedings, see page 11.

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Evaluating the determinants of innovation

Luxembourg's experience of using panel data

Whatever the authentic interpretation of the work of Schumpeter might be (Scherer, 1992), the stylised "Schumpeterian hypotheses" of "bigness and fewness" are a reference frame and a comfortable starting point for a lot of empirical studies in the field of the economics of innovation. As more and more data sets with micro data collected at the firm level become available in the OECD countries, lots of interesting investigations of innovative behaviour have disclosed new insights in the explanation of innovation.

When the measures are repeated over several points in time, in a panel survey, there is a great temptation to check if the results obtained in a cross-sectional perspective still hold and remain robust in subsequent waves and if the longitudinal dimension is empirically founded and if individual firm effects have to be taken into account.

Allegrezza and Beaufils in their joint presentation at the Eurostat Enterprise Panels workshop claimed that there are many advocates of panel studies as according to HSIAO " ...the use of panel data provides a means of resolving or reducing the magnitude of a key econometric problem that often arises in empirical studies. This problem being the often-heard assertion that the real reason one finds (or does not find) certain effects is because of omitted (mismeasured, not observed) variables that are correlated with explanatory variables.

Panel data are also more suitable for studying change. Innovation is indeed concerned with change. There are enough theoretical elements to assume that moreover the capacity of individual firms to innovate depends on their ability to co-ordinate, control and monitor the performance of individual members, to put up an incentive structure, to implement criteria and procedures for resource allocation, problem solving and learning (DOSI et al., 1988).

There are major technical problems linked to the design of panel surveys: (1) the handling of the data base which may become very complicated in panel studies with growing number of waves (2) attrition arising by non-random non-response by firms choosing to drop out of the survey.

For the applied researcher having in mind policy applications like for example assessing, ceteris paribus, the degree of appropriateness of an innovation (and the problem of intellectual property rights) or the impact of subsidies of various kinds on the behaviour of firms requires stable and reliable results.

Take the example given by the study of P.A. GEROSKI in the frame of the EC 1992 internal market program stressing the importance of empirical studies in the field of innovation policy. The author writes in the introduction "...Schumpeterian arguments suggest that at least some degree of monopoly power is conducive to innovativeness and that large firms are likely to be most fecund in this respect. If these Schumpeterian assertions are correct, then it is no longer clear that removing obstacles to intra-Community trade will improve dynamic efficiency.." Fortunately the author working on a panel of inventions made by British firms found some support for the 1992 program. We challenged some of his conclusions in several papers using the CEPS "EDEL" data set.

To the best of our knowledge there are few papers dealing with panel studies at firm level in the field of innovation and industrial organization with the remarkable exception of the paper by KONIG et al. (1993). The authors find differences between their former studies based on cross-section and their panel studies . They conclude their nicely done study writing:

"Our estimation results are not fully in accordance with the findings of previous studies using the same data source. Market concentration reveals a significantly negative or an insignificant impact on process innovative activity depending on the specification being used. We do not find any significant impact of a change in market size and relative firm size on innovations..."

Those are arguments enough to stress the importance of reliability and stability of measures of innovation at firm level and of the explanatory power of the traditional determinants of innovation.

Allegrezza and Beaufils paper deals with an exercise, taking the view of an applied researcher and public policy adviser, comparing the results in a cross-sectional and in a panel dimension (two waves 1990 and 1991) asking himself if he should trust former (cross-sectional) studies and hence care about individual effects.

In part one of the paper, they described the indicators of innovation. Since those qualitative indicators might be interrelated and signal facets of an underlying multidimensional phenomenon of innovative activity, the correlation of the indicators is used to build a factorial model over two waves.

In part two, the five indicators of innovation which were identified

- R&D
- new products
- new processes
- trial of new products
- trial of new processes

are regressed on a set of determinants: size, technology, intensity of competition, degree of product differentiation, exportation, state subsidy and labour turnover.
Since the dependent variables are qualitative (dichotomous "yes or no" answers), logit fixed effects and probit random effects model are applied.

Determinants of innovative activity

In answering the question of what the determinants of innovation are, Allegrezza & Beaufils restated the fact that innovative behaviour is considered the result of a latent unobserved propensity or ability to innovate. The propensity or ability to innovate is a function of a set of exogenous variables.

The five identified indicators linked to the innovative activity of a firm are personnel engaged in R&D activities, launching new products and implementing new processes, trying to find new products and processes.

Instead of looking at innovative activity indicator by indicator, a fruitful way of thinking is to suppose that the five indicators measure an underlying, unobserved, latent dimension which could represent the true "innovativeness" of firms. The underlying dimension of innovation can be inferred from the association of the five indicators by the polychoric correlations coefficients. Also a lot of research remains to be done to construct a reliable and stable indicator of innovativeness, the results obtained so long in this paper suggest that it is worthwhile to test the innovation indicators separately instead of using a composite score.

Do panel data really matter?

In their study, Allegrezza & Beaufils had set out to compare the results from cross-sectional regressions of innovation indicators on a bunch of explanatory variables with those obtained from regressions estimated on panel data.
Data used for the estimation came from the EDEL data set created by CEPS/INSTEAD and covering up to 400 manufacturing firms.
The crux of our exercise is the comparison of regressions on cross-sections and panel data.

The results of their estimations showed that when limited to only one wave, only half of the story is revealed and the policy conclusions may depend on the wave chosen for the estimation.

The Hausman specification test shows that it is sensible to take into account the individual firm effects versus pooling the data. Not surprinsingly, the results suggest also that there are differences between fixed effects logit models and random effects probit models. The specification of the models plays a great role.

Allegrezza and Beaufils drew a provisional conclusion that panel data do matter. Nonetheless, they felt that the work needs to be extended and the results need to be checked on a file containing data pooled on four waves (1988, 1989 1990, 1991), taking into account the attrition bias.

A full report of this study is contained in the Proceedings of the first Eurostat international workshop on techniques of enterprise panels.

For further information, on the study, contact:

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Foot note:
DGXIII and Eurostat of the European Commission are jointly planning an international conference on **Innovation Measurement and Policies**. This conference will be held in Luxembourg on 20-21 May 1996. It will deal with the development and use of innovation indicators, their relevance to innovation promotion and policies. Its focal point will be the *Community Innovation Survey* (CIS) which the authors of the article above were involved in.
To obtain further information on this conference, please contact:
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In Focus.......

From the survey of panels and panel potentialities in the Member States of the European Union conducted in 1993 and recently updated, the note in italics summarises the observations made in Portugal. The note is followed by some further details and ends with a look at planned future development.

Portugal has two surveys with panel potentialities:
(i) 'Painel de empresas' which is wholly a panel and (ii) 'Inquieritas a embrasa (harmonizados)' which is a partial panel.
For the former, the universe of the panel survey is drawn up each year from the Central Register of Enterprises and Establishments. It includes only active enterprises with their registered offices in mainland Portugal. Banking and insurance are not included. The population was pre-stratified by cross-classifying the following variables: geographic location, economic activity, legal form and number of employees. The main variables are employment and related costs, and turnover. The initial sample size in 1990 comprised of 8340 units. The first reports have been finalised, consisting also of some real panel analyses. The response rate was, for the first 1990 wave, 86% and for the second 1991 wave, cumulatively 77%.

Portugal

Portugal has since 1990 developed a panel of the enterprises of mainland regions. The main objective is to produce year *t* estimates for Preliminary National Accounts purposes during August of year t+1. The project was launched with the financial support of EUROSTAT and methodological support of (Pierre Lavallée of) Statistics Canada.

The main focus is on the estimation of trends of generic economic indicators like employment, turnover, investment and the main operational costs by domains (economic activity, region, employment size, type of enterprise: state controlled, private or sole-proprietorship). Cross-sectional estimates for totals are also available.

Because estimates for domains or aggregates are preferred to the longitudinal follow-up of enterprises, sampling is done assuring maximum overlap instead of keeping the same units between consecutive waves.
The population is a subset of the National Institute's Central Register, which is updated each year. Births, deaths and stratum variables modifications are considered in this way. Panel information itself is not considered in the update process (except in the case of wrong addresses).

Stratification variables reflect the estimation domains. Sample allocation uses Power Allocation Method with turnover as auxiliary variable: final allocation is determined by the achievement of reasonable coefficients of variation for the stratification variables. For economic activity classifications this means a maximum of 20% for 2-digit classes and a maximum of 10% for 1-digit levels.

Selection of sample follows the Bernoulli sampling method, where a unit is selected depending on its relation between its sampling probability and a first-time generated random number. Since the same first-time random numbers are kept for stable and stratum changing units maximal overlap is assured between two consecutive waves. For each wave, new numbers are generated exclusively for births.

The economic analysis of estimates for the first four years has led to the conclusion that some serious problems occurred in the population's economic activity classification. These problems were solved by the use of post-stratified estimation.

What's new...............

Portugal plans to build on the progress made to date. With some support from the international partners, future developments are envisaged :

- on the issue of management of mergers/demergers; and
- in the area of transition tables, closely related with enterprises' demography: special attention will be given to the analysis of the relation between employment and enterprises' size and growth.

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Classified

Agenda

International Conference on Comparative Analysis of Enterprise Data

Helsinki, Finland, 17 June 1996

Call for Papers and Participation

Target:

A forum for economists, econometricians, statisticians and methodologists who are interested in

- creating micro data on enterprises and other businesses, and in
- better utilising them in economics and statistical research, and further in
- improving international and regional comparability of business data.

While a number of finalised and preliminary papers will be presented, the conference aims at giving the motivation for future research on methods and applications of international comparisons. It is the meeting place for those who have similar interests. The seminar will continue the traditions of the First Eurostat Workshop on Techniques of Enterprise Panels (February 1994, Luxembourg) and the Conference on The Effects and Technology and Innovation on Firm Performance and Employment (May 1995, Washington).

Keywords

- International comparisons
- Enterprise demography
- Effects of R&D, Innovativeness
- Wage formation
- Methods of Panel/Longitudinal analysis
- Productivity and efficiency
- Labour market mobility
- Handling of sample survey data on businesses

Venue

Statistics Finland, Helsinki, Työpajakatu 13
(Three Kilometres from the city centre.)

Organising Committee

- Seppo Laaksonen, Statistics Finland
- Mika Maliranta, Statistics Finland
- Markus Jäntti, The Finnish Society for Economic Research
- Gunnar Rosenqvist, The Swedish School of Economics and BA
- Risto Lehtonen, The Finnish Statistical Society

- Reija Lilja, The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy

Scientific Committee

- Gerhard Arminger, University of Wuppertal (Germany)
- Lutz Bellman, Employment Research Institute, Nuremberg (Germany)
- Silvia Biffignandi, University of Bergamo (Italy)
- Pierre Blanchard, University of Paris XII (France)
- Robert H. McGuckin, Center for Economic Studies, U.S. Census Bureau (USA)
- Bill Pattinson, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Australia)
- Haim Regev, Central Bureau of Statistics (Isreal)
- Tor Eriksson, University of Arhus (Denmark)
- Tim Jones, Central Statistical Office of the UK
- Photis Nanopoulos, Eurostat (Luxembourg)
- Kees Zeelenberg, Statistics Netherlands
- ant the Organising Committee

Papers & presentations

- Invited papers
- Contributed Papers:
  To have a paper considered authors must send a 300-5000 word abstract, no later than May 10 1996.
- General Discussions
- Group discussions on future international co-operation
- Informal summer activities (with Finnish flavour)

Dates & Deadlines

10 May 1996 for receipt of abstracts
15 May 1996 for preliminary registration
10 May 1996 for first agenda and practical information including accommodation and payment to be sent to those who have made the preliminary registration
31 May 1996 Deadline for payments
Other useful information via mail, faxes, e-mails and Internet at any time.
17-19 June 1996 are conference dates

Registration fees

covering the material, coffee, lunches, dinner:
Normal registrations until May 31:

- 600 FIM for Non-Speakers
- 300 FIM for Speakers

Later registrations:

- Normal + 200 FIM

Main organisers: Statistical Methods and Research Branch of Statistics Finland
Co-organisers: The Finnish Society for Economic Research, The Finnish Statistical Society, The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy, Department of Statistics at the Swedish School of Economics and BA.

For further information, contact
Postal address:
The MidNight Sun Conference,
P.O. Box 3A, Statistics Finland, Finland FIN-00022
Fax: + 358 0 17342474 E-Mail: Mika.Maliranta@Stat.Fi
Seppo.Laaksonen@Stat.Fi

IASS/IAOS
Satellite meeting on Longitudinal Studies

Jerusalem, August 27-29, 1997

Preliminary Announcement

Coverage

The satellite meeting on Longitudinal Studies, which will follow the ISI session in Istanbul, will cover aspects of both the design and analysis of sample surveys (prospective or retrospective), in which the same units are investigated with respect to several points of time or over periods of time. This includes fixed or rotating panel surveys and longitudinal studies based on administrative data or on censuses.

Sponsors

The meeting is sponsored by the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) and by the International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS).

Programme Committee

Members of the International Programme Committee are:

- Lidia Barreiros (EUROSTAT),
- David A. Binder (Statistics Canada),
- Steven B. Cohen (AHCPR, USA),
- Jean-Claude Deville (INSEE, France),
- Susan Linacre (ABS, Australia),
- Graham Kalton (WESTAT, USA),
- Gad Nathan (CBS, Israel),
- Danny Pfeffermann (Hebrew University, Israel),

- Fritz J. Scheuren (George Washington Univ., USA)
- Chris Skinner (University of Southampton, UK).

The term "Longitudinal Studies" is to be regarded in a general sense, but will be limited to studies with a predominantly statistical component. A preliminary list of topics includes: theoretical models, design issues, practical questions of collection and processing, longitudinal analysis and frameworks for inference, measurement and other non-sampling errors. The possibility of a workshop to present and discuss case-studies is also being considered.

Future announcements

A formal call for papers and further information will appear in Spring 1996. Survey statisticians interested in the meeting and those with ideas or suggestions are welcome to contact:

Gad Nathan,
Central Bureau of Statistics,
91905 Jerusalem, Israel; Fax: + 972-2-6553-319,
e-mail gad@olive.mscc. huji.ac.il.
Additional information will be available on the Internet
Web site: http://pluto.mscc.huji.ac.il/_gad/smls.html.

EEA Working Party on Enterprise Panels Statistics

Luxembourg, 10 April 1996

The second meeting of the EEA (European Economic Area) working party on panels was held in Luxembourg on April 10 1996. (The first was held on 15 and 16 September 1994.) Participants were official national representatives of the EEA Member States. There were observers from a number of Central and Easter European countries in addition to some private experts that were invited.

The main focus was the ongoing activities regarding the *1996 Internal Market Study* especially regarding the longitudinal and ad hoc surveys. Eurostat's plan of action was discussed.

While this was a fairly "closed" meeting, copies of its report will be available to anyone who is interested in receiving it at the end of May 1996.

Those wishing to receive copies of this report should contact:

The Project Secretary,
Enterprise Panels Project (Eurostat),
Room C5-98, Jean Monnet Building,
L-2920, LUXEMBOURG
Phone: +352 4301 33212 Telefax: +(352) 4301 34149

Book Choice

Coming Attraction:

Eurostat is planning to launch a regular journal of scientific collections in the near future with the release of the first issue hopefully to be made before the end of 1996. The aims of the publication are to

- improve dissemination of results of statistical researches,
- create a forum for scientific exchanges between researchers and
- in the process, help Eurostat to fulfil its goal of providing users with statistical services of high quality through the use of the best statistical methodologies and tools available.

A number of technical papers of very high scientific content and interest are produced in the area of official statistics in Europe and in particular in Eurostat.
Thus, the journal will aim at disseminating information/results of research work done by or on behalf of Eurostat which are considered of general interest to the scientific community.

Also at the planning stage, and to be launched soon is the series on collection of discussion/working papers and m*onographs of research in Official Statistics,* the sister publication of the scientific journal mentioned above.

We are currently discussing various aspects of this project especially as regards editorial contents in-house and with a number of interested external experts. We are also considering offers from experts wishing to be associated one way or the other (either as members of the editorial board or scientific review committee, as

national contact/correspondent or simply as potential subscriber).
We will like to hear from you if you are in any way interested in this project.

For further information, please contact:
Mr. Daniel Defays
Head, Unit D3, Eurostat
Room C5/100 Jean Monnet Building
L-2920, Luxembourg
Telephone: +(352) 4301 32854 Fax: +(352) 34149

Some useful contacts:

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All numbers should be prefixed with +(352) for Luxembourg, and 4301 for the European Commission in Luxembourg.

Editor's Note:

This newsletter is prepared by Eurostat and published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. It is distributed free to users and potential users of statistics of enterprise, and in particular, of enterprises panels. It is also distributed to our partners world-wide who are working towards the development of techniques of panels and longitudinal data analysis and who are aiming at universally comparable statistical information in this field. The newsletter is distributed to a number of libraries and also to the network of the Euro-Info Centres.

If you are not already on the mailing list and will like to receive copies of future issues, you will need to complete a special form for this purpose. To obtain a copy of this form, please complete and mail or fax the form below to the project secretary.

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