



EURODATA Newsletter

No. 1

Spring 1995

EURODATA Research Archive of the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research

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Here it is: EURODATA Newsletter

This newsletter, the first issue of which is presented here, is intended to contribute to facilitate data-based comparative research on European societies and polities. It is published and circulated twice a year, free of charge.

The EURODATA Newsletter is a product of the EURODATA Research Archive (more on page 2) of the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (more on pages 13-15). It has three major objectives:

- to disseminate information on the research activities of the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, with particular emphasis on data-generating cross-national research the archive is involved in;
- to provide information on European data infrastructures and important developments;
- to provide a forum for the exchange of information on ongoing comparative social research on European societies and on European integration.

Our newsletter has been very much inspired by the European Political Data Newsletter, published from 1971 to 1988 jointly by the European Consortium for Political Research and the Norwegian Social Science Data Services. The EURODATA Newsletter cannot fill this gap: resources and networks are too limited. We think, however, that we nevertheless can make a useful contribution to the systematic and cumulative improvement of information on various aspects of the European data and research infrastructure. The newsletter is intended to be an open forum: contributions from other research institutes and individual researchers are always welcome.

The EURODATA Newsletter will, as a rule, be divided into seven sections: *Feature* reports substantive findings from on-going cross-national research. *Data Infrastructure* reports on data institutions such as data archives, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and covers historical developments and current modes of access to data. *Research Institutes* presents profiles of research institutions with a cross-national orientation. *Research Groups and Projects* informs on co-operations and networks in comparative social research on Europe. *Computer* deals with specific aspects of electronic information processing and the use of electronic networks in comparative research. *Country Profile* provides background information on individual countries. *Noticeboard* provides general news including information about new statistics, recent books and studies, conference reports and announcements.

We hope that many people will take this newsletter as what it is meant to be: a helpful tool and a contribution to infrastructure in comparative European social research.

The editors: Franz Kraus, Michael Quick, Franz Rothenbacher

Peter Flora

Notes on the history of the EURODATA Research Archive

In 1989, when the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research was created, the „European Data Archive“, as it then was called, became part of the new research institute. At that time it was able to look back to a „pre-history“ of one and a half decades in which its basic objectives were already defined. Therefore these few notes.

The history began with the HIWED project (Historical Indicators of the West European Democracies) which had the main goal of producing a historical data handbook on Western Europe for the period 1815-1975. The project was started in 1973 by Wolfgang Zapf and myself in Mannheim and moved with me to Cologne in 1977. Officially, it ended in 1979, but it took some more years to complete and publish the two volumes of the historical data handbook (*State, Economy, and Society in Western Europe 1815-1975*. Frankfurt; vol. I, 1983; vol. II, 1987).

The Stiftung Volkswagenwerk, which had already supported the HIWED project, was generous enough to also finance a follow-up project: WEDA (West European Data Archive) from 1979 to 1981. With this project we wanted to prepare the ground for a permanent data archive with a statistical library and machine-readable data sets on Europe. To some extent, this was realised in 1982, again at the University of Mannheim. However, our attempts to institutionalise the archive within the frame of GESIS (*Gesellschaft Sozialwissenschaftlicher Infrastruktureinrichtungen*), the central infrastructure for the social sciences in Germany, were less successful.

Probably for two reasons: We wanted to link the archive more closely to research than pure service institutions usually can do, and „research on Europe“ was at that time not yet well discovered in Germany. The creation of the Mannheim Centre thus offered ideal opportunities to pursue the original intentions on a much broader basis and with a long-term perspective. Under these conditions, we were also ready to follow the strong suggestion from established national data archives to change the name from „European Data Archive“ into „EURODATA Research Archive“.

Whereas names and organisational forms changed over the years, the basic objectives remained the same. They were shaped by the ideas of Stein Rokkan who contributed to the development of comparative research and its infrastructure more than anybody else. These ideas are simple: in order to understand our world of today, we have to study its long-term development; for this, studying the history of Europe and her nations is crucial; its analysis must take up questions and concepts of classical sociology, but at the same time utilise the modern possible ties and methods of data collection and data analysis; and this in turn requires a division of labour, international co-operation, and an infrastructure for comparative research.

EURODATA wants to make a modest contribution to this latter task. Although it normally cannot offer specific services to outside individuals or institutions, it will provide some general services to the scientific community interested in research on Europe:

- its statistical library and documentation centre are open to the scientific public;
- its machine-readable data files are being made available by the *Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung* (ZA) in Cologne and the *Norwegian Social Science Data Services* (NSD) in Bergen;
- it publishes, in co-operation with the IZ (*Informationszentrum Sozialwissenschaften*, Bonn), a series of guide-books for the social sciences, „Europe in Comparison“, started in 1994 (see page 26);
- it will soon begin to publish a series of historical data handbooks on Europe.

Last not least, it wants to facilitate communication on data-based comparative research on Europe by the EURODATA NEWSLETTER.

Institutions and libraries which want to subscribe to EURODATA Newsletter please write to:

University of Mannheim, MZES-Eurodata, D-68131 Mannheim. Fax: +49 - 621 - 292 8435

It's free of charge. Due to limited resources we can not mail the newsletter to individuals. They are referred to the electronic version available in Internet (World Wide Web):

<http://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/eurodata/newsletter.html>

Franz Rothenbacher

Household and Family Trends in Europe: from Convergence to Divergence

The International Year of the Family 1994 together with the World Population Conference have drawn greater attention to the changing family. On the level of the European Union interest in the family was intensified, as the first steps taken towards the creation of a European household and family statistics and the strengthening of the European Observatory on National Family Policies (EONFP) show. In addition, other international organisations, such as the Council of Europe or the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), have intensified their activities in the field of population and family research. In this context the question may be posed how household and family structures in Europe evolve. Not only for the European Union but also for sociological research in general the question of divergence or convergence of national household and family structures and of national demographic developments is of great importance.

Growing convergence of the "old" diminishing household and family forms

Until the 1960s a growing similarity of patterns in household and family structures could be observed in the industrialised countries of Western Europe. Since that time some family patterns have been showing a tendency to diverge in the European countries. The aim of this contribution is to verify empirically the thesis of the succession of convergence and divergence of family and household forms.

Diminution of households not yet finished

Today the concepts of household and family are virtually identical. One basic feature of the development of households is the diminution of households. From a historical perspective the diminution of households is a result of the *nuclearisation* (the disappearance of persons not belonging to the nuclear family, such as servants, farm labourers and relatives), the *fertility decline* and the *solitarisation*, i.e. the growing tendency to live alone. Another example for the process of the diminution of the household is the decreasing mean household size. For most European countries a household included between 4 and 6 persons around 1850 and about 2 to 3.4 persons in 1990. In addition,

this process is highlighted by the decline of "bigger" households. Thus over half of all households in all European countries had more than four members around 1850, while this figure ranged between 20% to 50% in 1990. This ubiquitous trend towards small living units becomes even more evident if one looks at the development of households with five and more persons. Around 1850 the shares in Europe ranged from 30% to 70%, in 1990 from 5% to 15% in the majority of all west European countries (Graph 1).

Continuing nuclearisation

Nuclearisation in the sense of dissolution of family and household forms which transcend the nuclear family is proceeding in Europe. In 1990, the shares of *extended family households* in relation to all family households varied from about 2% in West Germany to about 15% in Greece. But meanwhile a lot of countries have reached the lower limit. Thus the share of extended family households in West Germany has stagnated since 1976 at roughly 2%; in Belgium and Hungary as well a further decline in the decade from 1980 to 1990 could not be observed. Switzerland and Italy still show significant decreases.

This continuing nuclearisation can also be observed regarding the de-

velopment of households with three and more generations. But this way of presenting data according to *generations* is only possible for few countries. In the western industrialised countries such as Germany, the United States and Canada the shares of households with three and more generations are meanwhile (1990) below 3 percentage points. As late as 1957 the share in West Germany was three times higher (9%). With 16%, Albania on the other hand shows a still predominantly preindustrial pattern of the generation structure.

Thus the model of the nuclear family has become the dominant family type in all industrialised European countries. This is in contrast to, for example, the industrialised or industrialising nations of Asia such as Japan and Korea (but China, too) where the share of households with three and more generations varies from 15% to 20%, but shows a strong tendency to decline.

Another sign for a trend towards the nuclear family is the growing share of *married* people in percent of the total population, a tendency that lasted for several decades. This trend however only continued until the 1960s; since that time a reversal of the trend could be observed: the share of married persons in the total population is declining again. This reversal of the trend is only partly a new development away from the nuclear family. Socio-structural and demographic reasons, such as the postponement of the age at first marriage due to a higher participation of women in education and employment and an increase in the number of divorces, are also responsible for this development. The invention and diffusion of "new" forms of living could be further reasons for the decreasing married population.

Growing divergence of "new" increasing household and family forms

Since the 1960s some new developments in the field of living forms

Graph 1: 5+ Person Households in Europe, 1955-1995

have accelerated, although these forms pre-existed in historical terms, but never became dominant phenomena. These new developments have not threatened the model of the nuclear family in its substance, but one could speculate if they could substitute the nuclear family in the distant future.

Growing solitarisation

One of the decisive new developments is the very strong increase in the number of people *living alone*, defined by official household statistics as „one-person households“. In relation to the total number of private households this share varied from 5% to 27% in Europe; in 1990 the share of the same countries

ranged from 14% to 40%. Albania and Turkey have not yet participated in this development. The gulf between these countries has thus become substantially bigger.

If the number of one-person-households is put in relation to the total population, this share varied between 1.5 % and 10% in 1960; in 1990 this share ranged between approximately 4% and 18%. This means that the divergence is growing.

Quantitative decline of the significance of the married couple in favour of the one-parent family

Measured by all households with a family nucleus, that is the family households so to speak, the quantitative importance of the *married couple* with and without children has been declining in many European countries since the 1960s. This development is a reflection of the growth of one-parent families. In most European countries the overwhelming majority of all family nuclei still consists of a married couple. In 1980 their share ranged from about 85% to about 95% in the majority of countries. Until 1990 the differences between countries grew, accompanied by a general decrease of this share. Although the decrease, for example, of the share of married couples of all households with family nuclei was very moderate, the decreases witnessed in Hungary, the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) and Belgium were significant.

The relative quantitative decrease in the number of married couples is the result of a growth in the number of *one-parent families*. This increase can be observed in all European countries, in fact with a growing divergence. The growth rates of the 80s are significantly higher than those of the 60s and 70s. In 1990, the share of incomplete family households varied from about 5% to 15%.

The overwhelming majority of all one-parent families in all European countries is formed by *mothers*.

Their share varies from about 75% to 90%. The development of this share does not reveal a clear trend. But there are signs in some non-European countries, e.g. the United States, for an increase in the share of men.

The reasons for this shift in familial forms of living from the married couple to the one-parent family differ significantly from country to country; however, the majority is probably a result of an increase in divorce and the rising social acceptance of births out-of-wedlock and the social position of the lone parent. The traditional reason, widowed women with young children, probably plays an increasingly minor role.

Cohabiting couples on the increase

Since the end of the 1970s a growing tendency towards cohabitation, i.e. persons of different sex living together, has been observed. According to Kathleen Kiernan and Valerie Estauagh (1993) two types of cohabitation can be distinguished. One form is "nubile cohabitation", whereby young people in their twenties or early thirties live together as a preliminary stage or as a substitute for marriage. Parallel to the growing number of divorces the type of "post-marital cohabitation" has become increasingly important, partly as a substitute for remarriage, partly as the first stage. Comparative studies have shown that in all countries for which data are available there has been a growing trend since the early 1980s. Of young people below the age of 25 living together, more and more do not marry but live as a cohabiting couple. In the higher age brackets where marriages start occurring the share of women living in cohabitation is getting smaller. However, a rising trend can be observed here as well. Problems of comparability arise with data on cohabitation because they overwhelmingly stem from surveys which are very different as regards the number of respondents, concepts, assessed variables and time of investigation. If

one wants to compare these surveys printed analyses and relative figures are often the only accessible data.

Among European countries there exists a significant variation in the incidence of cohabitation. Those countries for which data are available can be subdivided into three groups: countries where cohabitation has established itself, countries

where it is developing as an important living arrangement, and those countries where cohabitation has remained unknown until now (or was not yet detected).

(1) Countries where cohabitation established itself as socially accepted behaviour are Sweden, Denmark and Iceland. In the other Scandinavian or Nordic countries

Graph 2: Live Births out of Wedlock in Europe, 1960-1995

Norway and Finland the number of cohabiting couples has reached a high level. Even before 1960 living together without being married was not impossible in the Nordic countries (as compared to the Mediterranean countries, e.g.). Thus good preconditions for this behavioural pattern already existed. The majority of children today are no longer born within marriage in these countries, but in cohabitation.

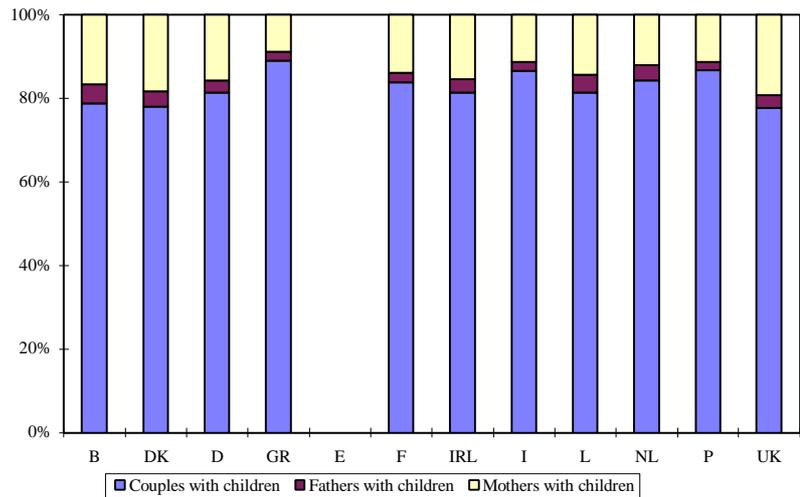
(2) The second group of countries where cohabitation slowly emerges as a form of living arrangement includes Austria, Finland, Norway, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. Within this group two subgroups can be distinguished. The rate of children born out-of-wedlock is high in (a) Austria, Finland, France, Great Britain and Norway, but rather low in (b) the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland. These observations suggest the following interpretation: in Switzerland, the Netherlands and Germany cohabitation means that childless partners live together and marry when children arrive. This is not true for Austria, Finland, Germany, Great Britain and Norway; in any case, births of children occur much more frequently within cohabitation, although the cohabiting couples often marry afterwards (see also Haskey 1992).

(3) The third group with no or undetected cohabitation is made up mainly by the Mediterranean countries, probably Ireland and some east and south-east European countries.

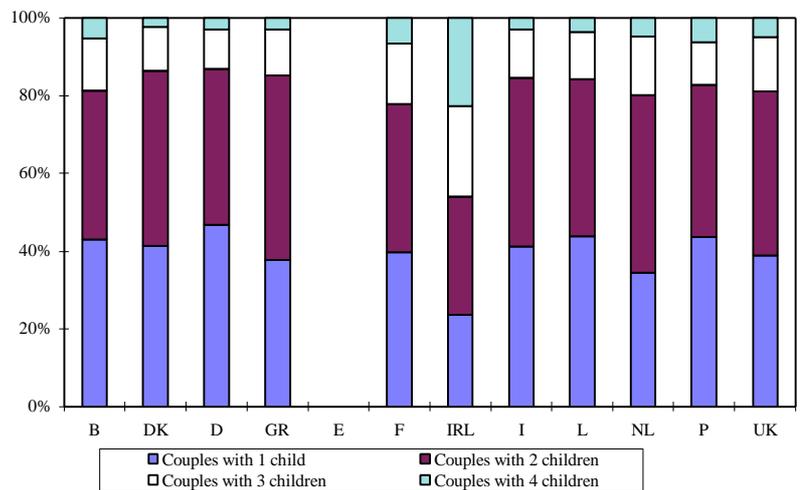
Growing divergence of out-of-wedlock births

In some Nordic countries the number of children born outside marriage has risen tremendously. The share of births out-of-wedlock (in % of all live births) is particularly high in Iceland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, but it is also remarkable in France, Finland, Great Britain and Austria (Graph 2). On the other hand, the share of children

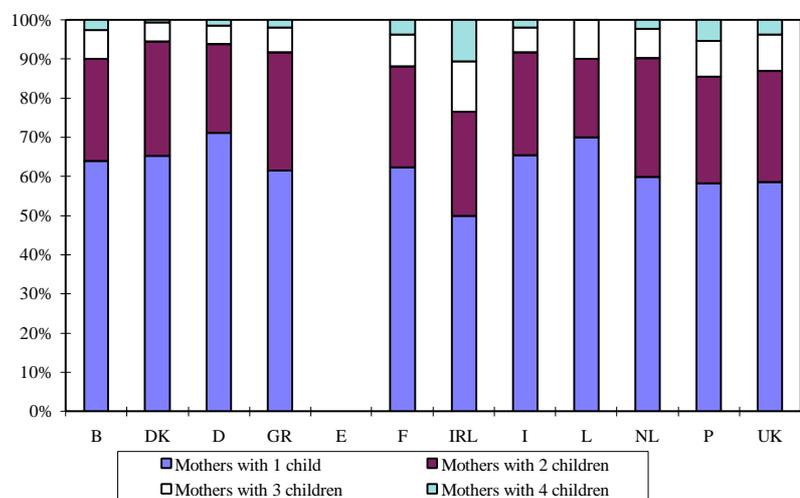
Graph 3: Family Nuclei with Children by Type (in %) - 1991



Graph 4: Couples with Children by Number of Children (in %) - 1991



Graph 5: Mothers with Children by Number of Children (in %) - 1991



born out-of-wedlock in Mediterranean countries and Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg is rather small if south, east and southeast European countries are excluded whose out-of-wedlock birth rate is traditionally very low. The low shares of these Central European countries may partly be attributed to institutional factors. For example, family law in Germany grants fewer rights to the father than to the mother if a child is born out-of-wedlock. Therefore it probably promotes marriage in the case of pregnancy. In the same way, the German personal tax system promotes marriage by suggesting the so-called tax splitting for married couples which *ceteris paribus* reduces the tax load. In the Nordic countries most of the children born outside marriage are born within cohabitation and not, for example, to a "single" mother.

Number of families without children rising

Since the 1960s, an increase in the number of childless married couples has been observed in many European countries. This increase obviously has different growth rates, indicating a growing divergence between countries. In 1990 the share of married couples without children in percent of all one-family households increased from about 20% in Ireland to about 45% in Switzerland. In Belgium and Italy apparently the shares did not change.

The continuing fertility decline, the postponement of the age at first marriage and the age at the birth of the first child could be reasons for this increase; furthermore, the share of married couples remaining without children for a lifetime probably increased.

Families with children by number of children

Different family types by number of children shall be depicted in a cross-sectional analysis. Family nuclei with children may be subdivided into three main types, namely

married couples with children, fathers with children and mothers with children (Graph 3). In the twelve countries of the European Union about 80% of all family nuclei, on the average, were married couples with children in 1991. High shares of married couples with children are to be found in Greece (89%), Portugal (87%) and Italy (86%). The lowest share of married couples with children is to be found in the United Kingdom and Denmark (78% each) and in Belgium (79%). The number of fathers with children amounts to less than 5% in all twelve EU countries. The lowest shares are to be found in the Mediterranean countries Portugal (1.8%), Greece and Italy (each 2.2%). Marked differences can therefore be observed in EU countries regarding mothers with children. Their share is lowest in the Mediterranean countries and highest in Denmark, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

The number of children reveals noticeable differences between the European countries (Graph 4). The presentation according to households can only roughly be interpreted as being differences in fertility, because only children present in the household are counted and not the total number of births. The system of having one child only seems to be most widespread in Germany, Portugal, Luxembourg and Belgium. Families with many children - here families with three and more children - are very frequently found in Ireland, a country that plays a special role within the EU. France, the Netherlands and Belgium also lie above the average.

Single fathers show a relatively high variability - probably because of their low occurrence, but here fathers with one child are dominant. The reasons for being a single father are probably very different from country to country (being divorced, widowed).

About two thirds of all single mothers have one child and about one in

five single mothers has two children (Graph 5). In Ireland, the number of children, as is the number of lone parents with many children, is far above the average (EUROSTAT 1994; see also Duchêne/Eggerickx 1994).

The North-South gradient in Europe

The question of territorial patterns in household and family structures cannot be resolved easily because the grouping of countries partly differs a great deal from indicator to indicator. However, a rough schematisation reveals the picture of a North-South gradient. If one uses the mean size of the households as the simplest indicator, Germany, the Scandinavian countries and the United Kingdom could be grouped together as countries with very small households. The Mediterranean countries Spain, Portugal and Greece, but also Ireland - apparently the European peripheries - belong to the cluster of countries with the largest households. Ireland is therefore the big exception in the North-South gradient. The majority of the continental countries belong to those lying between the extremes. The Mediterranean country Italy rather belongs to the continental group than to the peripheral group.

If the countries of eastern Europe and south-eastern Europe are added, the picture becomes much more complex. The former COMECON countries - Yugoslavia included - show completely different household and family structures, and have never formed a unity in this respect. Thus the former German Democratic Republic belongs to the Nordic group, Poland, Yugoslavia and Romania to the southern European group, and Hungary and Bulgaria to the continental group.

In principle these territorial patterns also appear with respect to other indicators of the household and family structures, such as extended families, one-person households, one-parent families, cohabitation and births out-of-wedlock. Clustering, i.e. using a plurality of indicators, could be a valuable future research task.

Some covariations

In the following section some interrelations between the household and family structures and the demo-

Graph 7: Single-Parent Families and Total Divorce Rate, 1991

Graph 6: Extended Families and Employment in Agriculture, 1990/91

Graph 8: Mean Household Size and Total Fertility Rate, 1990/91

graphic and socio-structural covariates will be presented. One example for the analysis of a covariation of traditional household and family structures is the analysis of the connection between the share of extended family households with another variable. If one postulates the hypothesis that the share of extended family households in a country depends heavily on the share of the agricultural sector, as this form of household is to be found mainly in family farms, the result would be what is depicted in Graph 6. Thus a rather clear positive relation between both variables emerges for those EU countries for which data are available: the higher the share of employment in the agricultural sector, the higher the share of extended family households. Furthermore it becomes evident that there are two main country clusters: on the one hand the highly industrialised countries of the continent and northern Europe,

on the other hand the Mediterranean countries including Ireland with a still large agricultural sector.

In a second example the covariation of a „new“ family type - namely the share of one-parent families - with one further variable is analysed. In this case it would be plausible to say that the number of one-parent families is decisively influenced by the number of divorces. According to Graph 7 a positive relation between both variables exists although this relation is not totally clear. The group of the Mediterranean countries (for Spain and Portugal no data are available; Ireland does not have a divorce law as yet; regarding Italy it is only divorces, but not legal separations - which are much more frequent - that are included) again forms a separate cluster with very low divorce rates. The reasons for the formation of one-parent families are much more of a tradi-

tional nature (widowhood) in these countries.

In a further example the relation between the mean household size and the overall fertility rate is analysed (Graph 8). In this case mainly two country clusters exist. On the one hand the highly industrialised countries of the continent and northern Europe, on the other hand the four Mediterranean countries Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Ireland and Sweden are outliers in this respect. The high fertility rate found in Sweden is exceptional compared to the other Nordic countries, too. The fertility rate in the former GDR stood at 1.52 before the reunification in 1990 and fell to a low level because of the „demographic revolution“ caused by economic uncertainty. The very low level of fertility observed in the Mediterranean countries in combination with the relatively large households suggests that in these countries household size is not only determined by the number of children - this means by the nuclear family; instead - as we have seen above - other household members, such as grandparents, often co-reside in the household in these countries.

Note

Main sources for this contribution are household and family statistics taken from the population censuses of the European countries. The large number of titles cannot be cited here. The demographic data mainly stem from Council of Europe 1994. Data on employment in agriculture are taken from EU-ROSTAT 1993.

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Franz Kraus

Towards an Infrastructure of Comparative Research on Europe

During the last years, research on European societies and on European integration has increased. Concomitantly, discussions on proper infrastructures have intensified. Our newsletter, over a number of issues, will address to that topic - partly through historical background information, partly through the treatment of specific aspects of actual interest. The sequence of contributions starts with a sketchy overview of the evolution of the current infrastructure.

A quantitative analysis of human behaviour and societal structures requires information on the behaviour and attitudes of individuals and groups, on macro-societal contexts and institutional settings. Major sources of information today are official statistics, academic and private survey research and institutional documentations. Scholars who want to conduct cross-national research face a wide spectrum of potential problems: they need to know the current state of research, find the proper data sources, evaluate their comparability, build up a suitable database and apply adequate tools of analysis. Problems seem almost insurmountable if a scholar considers time and space as important analytical dimensions.

In many cases the limitation of research to readily available information is sensible in such a situation and happens often even if research is carried out by international teams. But it is also obvious that progress in cross-national research requires not only intelligent use of available data but also the expansion of the data infrastructure itself. In addition, the maintenance of proper documentation services and of international forums for the co-operation of individual scholars, research institutes, national research councils and foundations is necessary.

National statistical institutes and associations

The problem is by no means new. Since the early days of quantitative, comparative analysis of social phenomena in the 17th and 18th cen-

tury Europe, science has taken care of the cumulative development of a proper infrastructure of comparative research. On occasion of the establishment of **national statistical institutes** in almost all European countries during the 19th century (Flora 1975), many social scientists took over responsibilities. Frequently they were even in charge of the institutes. **Statistical associations** and learned societies supported the development of statistical tools and the standardisation of enumeration programmes. In the mid-19th century, concern for international comparability of statistics and the international diffusion of statistical expertise had even led to the foundation of an international forum for discussion, the **International Statistical Congresses**.

International Statistical Institute (ISI)

By the end of the 19th century, the so-called *pro-statistical era* had come to its end (Landes 1972). In virtually all European countries, statistical institutes and advisory councils were in service and in many countries municipal statistical offices were established. The synchronous and regular carrying out of **population censuses** as well as the gradual introduction of **economic censuses** - both pillars of economic and social statistics until today - was internationally agreed upon. In 1885, the International Statistical Congresses had become an organisation with its own resources and governing bodies - **the International Statistical Institute**. Apart from the close co-operation

between the statistical institutes in Scandinavia, the Institute, for a number of decades, was the only institution that promoted the development of national and international statistics (Macura/Cleland 1985). Data quality and comparability, over time and country, replacement of administrative records through stratified sample surveys, and publication of cross-national statistics and studies were major concerns of the ISI. Individual scholars, often supported by learned societies, produced international guides to official statistics, international bibliographies of government publications and data handbooks.

The rise of international official statistics

During the interwar period, ISI and the academic community continued their efforts to generate an international infrastructure for comparative research. An additional incentive came with the foundation of the **League of Nations** (1919) and the **International Labour Organisation** (1919). Now, for the first time inter-governmental organisations took over responsibilities for the expansion and standardisation of national statistics and cross-national reporting. ISI co-operated with these institutions in various fields and published voluminous international data handbooks, particularly in the fields of vital and of urban statistics.

Early developments after World War II

Revolutionary changes in information processing and rapidly increasing information needs for public policy and private decision making have paved the way for an unprecedented expansion of information.

In the field of **official statistics**, national services were re-organised, comprehensive enumeration programmes developed, and data increasingly collected through surveys both of persons and establishments. Concomitantly, efforts towards standardising of enumerations,

concepts and methods gained new momentum (Flora/Kraus/Noll/ Rothenbacher 1994). Decisive incentives came from the newly founded U.N. (1946), the OEEC (1948), the Nordic Council (1953), and the European Communities (1952-57). Under the auspices of U.N.'s Statistical Commission a complex machinery of statistical co-operation was established, aiming at the improvement of the quality and international comparability of national statistics and an expansion to include new subject matters, particularly in the field of social statistics. International reporting soon became a permanent task within all these organisations.

In the field of **private statistics** the growth and expansion of information gathering was even more rapid. Polls and market research soon became an important source for social research as well. Moreover, with some delay, academics increasingly could afford their own sample surveys (Rokkan 1966).

This rapid growth of information

Abbreviations:	
CESSDA	Council of European Social Science Data Archives
CIESIN	Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network
ECPR	European Consortium of Political Research
ECSR	European Consortium of Sociological Research
ECSSID	European Co-operation in Social Science Information and Documentation
ESSC	European Social Science Council
ICPSR	Inter-university Consortium of Political and Social Research
ICSSD	International Council of Social Science Documentation
IFDO	International Federation of Data Organisations
ISSC	International Social Science Council
ISI	International Statistical Institute

offered a rich potential for social research but also required proper institutional innovations within the academic community.

The evolution of Social Science service institutions

The response of the international academic community in fact was very intelligent and thorough. On the initiative of leading social scientists concerned with comparative research, in the early 60s UNESCO - within its commitment to internationalise social sciences - decided to concentrate its efforts on the generation of an academic infrastructure for comparative research (Rokkan 1968). The ISSC was in charge of the programme execution and, after a series of prominent international conferences, organised a "**Round Table Conference on Comparative Research**". The conference adopted 8 recommendations for the strengthening of the institutional foundations of comparative research addressing 4 arenas of action:

- Increased international co-operation between science organisations;
- Advancement of comparative methodology and promotion of its use;
- Promotion of comparative research projects;
- Development of data infrastructures and information services.

The initiative was extremely successful, not only in intellectual, but also in institutional terms. Gradually three types of service institutions evolved during the last three decades (Tanenbaum/Mochmann 1994): **data archives, documentation services and survey research centres**. With the exception of the ICPSR archive in the U.S., institutions were, however, built up primarily in response to national needs. In addition to these nationally oriented institutions, the social sciences managed, however, to build up various **institutions for international co-operation** - both

at the level of infrastructural services (such as IFDO, CESSDA, ICSSD, ECSSID) and of research steering and promotion (for example ISSC, ESSC, ICPSR, ECPR and ECSR). Last not least, various **research institutes** have meanwhile been established in Europe which are explicitly dedicated to cross-national research. In addition to these institutional developments, a number of **comparative databases** was created, including data guides and handbooks. Through international co-operation, several cross-national survey programmes could be established in fields usually not covered by official statistics. The International Social Survey programme and the World Value studies are prominent examples for the establishment of a cumulating database with genuine information on attitudes, values and beliefs. The World Data Handbook of Political and Social Indicators represents such a case in the field of aggregate data. Regarding techniques of data analysis, many of the service institutions actively promote the international diffusion of the advancements in methodology. Meanwhile, increasing space is given to **comparative methods** in various workshops and summer-schools.

Official statistics and new social science service institutions

In the field of official statistics, the progress made since the days of the Round-Table Conference at Yale was tremendous as well, both with respect to data gathering and dissemination (Bjerve 1985).

In Europe, extraordinary improvements in quality and comparability could be achieved, particularly within the context of today's European Union. Definitions, classifications and statistical units have gradually become mandatory for EU Member States. Meanwhile, a unified European statistical system has been evolving. EFTA has recently agreed to implement EU standards for its Member Countries. After the fall of the Iron Curtain close statis-

tical co-operation was established with the formerly communist countries in Eastern Europe. Statistical subject matters were greatly expanded all over Europe, in particular within the field of social statistics. Administrative records were increasingly replaced by surveys, and, consequently, micro-level data have become a central source. What is more, large-scale surveys, such as micro-censuses and Labour Force Surveys, have diffused over almost the whole of Europe (Rothenbacher 1994), offering an unprecedented potential for comparative social analysis.

In addition to these political incentives, progress in information technology has also changed access to official statistics. The archives of statistical offices have meanwhile been transformed from repositories into electronic archives. New electronic storage media allow the dissemination of large quantities of data. And the public access to on-line databases which increasingly include also detailed meta-information, offer a new dimension of access to official statistics.

However, the efficient use of this unprecedented wealth of official statistics for comparative research requires new types of skills and services. Infrastructural knowledge must be accumulated and duplication of efforts be avoided. This is obvious in the case of large micro-data sets, but it actually also applies to the comparative analysis of aggregate statistics.

Social science service institutions in Europe differ greatly with respect to how they have adapted to these new developments in official statistics. Only a few of them managed to include official statistics as a service task: the explosion of academic surveys exhaust available resources in many cases. The resulting gap has meanwhile been partially closed by institutions established outside the national service movement. The **Luxembourg Income Study** (LIS-working paper, no. 7, 1988), with its continuously expanding holdings

of micro-level data from official income and family expenditure surveys combines both research and archival functions with comparative orientation. And the same model is being applied by the evolving Luxembourg Employment Study, again with great success. An old question is raised again: should services be organised by subjects (cross-national, specialised institutions) or along national needs?

The rise of networking facilities

During the last decade, fundamental changes in computing environments again occurred. Particularly the diffusion of desk-top computers and the rise of international networking facilities (**INTERNET**) have opened new possibilities for accessing and integrating decentralised sources of information. These developments will also have important impacts on existing service institutions. Data sets of individual scholars will increasingly be available directly via net, freeing some resources at institutions with a general obligation to archiving. This opens new possibilities, and improving the support of national services for cross-national analyses would be a good decision. Work on the virtual integration of information holdings of national institutions (i.e. linkage of national services through networking) is already under way. CESSDA members, for example, are already about to link their machine-readable catalogues (Alvheim 1995; ESCR Data Archive Bulletin, 58, Spring 1995). Other examples of virtual services are the British **Social Science Information Gateway** or the efforts of **CIESIN** to establish a virtual international data archive through searching **INTERNET** for appropriate sources. Meanwhile, official bodies are going to use **INTERNET** as well to serve their clients' information needs. In the U.S., many statistical agencies disseminate data through ftp-servers. The European Commission has set up a WWW-server offering information on the EU's goals, institutions and poli-

cies, including direct access to public databases.

Outlook

Compared to the 50s, the progress made towards building an infrastructure of comparative research is impressive in all four areas the Round-Table-Conference was concerned with. However, despite this tremendous success, much remains to be done. In most European countries it was not possible to establish basic services. Data archives, so far, can only be found in the richer parts of Western Europe and in Hungary. Moreover, services vary not only in organisational form and research orientation, but also in terms of basic functions and tasks. Support for the use of official statistics is in many countries clearly underdeveloped. LIS and LES are an important step in the right direction, but they do not suffice. Similar institutions for micro-level data from censuses of populations and establishments - invaluable sources for comparative research - are missing. National differences in data protection and copyrighting still are major obstacles to the formation of proper service organisations. What we urgently need is a combined effort to open up access to such sources at the European level. Official statistics are indispensable for the comparative analysis of societies and politics and need more support.

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Franz Urban Pappi & Andreas Weber

The Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)

An Institute for Basic Research in the Social Sciences

The establishment of the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (*Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung - MZES*) as an institute of the University of Mannheim in the year 1989 represents a major extension of basic-research capacities in the German social sciences. The Centre is provided with an 18-member academic staff for conducting basic social science research. In addition, another roughly 24 scientists are working in grant-funded projects. This research staff is supported by a well-developed infrastructure, consisting of a library, the computer department, and the Research Archive EURODATA.

Central Questions of Research

Focusing the research on "The Developed Industrial Societies and Western Europe in Transition" the Centre was closely tied to research priorities of the Departments of Sociology and Political Science at the University of Mannheim. Committed to the Mannheim tradition of comparative social research, the MZES focuses on the study of the integration of European societies and political systems, especially in the framework of the European Union.

In the form of triannual research programs the overall research theme is given further elaboration and is put into practice in individual projects. With its 1993-1995 research program, the Centre moved into a decisive phase. The groundwork for the applied-for grant-based projects has already been laid at the MZES. It was possible, therefore, to achieve greater co-ordination among the individual projects.

According to four main branches of research orientation and disciplines the institute has a total of **four Research Departments**:

- I. Social Structures and the Welfare State in Europe: Comparative sociological research of European societies
- II. Problems of Governing in Democratic Constitutional States: Comparative politics of the European states and their policies
- III. Political and Social Aspects of European Integration
- IV. History of the GDR and Eastern Europe.

The Departments

In **Research Department I** the comparative analyses of social structure and of the welfare state are interlinked in the investigation of the allocation of life chances, the creation of groups, and the formation of conflict in European populations. The social-structural analysis focuses on work-force structures, but these are conceptualised in an expanded sense by differentiating according to ethnic and regional origin and according to age and sex. The welfare-state analysis centres on the systems of social security, expanded to include central social services. Peter Flora is actually working on a project on the transformation of the family and family policies in international comparison (cf. the article of F. Rothenbacher in this Newsletter). In his project on the "Determinants of divorce" Hartmut Esser combines sociological and economic explanatory approaches in a theoretical modelling of the development of "conjugal" partnerships. These are two examples of the research of Department I.

In **Research Department II** democratic nation-states represent the primary units of investigation. The ways in which their systems of government function are examined by studying their parliaments and/or

other institutions. This institutional analysis is complemented by an investigation of the elections to the European Parliament and to national parliaments, using a comparative perspective. A third focus, aside from institutional and electoral (or attitudinal) research, involves policy research, especially decision-making in specific policy areas from a comparative perspective (politics of policy), as well as policies of the European Union, e.g. labour and social policy or agricultural policy. Herbert Döring employs a large-scale project as the basis for comparing West-European parliaments in terms of the extent to which majority principles and minority rights influence decision-making style. This creates links between the projects in progress on policy research under the direction of Franz Urban Pappi, which aim to take advantage of recent models of policy decisions to explain, for example, the bargaining and negotiatory processes that take place in the Council of Ministers of the European Union. Hermann Schmitt is studying issue voting within a larger, international research project on the 4th European election.

At the core of **Research Department III** is the analysis of the interrelations between national-structural diversity and the process of European integration. This object of study is given concrete form e.g. in investigations of the role of regions or of changes in the conditions of interest aggregation under the influence of EU institutions. Beate Kohler-Koch is involved in a project on "Regions as Units of Action in European Politics": the aim is - by taking selected regions in individual member states of the EU - to improve our state of knowledge about the actual current importance and possible future role of regions as political actors in a European constitutional system. Research Department III is also the context in which the first cooperative efforts with the Faculty of Economics and Statistics occurred, taking concrete form in a project

brought into the Department by Roland Vaubel. It involves explanations for the increasingly more comprehensive character of regulations on the European-Union level. Several projects in the Department address the interconnection between growing centralisation of functions on the supranational level and rising demands for regional and local autonomy.

A special situation exists in **Research Department IV**, where Hermann Weber made the "Politics and History of the GDR" into a topic of a research facility that was established prior to the founding of the Centre. The primary goal is the completion of a history of the GDR with four volumes of historical analysis and documentation envisioned. This project, initiated prior to the dissolution of the GDR, now also has access to important material unavailable prior to 1989. Since unification, there has been a strong increase in scholarly and public interest in the history of the GDR, and it has very quickly become apparent how very much in demand Hermann Weber and his staff are, given their record of research on this topic. By taking up research in international Communism, the first step has been made in the direction of a strongly comparative orientation. In the future, this will be followed by further steps in the direction of research on Eastern Europe, conducted by Egbert Jahn. The MZES has to respond to new political developments. The breakdown of the Communist regime in Eastern Europe confronts these societies with immense problems of transformation. For this reason, the original focus on Western Europe contained in the founding program has been expanded. Therefore, the Research Department IV, is, in the

medium term, to turn into a Research Department for Eastern Europe.

Organisation and Infrastructure

Even if the focus of the Institute is clearly on the fields of sociology and political science, it displays a broad understanding of basic research in the social sciences, a conception that also encompasses contemporary history and the economic sciences. Organisationally, this is reflected in the fact that its supervisory board, the Collegium (Kollegium), consists of professors from the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Mannheim, and additionally, up to four professors from the Faculty of Economics and Statistics. Other scholars are also incorporated, for instance, from the respective Faculties of Business Administration and Jurisprudence. This expansion is based on the recognition of shared research interests in the study of European societies from a comparative perspective.

The directorship of the Mannheim Centre is appointed on a rotating basis. The Managing Director and the heads of the individual Research Departments are elected by the Collegium, and elections thus can lead to new research impulses for the MZES. There is no requirement that projects from the founding period be continued. Within the general framework of European research - in the sense of the comparative study of European societies and the problems of their integration, there is great leeway for initiating and implementing projects with new foci. The reliance upon grant funding, especially for comprehensive and costly field research (surveys, censuses, etc.) increases the outward orientation of the Cen-

tre.

One of the central parts of the infrastructure of the MZES - besides the library and the computer department - is the Research Archive EURODATA. It serves the internal research of the Centre's staff; and, given prior consultation, it also makes its holdings available to outside scholars. The basic function of EURODATA is fully described in the Editorial of this Newsletter.

An important institution associated with the MZES is the *Zentrum für Europäische Umfrageanalysen und Studien* (ZEUS; Centre for European Surveys and Studies). The European Commission has assigned ZEUS the task of processing the "Eurobarometer" surveys and incorporating them into an integrated data-base system; in this way, the entire data holdings accumulated since the first Eurobarometer survey in 1970 are made utilizable for secondary analyses of the development of the attitudes and opinions of the population of the EU countries.

Evaluation

The Centre aims to interlink its various projects not only with individual research departments, but also across departments, in terms of its general object of study. In order to perform this task successfully, the Centre has to rely on the critical monitoring of its projects by independent scholars from various European countries. This is the purpose of the Advisory Board (Beirat). Its members are: Gerhard Lehmbuch (Konstanz) Guido Martinotti (Milano), Yves Mény (Firenze), Frans Stokman (Groningen), and Helen Wallace (Brighton).

Franz Urban Pappi, Professor for Political Science at the University of Mannheim, is Executive Director and Head of the Research Department II at the MZES.

Andreas Weber is the Managing Assistant of the Executive Director of the MZES.

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Jürgen Schweikart

Network on Urban Research in the European Union (N.U.R.E.C.)

An European Atlas of Agglomerations is only one of several projects that the research group NUREC is working on. Researchers from thirteen countries conduct projects, exchange data and their knowledge in order to enable comparative information on cities and urban areas in Europe.

Comparative research concerned with European cities is difficult to do in two respects. On the one hand the comparability of statistical indicators poses a problem, and on the other national definitions of cities differ from one another in many ways. The historical, economic and political differences within Europe thus become particularly evident when we look at cities.

The Network on Urban Research in the European Union, N.U.R.E.C. constitutes a framework for international and interdisciplinary research. The Network is soon to become an international association in Belgian Law with its legal seat in Antwerp. Its Administrative Directorate is in Duisburg and its Scientific Directorates are in Paris and Milan. N.U.R.E.C. is non-profit-making.

The purpose of N.U.R.E.C. is to carry out international and interdisciplinary research programmes relating to the territory of the European Union, though not exclusively.

In order to achieve this goal the Network defines projects and makes use of appropriate means, such as databases, publications, conferences etc., for their implementation.

The projects are financed by resources provided by its members, research contracts, sponsoring and income from the sale of N.U.R.E.C.'s products.

There are different forms of membership: ordinary members with unrestricted eligibility and the right to vote; associate members with restricted eligibility, a restricted right to vote and a consultative vote; and finally individual members with a consultative vote. Only

non-profit-making organisations such as regional or municipal administrative bodies, departments of universities, research institutes etc. are entitled to full membership.

Organisations from countries outside the European Union have the possibility to become associate members and thus participate in all N.U.R.E.C. activities. Individual membership is possible in exceptional cases.

To date N.U.R.E.C. has 31 ordinary members, 8 associate members and 1 individual member from a total of 13 countries.

Within the N.U.R.E.C. integrated project framework the first step of the Europolis database resulted in the Atlas of Agglomerations in the European Union. This is being followed by the European City Survey, a project comprising several sub-projects starting with the Structural Change of the European City System which is under way.

Furthermore, N.U.R.E.C. is co-operating with the UN Centre for Human Settlements, Habitat, the UN Statistical Division, UNSTAT, the International Statistical Institute, ISI and the International Union of Local Authorities, IULA to conduct the Large Cities Statistics Project, LCSP. The aim of the project is to construct a world-wide system of data collection and dissemination concerning the World's large cities. In order to compile the data questionnaires were sent to the World's cities with more than 100000 inhabitants. Well in advance of the deadline a high rate with an even global spread is reported. LCSP will result in several publications including collections of city profiles and a revised edition of

the International Statistical Yearbook of Large Towns.

The Atlas of Agglomerations in the European Union was published in late 1994. The Atlas contains maps of 330 agglomerations and their complementary areas accompanied by data on these and 8220 basic administrative units. For the definition of the agglomerations a morphological approach was chosen based on the UN criterion of contiguous built-up areas which states that a building is part of the built-up area if the distance between former and latter does not exceed 200 metres.

N.U.R.E.C. also publishes the Europolis Working Papers at irregular intervals and Internal Circulars addressed to members and interested parties.

Recent publications:

N.U.R.E.C. (Ed)(1994): *Atlas of Agglomerations in the European Union*. Duisburg. (ISBN 3-89279-052-3, 973 pages, 300 ECU, please enquire for special rates).

EUROPOLIS - Working papers. (ISBN 3-89279-024-8)

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Jürgen Schweikart, research fellow of the DFG, is currently working

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Giampaolo Nuvolati

Towards a Qualitative Catalogue of Social Indicators for Italy

This article deals with a research project that is concerned with the establishment of an information system focusing on the description of different types of social indicators for different concerns available in Italy today.

During the last two decades the number of agencies, public or private, that produce and distribute social data has become greater and greater. Nevertheless the *map* of sources and data available today is not clear enough to facilitate easy access to and utilisation of them. In other words, although there is a huge amount of basic statistics and social indicators, it is still difficult for many students, researchers, public administrators and private users to handle the data. The imbalance between the quantity of data and their adequate use is evident. It is one of the main causes for the crisis the *Movement of Social Indicators* is faced with today. The increase in computer networks and corresponding skills acquired by researchers was also not completely successful in determining a more profitable use of social indicators. As a matter of fact, many different problems with collecting, cleaning, updating, accessing and interpreting data are very often reported by more careful scientists.

This article intends to stress the importance of developing a concept. This concept is that most of the information available today is not really *statistical- or social indicators-oriented* but rather *database- or statistical book-oriented*. In other words, it is quite easy for a researcher to know what kind of data or social indicators he/she can find in a statistical book or in a database, but it is much more difficult to know where to find the specific data or social indicators and their characteristics he/she is interested in for studying particular phenomena. This means that a researcher needs to explore different statistical books or databases every

time he/she wants to find or build up specific social indicators. Every time he/she has to verify the characteristics of social indicators in terms of validity, reliability, comparability, timeliness, and so on.

SIOI (Social Indicators-Oriented Information) means a set of information useful for describing the principal qualitative characteristics of indicators (or basic statistics) for a number of social concerns. It also outlines the way to access these data. I think that a periodically published catalogue including different pieces of information on type and quality of social indicators and data available from different sources might form an interesting starting point for developing empirical researches in social sciences. In building up such a catalogue (in the following called SIOI) we basically have to solve two main problems. The first one regards the type of characteristics of social indicators that we want to include in our file, the second one the number of indicators that we want to consider. We have a very large amount of characteristics and an almost infinite number of social indicators.

Here I am comparing different studies and relative methods for describing different indicators or data in a qualitative way. I am also defining a general list of social indicators which will form an interesting starting point. The realisation of such SIOI catalogues of the characteristics of data or social indicators will depend on a more profitable harmonisation of the activities of institutional and private statistical agencies (production and distribution of data: quantity of social indicators), of the academic researchers and other users (analy-

sis of data: quality selection and interpretation of social indicators). This means, on the one hand: to take the census of the different national or local data source existing but not always known; on the other: to support co-ordinated studies on critical descriptions, with common criteria, of different social indicators for different social concerns.

Steps for the realisation of a SIOI catalogue would be:

- Complete list of the data source
- Complete list of the available data in each source
- Qualitative description of some criteria of data or social indicators for different selected social concerns
- Information on the quality of data and the way to access it given to the users
- Distribution of the catalogue (book or floppy disk)

Examples of general criteria used to describe data or social indicators in various sources are:

Social Indicators: quality of data; relation to other variables; breadth of comparability; usefulness. Source: *Rossi and Gilmartin (1980)*.

Socio-economic Statistics: data disaggregability; data periodicity and accessibility; general areas treated. Source: *IReR (Istituto Regionale di Ricerca della Lombardia) (1986)*.

Socio-economic Statistics: subject; sub-categories; units of measurement; whether or not publications contain time series and, if so, frequency; sources (give INSTAT publication code and table identifier). Source: *International Statistical Sources (1995)*.

Other criteria for the differentiation of social indicators: level of analysis; function; specific concerns; statistical procedures. Source: *General literature on social indicators*.

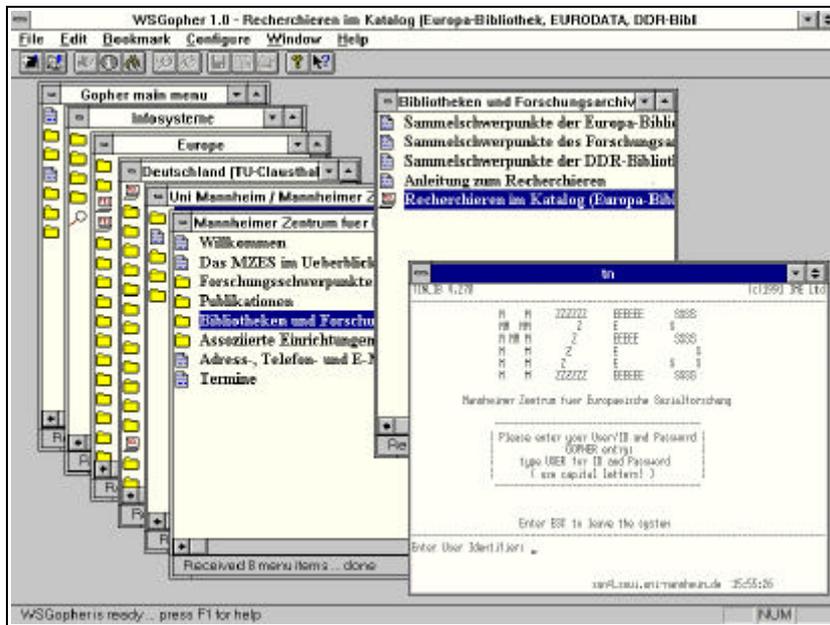
Giampaolo Nuvolati, research fellow of the European Commis-

sion, is currently working on a project about „Quality of life in the old Europe“ at MZES / EURO-DATA in Mannheim.

Klaus Mayer

Internet goes Multimedia

The Internet services Gopher and World Wide Web offer a wide range of information to the scientific public. The segment with information for social scientists is growing daily. This article introduces these services to those who do not know them yet.



Until about 1990 there was only one possibility to get access to information from the world's largest computer network, the Internet: to learn a set of UNIX commands which seemed like secret codes to the lay person. These „hieroglyphs“ were transmitted from one Internet generation to the next. But now the exclusiveness of the Internet Club is being seriously called into question. Meanwhile millions of Windows users are able to participate in Internet, because new menu-oriented programmes with graphical surfaces were developed. These programmes give access to the whole Internet just by clicking the mouse. No further knowledge is needed.

The background to this new software generation is the „Client Server Principle“. This principle is widely used now for many purposes. Those who want to offer information install a „server programme“ on their computers and connect it with their databases. Those who want to retrieve information run the

„Client“ programme on their computers and start a dialogue with it. All they have to know is how this software works. These programmes are in general very easy to handle. The connection to the different „servers“ and everything that is

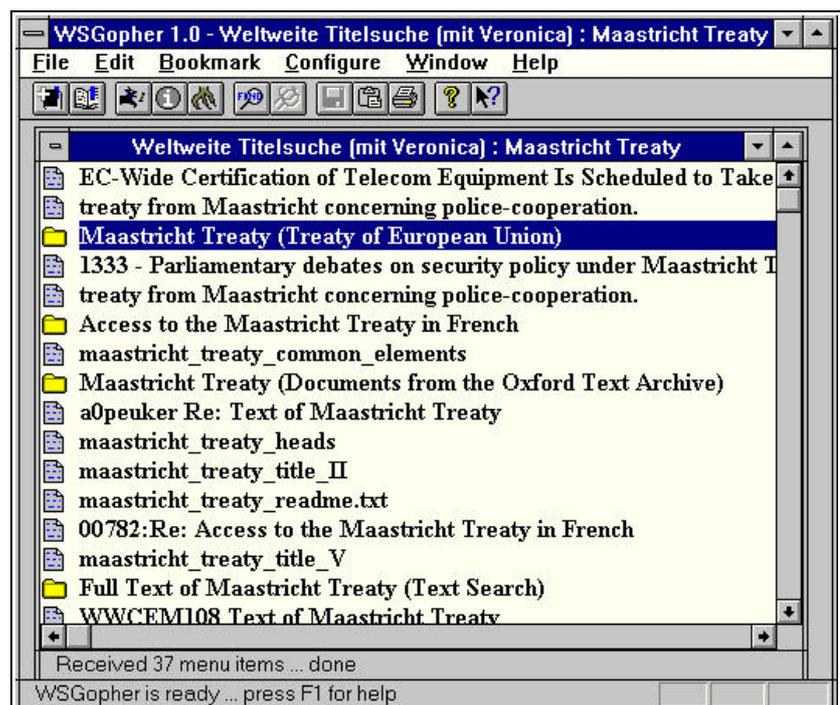
needed to retrieve specific information is done by the „Client“ programme, invisible for the user.

Gopher

One of the first tools of the new generation was the „Gopher“ software which was developed in 1991 at the University of Minnesota. The Gopher Client programme presents a hierarchically structured text-menu to the user which is retrieved from a Gopher server. The items within this menu can be chosen simply by clicking the mouse.

Gopher gives world-wide access to information resources such as on-line library catalogues, textual information on various topics, software and data archives. The best way to get an impression of its content is to start the programme and then navigate around the „Gopher space“ by clicking at items in menus. The user „digs“ himself/herself deeper and deeper into the Internet (see left figure) until the target with the needed information is reached. Before he/she has found this information, the user may have dug through 10 or 20 menu levels.

In order to facilitate searching one can use the very efficient „Veron-



ica“ programme. Veronica searches through all gopher servers in the world for user-defined terms. The figure below shows the result of a Veronica search for the term „Maastricht“. The list contains 37 items, e.g. the full text of the Maastricht treaty, which can then be stored on the local harddisk. It is irrelevant to the user which computer type in which country offers the text. In most cases he/she does not even know it.

World Wide Web

A logical further development of the text-oriented Gopher is a new Internet service - the World Wide Web, or WWW for short. The WWW system pools all previously known services including Gopher under a new comfortable graphical „Hypertext“ surface. Each part of a document can be linked to any part of any other document. In addition WWW supports the transmission of graphics, sounds and videos so that every WWW session can turn into a multimedia event. By clicking the mouse one moves from one WWW server to the other. Even inexperienced users face no problems.

The possibilities within WWW are enormous. To give an example: it is possible to start at a WWW server in Geneva to wander through a virtual map on the screen and undertake a multimedia walk through cities and landscapes of any country (see figure below). These places can be „visited“ by navigating the mouse.

To enter the WWW the user has to install a Client software. The most popular software of this type is a Windows programme called „Mosaic“.

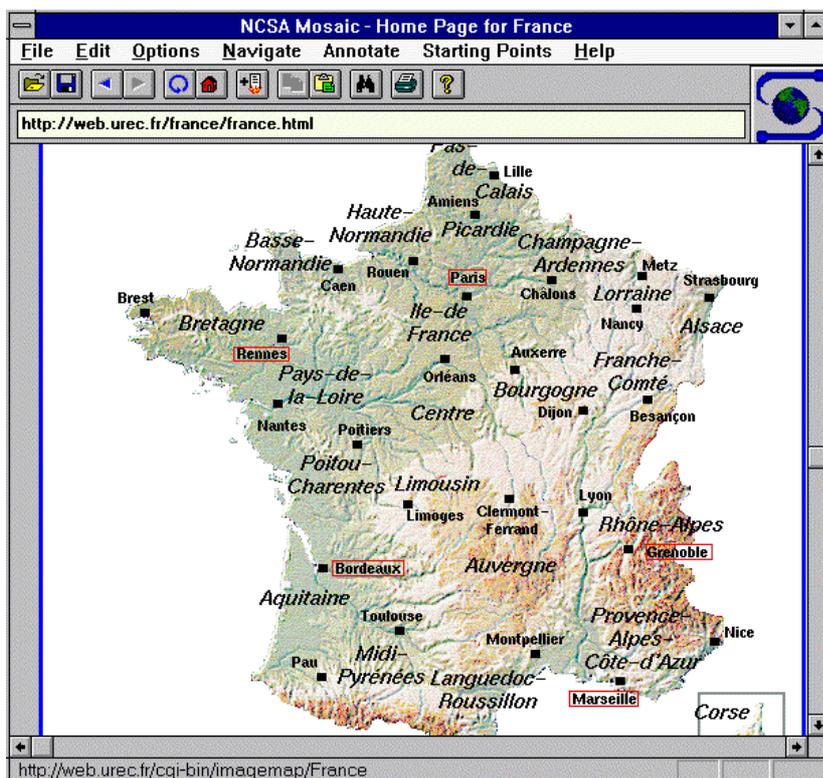
WWW is the Internet tool of the future. The well-tried servers that can only be accessed by using the proper command language will gradually disappear. New developments make the Internet attractive and very helpful not only for computer experts.

Reading:

December, J. & N. Randall (1994): The World Wide Web Unleashed. Indianapolis: Sams.

Eager, B. (1994): Using the World Wide Web. Indianapolis: Que Corp.

Klaus Mayer is staff member of the European Documentation Centre in Mannheim.



Michael Quick

The Webserver of the EURODATA Research Archive

The WWW Technology offers many services to the social science community. Some examples were already mentioned on the previous page. This article presents detailed information on a server for social scientists concerned with comparative research on Europe.

<http://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/eurodata/eurodata.html>

Internet servers for Social Science (some examples)

BIRON on-line catalogue. BIRON contains the bibliographic details of the ESRC Data Archive catalogue of over 3000 datasets incl. e.g. the British census and the household survey. Each record contains a large amount of information including the names of the data collectors, sponsors and depositors and an abstract containing the purpose of the research and information about the methodologies used in the study. The database is updated monthly.
telnet://biron.password=norib@biron.essex.ac.uk

SWIDOC at Amsterdam. General information about SWIDOC, current research, documentary information, social science data archive (Steinmetz archive), electronic publications, thematic databases, other social science information

servers.

gopher://zonnetje.swidoc.nl

Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG). This gateway describes social science resources world-wide and allows to connect to them. Keyword search is possible. The information is grouped to categories as Demography, Economics, Education, Geography, Government, Politics, Social Science general, Sociology and Statistics. Resources that are contained are e.g. Data Archives, Address Directories, Research Databases etc.. The service is a project funded by the ESRC and is based at the University of Bristol.

<http://sosig.esrc.bris.ac.uk>

Swedish Social Science Data Service (SSD). The server contains general information about SSD and its data holdings and about other members of IFDO (International Federation of Data Organisations).

Furthermore it gives access to the electronic library of the SSD archive (ELSA) and links to ICPSR and to other Gopher-/WWW-Servers.

<http://www.ssd.gu.se/enghome.html>

The World Wide Web pages of EURODATA are integrated into the server of the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES). All pages are written in English, and the main pages are bilingual, German and English.

Basic concept

When the decision was taken to develop a Webserver, the idea was to do two things of equal importance. The first one was to disseminate information about the EURODATA Research Archive and its activities in the scientific community. The second idea was to provide information that would help researchers inside and outside our institute in their comparative studies on Europe. This was to be achieved by building a gateway to other Internet services of European social science institutions and by providing information about institutions that have no Internet services yet.

The EURODATA homepage starts with some introductory information and with addresses (see graph). Links offer access to WWW servers of the archive's host institutions, the University of Mannheim and the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research. Then follows a menu leading to the further contents of the server.

Information about the EURODATA Research Archive

The server contains an abridged version of a MZES working paper describing tasks, structure, activities and access regulations of the archive. One main task of EURODATA is the maintenance of a large **statistics library**. Everybody can retrieve information about its holdings in the electronic catalogue. Further information about the archive's activities comprises the

The screenshot shows a NCSA Mosaic web browser window. The title bar reads "NCSA Mosaic - EURODATA Research Archive". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "Options", "Navigate", "Annotate", "Starting Points", and "Help". The address bar contains the URL "http://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/eurodata/eurodata.html". The main content area features a logo for the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, followed by the heading "EURODATA Research Archive". Below this, there is a paragraph of text: "The EURODATA Research Archive is an infrastructural unit of the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), which was founded at Mannheim University in 1989. Its basic function is to support comparative European research at the MZES. The archive covers all of Europe and focusses on socio-economic and political data. Its core relates to aggregate data at the national and regional level. To a limited degree it contains also historical information on organizations." This is followed by contact information: "Postal address: MZES-Eurodata, P.O.Box 10 31 63 D-68131 Mannheim", "Visitors address: Mannheim-Almenhof, Steubenstr. 46-48, 4th floor", and "Phone: +49-621-292 8441; Fax: +49-621-292 8435; E-mail: archiv@mzes.sowi.uni-mannheim.de". There is also a link "Diese Seite in Deutsch" with a German flag icon. At the bottom, under "Further information:", there are two bullet points: "Learn more about EURODATA: Main tasks, composition, development and access" and "Search the catalogue of EURODATA's Statistics Library and the MZES-Library".

complete coverage of the **EURODATA Newsletter** as well as a list of the archive's staff's **publications** including some abstracts.

Services for researchers

The following services are offered to social scientists working in the field of comparative European research:

- An **electronic catalogue** of the MZES library and the EURODATA statistics library that gives information about literature and data on European societies.

- The **EURODATA Newsletter** is held on-line.
- A large document with information on national and international **Statistical Institutes** is included. It contains not only addresses, phone numbers, etc., but also information on the organisational structure and the activities of the Institutes.

Information that can be obtained from competent sources elsewhere in the Internet doesn't need to be repeated within our server. Therefore a list of **links to other servers** is included. Important examples are the Social Science Data Archives, the European Commission's server

„EUROPA“ and the Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG). If one follows these links, a great deal more library and data catalogues and information on institutions and ongoing research can be found.

Development

EURODATA's WWW server has been released on March 1st 1995. It's therefore very new and subject to revision and extension. We want to encourage everybody to send comments and suggestions for improvements to the archive's e-mail address.

Jostein Ryssevik

Norway and the European Union

For the second time in 22 years the people of Norway have rejected to become a member of the European Union. This is the conclusion of the referendum on the 28th of November last year, where a majority of 52.2% voted against the governments proposal to join the EU. The referendum was held in an atmosphere of heated debate and intensive mobilisation. A total turn-out of close to 90% is the highest ever in the history of the Norwegian democracy. As a comparison, the turn-out of the 1993 Parliamentary Election was approximately 75%.

History

The question of the relationship with Europe has a long history in Norwegian politics. The issue appeared on the agenda for the first time in 1961, but was after a couple of years punctuated by de Gaulle's no to an inclusion of new members. A comparable episode took place in 1967. In the beginning of the seventies the negotiation of a membership agreement was completed and it was decided to ask for the peoples opinion through a referendum. Although most of the political parties, as well as the major part of the press, were positive to European integration, they were not able to convince the people. Against all odds a no majority of 53.5% of the voters turned the European question into a non-issue of Norwegian politics for almost two decades.

When the issue reappeared on the political arena in the beginning of the nineties, this was largely due to the reshaping of Europe caused by the opening of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Empire. When Sweden and Finland, as a result of these major geopolitical changes, decided to apply for membership, Norway was left with few options but to follow. Although the popular resistance against membership proved stronger than expected in all three countries, it was only in Norway that the no-movement was able to master a majority. In Finland 56.9% of the electorate voted yes as compared to 52.3% in Sweden.

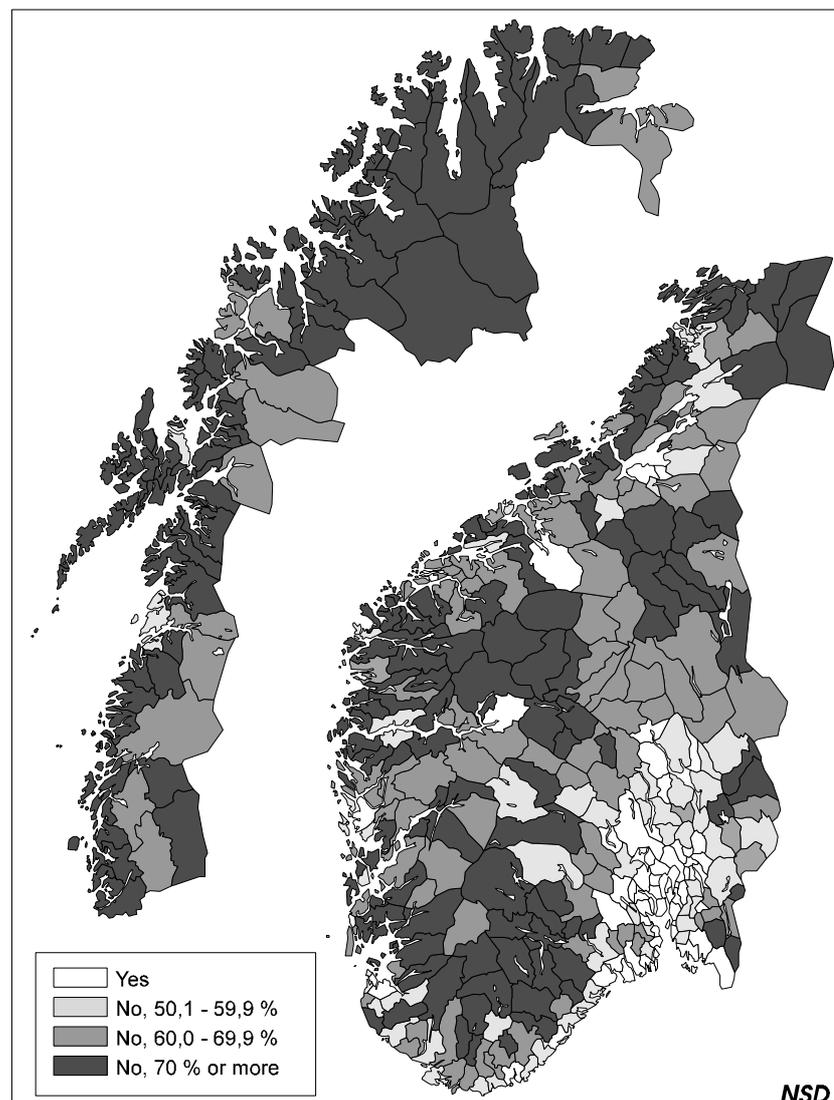
A cross-cutting cleavage

The membership-issue cut across the dominating left-right dimension of Norwegian politics. The pro-European alternative was propagated by the governing Labour-party (Arbeiderpartiet) and their main opponent in everyday political

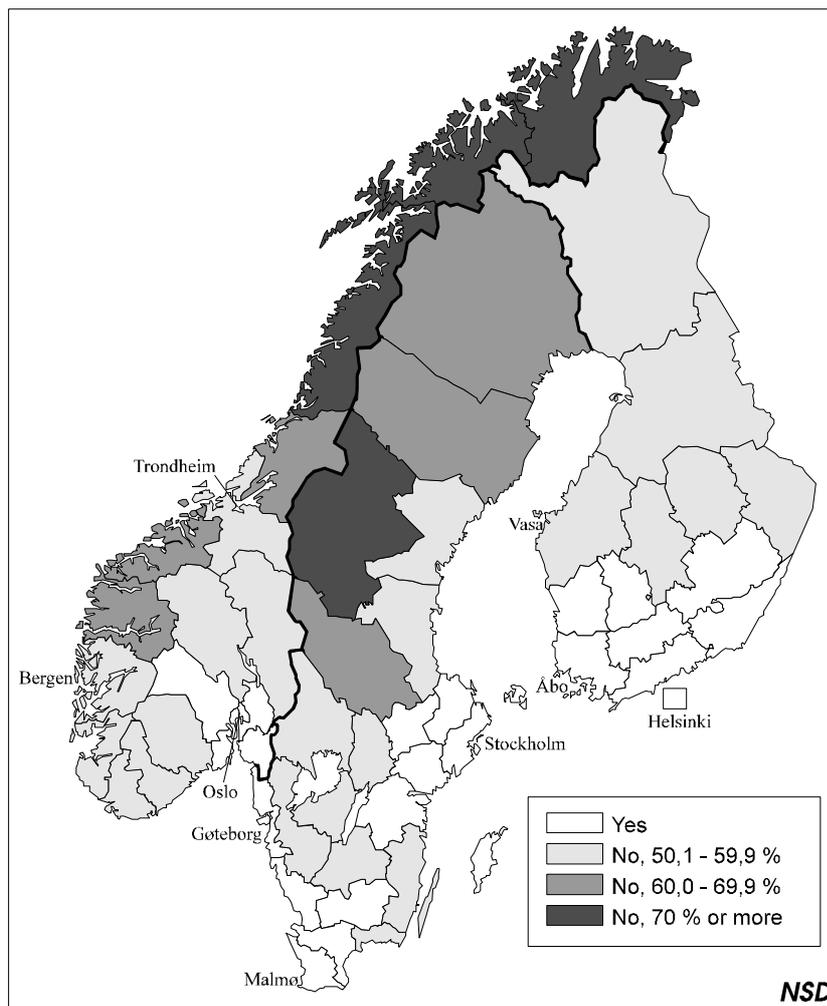
life, the Conservatives (Høyre). The most active anti-EU stand were taken by the Agrarian-party (Senterpartiet) and the Left Socialists (Sosialistisk Venstreparti).

In 1972 the referendum caused a major restructuring of the Norwegian party system. The pro-European parties lost a lot of their supporters and several parties split. A similar realignment does not seem to become the effect of last years referendum. The Agrarian-party, that managed to establish itself as the symbolic leader of the anti-EU campaign more than doubled the ratings in the opinion polls in the months before the referendum. However, shortly after the victory was won, the support began to shrink. The constituency of the

Fig. 1: EU-Referendum in Norway 1994. Results by municipalities.



NSD

Fig. 2: EU-Referendum in the Nordic Countries 1994. Results by regions.

Labour Party was severely divided on the membership issue. An anti-EU fraction was organised inside the party and a substantial portion of the supporters were torn between their feelings towards a EU-membership and their loyalty to the party leaders. In spite of most prophecies the party was able to keep its strength as well as its unity throughout the campaign. In the few months after the referendum the party has in fact experienced a tremendous growth in popularity as well as in membership.

The arguments

On the pro-European side the arguments were mainly put in economic and political terms. Free access to the European markets was seen as mandatory if the open and export-oriented Norwegian economy should be able to continue to

produce the necessary surplus to uphold the welfare state. It was also argued that extensive international co-operation was the only way to solve the major problems that faces Norway as well as most other countries of Europe i.e. unemployment, pollution. In the last weeks of the campaign, issues related to security policy was also brought to the front.

The main emphasis of the anti-EU campaign was put on loss of sovereignty. By delegating power to the political bodies of the EU, the people of Norway would lose control of the politicians as well as the decision making process, it was argued. In addition, the state of Norway would lose control of the economic resources, especially the fish and the oil. The no-movement was also quite successful in selling the argument that a EU-

membership was incompatible with the Norwegian "way of life". This includes important values (i.e. egalitarianism), the economy (i.e. small scale farming and fisheries) and institutions (i.e. the welfare state).

Centre-periphery

By looking at the geographical distribution of the vote, it is quite obvious that the EU-question aligns very closely to the traditional centre-periphery dimensions of Norwegian politics (Figure 1). Only 62 of the 435 municipalities returned a majority of yes-votes. Most of these are concentrated in the most densely populated areas in the Oslofjord-region. The resistance against the EU-membership was strongest in the northern part of Norway and in the most isolated and less modernised regions in the South. As much of one fourth of the communes returned a no-majority of more than 75%.

A similar centre-periphery dimension is also evident in the voting patterns from Sweden and Finland (Figure 2). The pro-European attitudes are strongest in the most central, urbanised and modernised parts of the countries and weakest in the north.

Social patterns

A closer look at the data will also reveal that voting patterns are closely related to the social composition of the municipalities. As an illustration, the bivariate correlation between the no-percentage and the proportion of the labour force in agriculture and fisheries, is 0.72. The corresponding correlation with the average income per taxpayer, is -0.70 (Figure 3).

Similar social patterns are also evident from individual level data. The pro-EU sentiments were strongest among people with high education, high income and high social status. Two other social determinants of utmost importance, are sector and sex. The scepticism towards EU was particularly strong among the rather

Fig. 3: Correlation of no-votes and the average-income in the municipalities

A comparison with the referendum in 1972 reveals a striking similarity. Not only is the gross result almost identical. The regional patterns are also to a large degree reproduced. The intercorrelation at the municipality-level is as high as 0.88 (Figure 4). Given the substantial shifts in the electorate between the two referendums, this seems rather surprising.

According to some observers, the fact can be explained by the extraordinary stability of the social and geographical structure of the Norwegian society. The surplus created by the oil-industry has prevented the transformation of the social fabric that most other industrialised countries have experienced during the last few decades.

Fig. 4: Correlation of the referendum results 1972 and 1994 in the municipalities

Access to data

A file with data on the municipal level is available from the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD). The file is “wrapped” in a run-time version of the statistical package NSDstat+ which will allow you to analyse and display the data.

For further information please contact:

The Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)
Hans Holmboesgt. 22
N-5007 Bergen, Norway
Tlf.: +47 55 21 21 17,
Fax.: +47 55 96 06 60
E-mail: ryssevik@nsd.uib.no

large group of woman in the public sector.

Freezing of social structures?

Jostein Ryssevik is Adviser at the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD) in Bergen (Norway).



Country Profile:

IRELAND

by Michael Quick

The geographical term Ireland describes an island lying in the Atlantic Ocean, west of Britain. Politically *Ireland* usually refers to the Republic of Ireland.

Political system

Ireland is a parliamentary republic and a unitary state. Head of state is the president, who is elected directly. The parliament consists of two chambers, the Senate and the more important House of Representatives (*Dáil*) which is elected every 5 years. The political parties in the *Dáil* are at present Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, the Labour Party, the Progressive Democrats and the Workers' Party.

The first official language is Celtic Irish which is actually spoken only by a minority of the population. The second official (and, in practice, first) language is English.

Social issues

With the Great Famine in the mid-19th century a period of **emigration**, mainly to America and England, began. This led to a population decline from 6.5 Mio. in 1840 to 2.8 Mio. in 1961. Since the 1970s this mass emigration has decreased, but persistent problems with **unemployment** still result in net emigration.

One main characteristic of the population structure is the very high percentage of young people, a consequence of high **fertility** rates and the emigration of adults. In 1980 the birth rate was still the same as 100 years before with about 22 births per 1000 inhabitants. Recently it began to decline (1992:

14.6). But in 1991 as much as 44% of the population were under 25.

Two issues that are in the focus of public debate are **divorce** and **abortion**. Both are still illegal due to the strong influence of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Referendums proved that the majority of the population does not want change at the moment, but other figures, e.g. the growing rate of extramarital births (this rate doubled between 1986 and 1992), indicate that a

change has taken place.

Northern Ireland

Six Irish counties were excluded from independence and remained part of the United Kingdom. These were the areas in the north that had a different population structure due to British settlement policy. This situation has remained unchanged until today. But Northern Ireland was never homogeneous in this sense. The Protestant population, which prefers to belong to Britain, is in the majority in Northern Ireland as a whole, but not in all parts of it, as the map on the next page clearly indicates.

From the beginning of the Irish division there has been a conflict between those who want to join the republic and those who want to remain British. Recently there seemed to be the possibility that the

Table: Statistical comparisons

	Year	Irish Republic	North. Ireland	Great Britain	EU-12
Population (000s)	1991	3524	1594	55967	344704
Inhab. per km ²	1991	51	113	236	146
Rates per 1000 inhab.					
Births	1992	14.6	15.9	13.7	11.8
Deaths	1992	8.7	9.3	10.8	10.1
Rates per 1000 births outside Marriage					
Stillbirths	1991	166	202	301	194
	1989	6.3	5.1	4.7	5.1
Age structure					
under 15 (%)	1990	27.5	24.9	18.8	18.2
15-64 (%)	1990	61.2	62.8	65.5	67.3
65 and older (%)	1990	11.3	12.3	15.7	14.5
GDP (in PPS)					
Per capita	1991	10815	11162	14834	14989
Growth (%)	1990-1	+9.5	+3.7	+1.0	+3.5
Sectoral employment					
Agriculture (%)	1991	14.0	6.8	1.3	6.3
Industry (%)	1991	29.0	25.5	28.0	32.9
Services (%)	1991	57.0	67.7	70.7	60.8
Economic activity rate					
Total (%)	1991	51.9	60.2	63.3	54.6
Female (%)	1991	35.1	47.4	52.6	42.6
Unemployment					
Total (%)	1992	17.6	16.7	10.4	9.4
Females (%)	1992	18.8	14.5	8.9	11.5
Youth (under 25) (%)	1992	26.2	21.9	16.7	18.1

Sources: EUROSTAT and national statistical publications.

conflicts that had escalated since 1969 might find an end. At least an armistice was agreed on, and agreements were made that no regulations should be laid down against the will of the population. But no matter what a possible referendum might bring, it is not very likely that the social cleavage between Protestants and Catholics will disappear soon.

The comparative table on this page shows that the Republic of Ireland is very different from Great Britain, at least with regard to the selected indicators. Northern Ireland is situated somewhere in between both, not only geographically, but also statistically. It is populated more densely than Ireland, but less than Great Britain. The population is better off than the Irish, but worse off than the British. In most indicators Northern Ireland is closer to Ireland than to Britain.

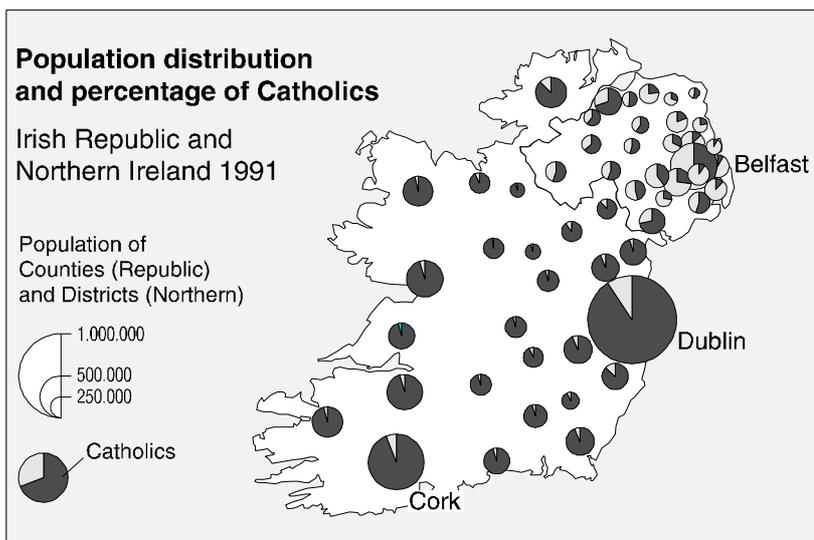
Territorial Structure

The division of the Irish island in four provinces (Leinster, Ulster, Munster, Connaught) has historical roots, but no political or administrative meaning today. There exists no real political regional level in Ireland. The principal local administrative units in the Irish Republic today are the 27 *Counties* and 5 *County boroughs* (Cities). These constitute the upper tier in a two-tier system. The lower tier exists only for urban areas and is made up of *boroughs*, *urban district councils* and *towns*. The *rural districts* have been officially abolished, but are still used as spatial units in statistical tables. For the special purpose of regional economic planning the counties are grouped into nine *Planning Regions*.

In Northern Ireland counties have been abolished and replaced by 26 districts.

Statistical Sources (Republic)

The Central Statistical Office publishes monthly *Economic Series*, a quarterly *Statistical Bulletin* and an annual *Statistical Abstract* as



well as various specific series, mainly on demography and economy. Social statistics are also published by ministries, e.g. *Health Statistics* by the Department of Health and the *Statistical Report* by the Department of Education.

The CSO's computerised data bank, EireStat, contains principal economic and social statistics. It can be retrieved on-line, but CSO also offers a diskette service.

The latest population census was conducted in 1991, a census of industrial production in 1990 and a

census of agriculture in 1991. Labour force surveys are conducted annually.

National Statistical Institute: Central Statistics Office, St. Stephens Green House, Earlsford Terrace, Dublin 2
☎ (+1) 767531, Fax. 682221

Government Publications Sale Office: Sun Alliance House, Molesworth St., Dublin 2, ☎ (+1) 6710309

Ministries: Department of Education, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, ☎ (+1) 734700, Fax. 729553

Department of Labour, 65A Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, ☎ (+1) 765861, Fax. 769047

Department of Social Welfare, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Dublin 1, ☎ (+1) 786444, Fax. 741709

Universities with Social Science departments:

University College Dublin, University College Cork, Trinity College Dublin

Social Science Research Institutions: Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI, Dublin), Social Research Centre (University of Limerick), Centre for the Study of Irish Elections (Univers. College Galway), European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin), The Families Studies Centre (Univ. College Dublin)

Social Science Journals: Irish Political Studies (annual, ISSN 0790-7184), The Economic and Social Review (quarterly, ISSN 0012-9984)

Further reading:

Breen, R. et al. (1990): Understanding contemporary Ireland. State, Class and Development in the Republic of Ireland. London: Macmillan.

Carter, R.W.G. & A.J. Parker (1989): Ireland. Contemporary perspectives on a land and its people. London: Routledge.

Clancy, P. et al. (Eds.) (1986): Ireland: A sociological profile. Dublin: Institute of Public Administration.

Grimes, S. (1992): Ireland: the Challenge of Development in the European Periphery. in: Geography 1/1992, 22-32.

Europe in Comparison. A Series of Guidebooks for the Social Sciences

This new series is an attempt to support comparative social science research on Europe by providing a broad range of meta-information required in comparing societies and politics across Europe. The variety of national differences, cultural as well as institutional, represent a considerable barrier to be overcome in trans-national comparative research. Social scientists here face far greater difficulties than in their national contexts while at the same time their institutional support is weaker.

The series, edited by Heinrich Best and Peter Flora on behalf of IZ Sozialwissenschaften, Bonn, and MZES, Mannheim, is intended to contribute to comparative research by offering systematic meta-information in four fields: (1) Quantitative data and source information provided by institutions in the European countries. (2) The national institutions engaged in empirical research in the social sciences, with an explicit or implicit comparative perspective. (3) Bibliographical documentation and research information referring to methodology, infrastructure and results of social science research in Europe. (4) Bibliometric and scientometric analysis of social science research cultures in European countries.

To date two volumes have been published:

Flora, P.; Kraus, F.; Noll, H. and F. Rothenbacher (Eds.): Social Statistics and Social Reporting in and for Europe. (Europe in Comparison - A series of guidebooks for the social sciences; 1). Bonn: IZ Sozialwissenschaften, 1994.

The contributions to this volume represent the revised papers of a workshop. Scholars from very different institutional contexts were brought together to gain an overview of current structures, activities and approaches in social data pro-

duction at the international (OECD, EU) as well as on the national level.

The eleven papers deal with various aspects of EU data such as EU social statistics, interrelations of German and EU statistics, the EUROBAROMETER programme of the European Commission, research and data holdings of the OECD, organisation and results of the International Social Survey Programme or national and international approaches in social reporting.

The spectrum and quality of the contributions make this comprehensive book useful to all social scientists working in this field.

Best, H. and U. Becker (Eds.): Sozialwissenschaften im neuen Osteuropa (Social Sciences in New Eastern Europe). (Europe in Comparison - A series of guidebooks for the social sciences; 2). Bonn/Berlin: IZ Sozialwissenschaften, 1994.

Through this book a new information service has been initiated. Data acquisition and collection are based on an annual survey conducted among and reported by research institutions and social scientists in Eastern and Central Europe. The results of these surveys offer an up-to-date and authentic account of significant changes, both in science structure and subject areas.

The book gives a view on the results of the annual survey 1992. It contains data on organisation, research focuses etc. reported by 60 social science institutions. Further it offers project descriptions, addresses information on research methods and so on. In addition, some articles on the development of the Russian, Polish, Czech, Hungarian and Rumanian sociology give an introduction to the documentation.

EU Social Policy Publications

Two new publications about social policy are presented by the European Union, a newsletter and a „white paper“:

Newsletter. The newsletter *Solidarity* gives information on EU activities concerning social protection, social exclusion, the family and older people. Everyone involved in social policy will be entitled to express their view: academics, policy makers, employers, trade unions and representatives of various associations and institutions. The journal wants to be regarded as a step towards more extensive and more comprehensive information exchanges on social protection in the future, building up a forum for discussion and stimulated debate on the key social policy issues both at European and national level.

The free-of-charge newsletter *Solidarity* appears three times a year in English and French and can be ordered through: Deloitte & Touche Europe Services, rue Royale 326, B-1210 Brussels, Fax. (32-2) 223 1995

White paper on European Social Policy. The EU Commission's „Green paper on Social Policy“, published in 1993, stimulated a debate among EU institutions, member states, employers, trade unions and individuals who volunteered their views on social policy in Europe. The white paper *European social policy - A way forward for the Union* is the result of the green paper's consultative procedure.

Topics are employment, labour standards, equality of women and men, public health, the European Social Fund, social protection, international co-operation, labour relations and the European law on these issues. The white paper's proposals are intended to form the basis for discussion on a new social action programme to be agreed by the Commission in 1995.

This paper can be ordered for the price of 7 ECU at all EU sales agents (Cat. CE-84-94-880-EN-C, also in other EU-languages).

New Annual Report on International Statistics

The *International Statistical Institute* in co-operation with the French *Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques* just published the first issue of a new annual report:

ISI / INSEE: Annual Report on International Statistics (ARIS). Volume 1 -1994.

The primary purpose of ARIS is "to encourage international co-operation and association between statisticians and the exchange of their professional knowledge and findings". It addresses to official statisticians, specialised scientific organisations, and statisticians in the private sector. This first report is a mixture of news and organisational profile descriptions, covering ISI itself, the statistical activities of the UN, other international organisations active in the world of official statistics, and national as well as international statistical associations. By highlighting major activities of the past and present year, it assembles very scattered information from many sources. The 1994 issue is a must for all those interested in the institutional landscape of international statistics. Irrespective of this particular issue, ARIS should be of great interest not only to professional statisticians but also to all academic institutions engaged in comparative research. In any case, it is a very useful supplement to the *International Statistical Review* (also published by ISI).

ISI-publications can be ordered through: ISI Permanent Office, Publications Department, Prinses Beatrixlaan 428, NL-2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands. *fk*

UN Statistical Yearbook on CD-ROM

For nearly 50 years the United Nations *Statistical Yearbook* has been the most comprehensive standard international compilation of statistics available world-wide. The Yearbook provides hundreds of

series on every aspect of economic and social life in over 200 countries and areas around the world.

The present CD-ROM version of the *Statistical Yearbook* is the first application to CD-ROM of new database techniques which UN-STAT has developed. In this first effort, the contents of the CD is identical to the print version of the 38th issue (with data through 1990/91). However, the CD-ROM version provides a wealth of user-friendly capabilities unique to its electronic format. These include easy means of search, grouping and selection of countries, periods and series; display of selected series in a wide variety of tabulation formats; easy access to extensive technical notes and footnotes which are essential to sound analysis and interpretation of the data; and complete graphing, export and printing capabilities. Finally, to take advantage of most users' continuing familiarity with statistics in book format and to preserve the contextual understanding that tables in books provide, the entire printed version of the *Yearbook* is also available in the CD-ROM version in image format.

For further information on technical help, statistical enquiries and ordering statistical publications and products, please contact: Director, Statistical Division, United Nations, Room DC2 - 1420, New York, NY 10017, USA.

Source: *ISI/INSEE, Annual Report on International Statistics 1994.*

Statistical Yearbooks from Eastern Europe

In the past the access to statistical information about eastern Europe was often difficult because of language problems. Only a few countries, such as Hungary, have a tradition in publishing at least their *Statistical Yearbook* in an English edition. But recently the situation has improved. The following *Statistical Yearbooks* are at least bilingual including English:

Statistical Yearbook of the Slovak Republic (*Štatistická ročenka Slovenskej republiky*) 1993, 607 pages, ISBN 80-8877-10-2. Orders: Information Service of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Mileticova 3, 82467 Bratislava, Fax. 07-63653.

Statistical Yearbook of Latvia (*Latvijas Statistikas Gadagramata*) 1993, 307 pages, ISBN 9984-9038-3-4. Orders: Latvijas Republikas Valsts statistikas komiteja, Lacpleša iela 1, Riga, LV 1301, Latvia, Fax. 371-7830137.

Lithuania's Statistics Yearbook (*Lietuvos statistikos metraštis*) 1993, 465 pages, ISSN 1392-026X, Orders: Lithuanian Department of Statistics, Methodical Publishing Centre, Gedimino pr.29, 2746 Vilnius.

Statistical Yearbook of Hungary (*Magyar statisztikai évkönyv*) 1993, 447 pages, ISSN 0073-4039.. Information: Hungarian Central Statistical Office, P.O. Box 51, H-1525 Budapest II., Hungary. Fax. +36-1-115 9085.

Bulgaria: Statistical Yearbook 1993, 512 pages. Orders: National Statistical Institute, Information Service and Publications, 10 ,6th September Str., 1000 Sofia.

Slovenija: Statistical Yearbook (*Statistichni Letopis*) 1994, 652 pages. Orders: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Vozarski pot 12, 61000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. Fax. +386-61-216932.

Croatia: Statistical Yearbook (*Statisticki ljetopis*) 1993, 639 pages, ISSN 1330-0369. Orders: Central Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb, Ilica 3, Croatia.

Statistical Yearbook of Yugoslavia 1993, 473 pages, ISSN 0585-1920. Orders: Jugoslovenska Kniga, Export Department, P.O.Box 36, 11001 Beograd, Yugoslavia. Fax. 011 625 970.

Conference on Statistics and European Integration

The annual statistician's conference *Statistische Woche* took place at

Vienna in September 1994. General topic of the meeting was „Statistics and European Integration“. Participants came in their majority from Germany and Austria, but also from other countries including eastern Europe and from EUROSTAT.

The meeting discussed the differences in the organisation of statistics in Europe, the role of statistics in European integration and the possibilities for a harmonisation of statistical concepts. The necessity and helpfulness of harmonisation was agreed by everyone, but also disadvantages were pointed out. The national statistical institutes have to spend a growing share of their resources to fulfil the growing number of EU-directions and especially small institutes are not able to carry on their own statistical programmes in addition. National offices might practically lose their independence and become branch offices of Eurostat.

Some papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the „Österreichische Zeitschrift für Statistik“ 1995. mq

Working group on Comparative European Research

At the ESA conference *European Societies: Fusion or Fission* (see list below) in Budapest there will be a working group on *Comparative European Research*. The organisers ask for contributions from European sociologists. Papers should address methodological or substantive issues relating to comparative research involving at least two European Countries. Information on the working group: Nigel Gilbert, Fax +44 1483 306290, Email gng@soc.surrey.ac.uk

Workshop: Cultural Minorities

The 5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI) will take place in Utrecht, 19-24 August 1996. Anyone interested in a workshop about *Dominant Culture as a Foreign Culture. Dominant Groups in the Eyes of Minorities* please contact Janusz Mucha, Fax +48-56-247 65, Email jmuch@vm.cc.uni-torun.pl

Euroconferences

The „Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences“ (ICCR) and „The European Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences“ (EA) are holding a series of Euroconferences under the general title of *Current Trends in European Social Sciences*. The conferences take place under the auspices of the Human Capital and Mobility programme of the European Commission. The first conference on *Costs and Benefits of Europeanization: Is Harmonisation possible? And is it Desirable?* will be held soon and is contained in the list below.

Forthcoming Events:

ZUMA-Workshops at Mannheim

- **International vergleichende Forschung in Europa.** 4-5 May 1995.
- **Computerkartographie.** 10-11 Oct 1995

Info: Fax +49-621-1246100 / muellner@zuma-mannheim.de

Costs and Benefits of Europeanization, (Euroconferences), 5-8 April 1995 Vienna, Austria. Info: Dr. Angela Sellner at ICCR, Phone +43-1-5873973, Email a.sellner@iccr.co.at

Workshop: **Visualization of Categorical Data**, 17-19 May 95, Köln, Germany. Info: Jörg Blasius, Fax +49 - 221 - 4769444 / blasius@ibm.za.uni-koeln.de

SEUGI'95 (SAS European Users Group International), 30 May-2 June 1995, Stockholm, Sweden. Info: M. Richard, SAS-Institute, D-69120 Heidelberg, Fax +49-6221-474850

ECIS'95: 3rd European Conference on Information Systems, 1-3 June 1995, Athens, Greece
Info: Email gdouk@isosun.ariadne-t.gr

Social Relations and Power - A Challenge to Sociology (18th Nordic Sociological Conference), 9-11 June 1995, Helsinki, Finland. Info: Catharina Visap, Fax +358-0-40500310

35th European Congress of the Regional Science Association (RSA), 22-25 Aug 1995, Odense, Denmark. Info: Prof. G. Kristensen, Fax +45-66-158790, Email hab@busieco.ou.dk

European Meeting of Statisticians, organized by the European Regional Committee of the Bernoulli Society, 21-25 Aug 1995, Aarhus, Denmark. Info:

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EURODATA Newsletter

Published by: Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)
EURODATA Research Archive
D - 68131 Mannheim

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Fax: +49 - 621 - 292 8435

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Translations and linguistic editing: Marianne Schneider

Printed by: Profil-Print, 63110 Rodgau

Internet access: <http://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/eurodata/newsletter.html>

EURODATA Newsletter appears twice a year, normally in spring and autumn. It is distributed free of charge to social science institutions and libraries. Contributions, comments and general notes are welcome. Parts of the newsletter may freely be reproduced, but please acknowledge the source and send a copy to the editor.

ISSN 0947-9260

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Email ems95@mi.aau.dk

European Societies: Fusion or Fission
(2nd conf. of the European Sociological
Assoc.), 30 Aug - 2 Sep 1995, Buda-
pest, Hungary. Info: Dr. Imre Kovacs,
Fax +36-1-1221843

**Education and Training for the Fu-
ture Labour Markets of Europe**, 21-
24 Sep 1995, Durham, UK. Info: Mrs.
A.Barfield, Fax +44 (0)191-374 2456,
Email a.m.barfield@durham.ac.uk

**A Changing Europe in a Changing
World: Urban and Regional Issues**
(Call for Papers), 11-14 April 1996,
Exeter, UK. Info: Kathy Wood, Univ. of
Durham, Fax +44 (0)191-374 2456

**4th International Conference on
Social Science Methodology** (Call for
Papers and Themes), 1-4 July 1996,
Essex, UK. Info: David Rose, Fax +44-
1206-873151, conf96@essec.ac.uk